



## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Dec 24, 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** - Closed for holiday season. Lunches will start again on Jan 8, 2020

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

- Jan 01** New Years Day Levee Messes open at 1100hrs
- Jan 08** First lunch of 2020
- Jan 11** 78 Fraser Highlanders – Garrison Robbie Burns Supper
- Jan 31** 15 Fd Centennial Reunion – meet & greet
- Feb 01** 15 Fd Centennial Reunion

## World War 2 – 1944

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

**Dec 25<sup>th</sup>:** Elements of US 77<sup>th</sup> Division make another landing on Leyte. 4<sup>th</sup> US Armored Division leads Patton's relief effort towards Bastogne while the British 29<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade and the US 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division go after the 2<sup>nd</sup> SS Panzer Division at Dinant, inflicting severe losses on it. The American Army remains justly proud of the speed and aggressiveness of the men in III Corps of Patton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Army when they drove towards the relief of Bastogne. When Private Paul J Weidorfer's platoon of the 80<sup>th</sup> Division is pinned down in the open by two German machinegun posts near Chaumont, Belgium; he makes a solitary charge through intensive fire. Miraculously unhurt, he kills everyone in one post with his rifle and grenades and accepts the surrender of the second after starting to assault it too. He is later awarded the Medal of Honor while in hospital recovering from wounds sustained in February 1945

**Dec 26<sup>th</sup>:** The 4<sup>th</sup> US Armored Division blasts into Bastogne and the encirclement is broken. The Japanese sortie two heavy cruisers and six destroyers to bombard the US beachhead on Mindoro – and lose a destroyer to a US PT boat before departing without accomplishing their mission. The IJN will not be back in the Philippines again. Lieutenant John R Fox is a forward

observation officer in the 92<sup>nd</sup> Division in Sommocolonia, Italy. Early this morning, German infantry percolated into the town and then assaulted the rest of it in force. As the American troops withdrew, Fox stayed behind to call in artillery fire, finally deliberately calling it in on himself as he is overrun. When the Americans re-enter the town, Lt Fox's body is found amid 100 Germans. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

**Dec 27<sup>th</sup>:** The British counterattack into the Bulge continues with the UK's XXX Corps savaging what remains of 2<sup>nd</sup> SS Panzer. The US tries out its very first guided bomb on a railroad bridge in Burma. A Hungarian nun, Sára Salkaházi, learns that the pro-Nazi Arrow Cross Party has just raided the safehouse in which she has hidden hundreds of Jews over the past few months. She willingly returns to be shot along with the current quartet of hidden Jews found by the militiamen. In 1972 she is named Righteous Among the Nations; in 2006 she is beatified by the Pope.

*Essential Reading: Let's be honest, most of us who read history for pleasure are drawn by the appeal of a good narrative and a fascinating story: Lieutenant General Brian Horrocks, who commanded XXX Corps during the Ardennes was viewed by many American, British and Canadian generals as the best Allied corps commander on the scene, has the power to fascinate and his biography is gripping. One might add that the portrayal of him in the 1977 film "A Bridge too Far" by Edward Fox was quite accurate. Any library would be considerably enriched by Warner Philips' 1984 biography Horrocks: The General who led from the Front.*

**Dec 28<sup>th</sup>:** Like any politician trying to make a virtue out of necessity, Hitler pronounces himself satisfied with the progress of the Ardennes Offensive and brings offensive operations to a halt, ordering the salient to be held against continuing American and British counterattacks. He convinces himself that the Ardennes fighting must have weakened American strength to the south of the Salient and orders the start of an offensive called Operation Nordwind by Army Group G into Alsace and Lorraine against the 1<sup>st</sup> French and 7<sup>th</sup> US Armies.

**Dec 29<sup>th</sup>:** A new Greek regency is announced. A quiet day in the Bulge as everyone is getting ready for the next Allied attacks. The Soviets get infuriated when their emissaries to negotiate the surrender of Budapest are killed (although nobody knows for certain how it happened); but the city is now completely encircled by 2<sup>nd</sup> Ukrainian Front, with elements of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ukrainian Front and a Romanian Army Corps at hand. Hitler planned for the Knights Cross with Swords, Diamonds and Gold Oak Leaves to be the highest standard of the medal (saving the unique one held by Goering), with only 12 planned recipients. The only award of the medal is made today to the renowned Stuka pilot Oberstleutnant Hans Ulrich Rudel, possibly the most destructive airman there ever was. According to Luftwaffe records before his surrender to American troops in May 1945, Rudel destroyed 519 tanks, 150 self-propelled guns, 800 other vehicles, a battleship (Marat), two cruisers and a destroyer, 70 landing craft or assault boats and four armoured trains. Unusually for a Stuka pilot, he also shot down 9 aircraft. He'd also been shot or forced down (invariably by flak) some 23 times, occasionally behind Soviet lines; yet he always escaped.

