



## **Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Nov 26, 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.

- Nov 27** NOABC Luncheon Speaker – Liberation of Holland Celebrations in Canada 2020
- Nov 29** Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir Christmas Concert - various dates in Nov & Dec
- Dec 07** 15 Fd Annual St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night
- Dec 15** 15 Fd CO's Christmas Tea
- Jan 01** New Years Day Levee
- 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"*

**Nov 27<sup>th</sup>:** The Japanese are feeling their oats on Leyte, USS Colorado and 2 light cruisers are damaged by Kamikaze, and Japanese paratroopers make a rare drop as part of a counterattack on Leyte. The mopping up on Peleliu is over, the island has cost the US 1,794 dead (mostly Marines) and 8,010 wounded while the Japanese have lost – conservatively – 10,695 dead and 202 prisoners, most of whom were labourers. French fighter ace Marcel Albert of the Normandie Fighter Group (A Free French unit fighting alongside the Soviets) is made a Hero of the Soviet Union for his 23 victories. The second highest scoring French Ace of the War, he dies at 93 years of age in 2010 after becoming an American citizen and resident of Texas.

**Nov 28<sup>th</sup>:** The Soviets reach Mohacs and Pecs in Hungary. The first Allied convoy reaches Antwerp and soon 60,000 tons of supplies are being offloaded every day. The last Germans pull out of Albania in the retreat northwards; typically, they have demolished what infrastructure was there, handicapping Albania even as Enver Hoxha begins his 41 years of Communist rule. 1<sup>st</sup> French Army completes the capture of Belfort and Mulhouse.

**Nov 29<sup>th</sup>:** Naval losses to Kamikazes continue as USS Maryland and two destroyers are badly damaged off Leyte, but the latest Japanese counter-offensive on the Island itself falls flat. The USS Archerfish sinks the Shinano, a sister ship to the Yamato and Musashi but redesigned as a super-carrier, as the just-launched vessel is being towed on her way to be outfitted for things like water-tight doors. The last German troops leave Albania as German Army Group E tries to form a defence line along the Drina and Drava rivers.

*Essential Reading: Joseph F Enright and James W Ryan detailed the Archerfish' feat and the Shinano's death in 'Sea Assault: The Sinking of Japan's Secret Supership'. It is a sign of the times that American submarines, deep water predators as they are, are prowling the inlets and shallows of Japan's cities hunting for prey.*

**Nov 30<sup>th</sup>:** US and British troops stage attacks from the Saar to Venlo but make little headway. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ukraine Front opens up a new offensive at Debrecen in north-eastern Hungary.

### **December 1944: The Battle of the Bulge.**

*"I was almost happy that the German offensive was on a large scale. My men had done an excellent job against heavy odds, and those who had died were not dead because of some failing of mine."* -Charles B Macdonald, an infantry company commander in US 2<sup>nd</sup> Division on Eisenborn Ridge

**General:** Some 48,700 tons of bombs are dropped on Occupied Europe by the RAF alone while some US bomber raids use 2,000 aircraft. Tactical bombers add another 35,500 tons, mostly in the Ardennes. Tokyo is bombed four times this month by B-29s with other Japanese cities coming in for less attention. Thanks to the depredations of Allied submarines, the Japanese merchant fleet now carries less than half of the tonnage it could three years ago.

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup>:** 102<sup>nd</sup> Division of the 9<sup>th</sup> Army takes Linnich as American attacks inch forward at a high cost all along their front in Germany and France. Soviet attacks in Hungary make no great advances either except for 57<sup>th</sup> Army near Pecs.

**Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Army takes more crossings over the Saar. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ukrainian Front reopens its advance, aimed this time at Miskolc.

**Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>:** The British, Canadian and Polish Corps of 8<sup>th</sup> Army launch a new offensive along the Adriatic Coast. XIII Corps of 9<sup>th</sup> US Army reaches the banks of the Roer. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ukrainian Front takes Miskolc in Hungary. Britain stands the Home Guard down. Although unsupported by Stalin (who is keeping his word for the moment) Greek Communists spark a revolt in Athens.

## Letter to Vancouver Council and Park Board members

Eric Mold:- Re – Free parking for Veterans

I wish I could give you an accurate time that this issue is coming up at City Hall. I have been given to understand that the motion will come up sometime on the 26th...after 9.30 am. But because myself and possibly Archie Stacey want to comment on it, that will be the first event before the Standing committee on the 27<sup>th</sup>. I believe a few people want to show up when the motion is raised...I wish I could give them a better Idea of the timing. My best suggestion is for anyone interested to call City Hall (311) and ask when this item is likely to come up. We would welcome all the support we can get.

## Op PALACI Maintains Avalanche Control in Rogers Pass

SLt MX Déry, JTFP PA



*First day of shooting with the Howitzer for gunners in Rogers Pass. After confirmation that the road in the path of the planned avalanche is clear of vehicles, Parks Canada staff give permission to fire at pre-determined targets.*

*Photo: SLt M.X. Déry*

Every year since 1961, Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF)

gunners from all over Canada come together during Operation PALACI in Rogers Pass, British Columbia. Their job is to trigger avalanches using C3 105mm Howitzers in this vital choke-point in Canada's transportation corridor. These carefully planned artillery strikes are conducted to support the Parks Canada's avalanche control program, which keeps the Trans-Canada Highway and the Canadian Pacific Railway safe from large, natural avalanches. Troop Commander Lt Kevin Little is the Artillery Officer that leads the first of two rotations, comprised of 17 members from 1st Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, based out of CFB Shilo, Manitoba, and augmented by members from various reserve artillery units. "I think Op PALACI is exciting for all members because of its unique nature," said Lt Little, adding that the beauty of the Pass is definitely a highlight.

Seeing the majestic peaks in Rogers Pass, like towers along a giant, snow-covered stone wall, it is no wonder that this "palace" in the sky was the source of the operation's name: PALACI, the



Latin for palace. Although beautiful, these mountains, surrounding the short 39 -km stretch of the transportation corridor that connects BC to the rest of Canada, are home to the most active avalanche areas in the country. The C3 Howitzers have been modified and are positioned on one of the 16 specialized rings that line the narrow highway. Space is at a premium, with gun positions just large enough for the howitzers and their transport, surrounded by deep ravines and tall cedar and hemlock trees. The tight space is why the C3 Howitzer is the weapon of choice in Rogers Pass. “It is an excellent weapon, easy to manoeuvre, not particularly heavy, which is an advantage here, due to the small space we have to operate in,” said Lt Little. With two highly mobile detachments, the guns can be deployed at a moment’s notice, traffic halted, the guns put in place, rounds fired at any of the 300 predetermined avalanche trigger points, the roads cleared of snow and the pass re-opened in mere hours.

While safety is always paramount, speed and efficiency also rule this operation. With over 4,000 vehicles and up to 40 trains using Rogers Pass daily in the winter, traffic quickly builds up on either side of the pass in the designated holding areas that keep vehicles out of the 134 known slide areas. Such a complex dance of vehicles, weapons, ammunition and military and civilian personnel would not be possible without great communication and coordination. “It is a very unique operation because of the relationship with Parks Canada, but they have great staff and we have a long enduring relationship supporting them,” said Lt Little. “It is an opportunity for us to be seen