*Essential Reading: Hans Rudel's Stuka Pilot is an engaging memoir of a legendary pilot and his wartime experiences, although it was originally published with some controversy: Rudel's memoirs were among the first published by a German serviceman for the international market and he offered no apologies for being a member of the Nazi Party. Once widely available in paperback, most surviving copies are rather dog-eared although some versions of the 1990 hardcover edition are still available.*

**Dec 30<sup>th</sup>:** Patton's VIII Corps starts a new attack to retake Houffalize. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ukrainian Fronts start fighting their way into Budapest. Anna Afanasyevna Morozova just turned 20 when Germany invaded, and she ended up behind their lines. At first, she became involved in a partisan network in the Western USSR that used Soviets, Poles and Czechs to amass intelligence. When the Soviet Army rolled through, she finally put on a uniform and became a sergeant and a radio operator. This night, her headquarters is being raided by German troops, and she knows she would be a prize prisoner, so she takes a grenade and secures her secrets into death. She becomes a Heroine of the Soviet Union.

**Dec 31<sup>st</sup>:** Moscow announces that their Lublin Committee of tame Polish stooges is the provisional government of Poland. Re-Liberation Day for Rochefort as XXX Corps enters the town, freeing it for the second time. Hungary declares war on Germany. The Japanese on Leyte stage a violent series of Banzai attacks, signaling the virtual end of conventional resistance in the campaign. 70,000 Japanese have died on the island and 30,000 more await mopping up in remote parts of the island while 15,500 US troops are dead, wounded or missing. The Germans kick off their last offensive in the West as Operation Nordwind begins.

## **Dues 2020**

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, payable to the Vancouver Artillery Association. Dues cheques can be mailed to:

Treasurer, Vancouver Artillery Association  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

VAA dues can also be paid by e-transfer by sending payments to:-  
[president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)

Dues for **RUSI Vancouver** are \$50 (\$25 for students), payable to RUSI Vancouver. Send to:

Treasurer, RUSI Vancouver  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

Dues for **15 Fd Officers' Mess Associate Members** are \$60, payable to 15 RCA Officers Mess. Send to:

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



### 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regimental Society Calendar Year-End Donations

Interested in providing a charitable donation to the  
Regimental Society before the end of 2019?

You can direct your payment to support a specific regimental activity.

- Serving Soldiers' Bursaries
- Serving Soldier's activities
- Vancouver Artillery Association
- Yorke Island support
- Regimental Society discretion

The **Regimental Museum** is also a charitable organization. Your support to the museum can also be directed to a specific project.

- 18 pounder restoration
- 25 pounder maintenance
- Artifact restoration
- Display upgrades

Cheques dated not later than 31 December 2019, can be made out to *15<sup>th</sup> Field Regimental Society* or *15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment Museum & Archives* and mailed to Bessborough Armoury, 2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver BC V6J 2C7  
Contact Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Don Foster for further details.

**Holiday Greetings  
from the  
Vancouver Artillery Association  
Looking forward to the  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020!  
Start the year with breakfast at  
Frankie's Italian Kitchen and Bar  
0830 New Years' Day!  
See you there.**



15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA  
1920 - 2020





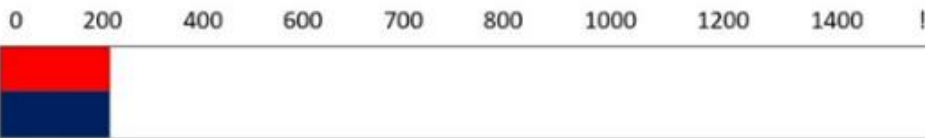


## The 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Museum

is currently in the process of purchasing  
*New/Old 7.5 x 24 tires/tyres*  
For the Q.F. 18 Pounder  
That was acquired last year.

Unfortunately, these tires/tyres are no longer a standard  
Item and our current pricing estimate sits at \$1,500.00 installed.

Care to chip in? Tax deductible!



Contact Leon Jensen for additional details – [president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)



Many thanks to the 78<sup>th</sup> Frasers Fort Fraser Garrison who donated \$1000 towards the purchase of the new tires for the 18 Pdr at the St Barbara's dinner.



15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA  
1920 - 2020

## Vancouver Artillery Association General Meeting 8 January 2020 – 1315 Hours

The meeting is intended to provide an update on the  
Vancouver Gunners role in our Centennial Year.

Zoom meeting has been set up for those that are unable to attend and wish to dial  
in or video conference.

<https://zoom.us/j/3041588577> Meeting ID: 304 158 8577  
Dial in Find your local number <https://zoom.us/u/adxoQFubee>

Join us for lunch at 12:00 - Visit the Regimental Museum at 10:00



Fort Fraser Garrison



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,  
15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RCA  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC

Saturday, 11 January, 2020

1800hrs for 1900hrs

Dress: Scarlets, Highland Evening wear, Black Tie or Business Attire

Tariff: \$78 per Person

**RSVP to [jobarb@shaw.ca](mailto:jobarb@shaw.ca) or 604-522-5766**

**ASAP! (before 6 January)**

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

15 Fd Centennial Reunion

**15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment's**

*Open Messes*

*Live Music and Dancing*

**100<sup>th</sup> Centennial Reunion**

**Tickets—\$30**

*Band Reunion Concert*

*Equipment Displays*

**Food Trucks (included in the ticket price)**



**Bessborough Armoury**  
2025 West 11th Ave, Vancouver

31 Jan	Meet and Greet 1800 - 2300
1 Feb	Open House 1300 – 1600 &
1 Feb	Reunion Party 1800 – 2330

[\\* click here for Tickets at Eventbrite \\*](#)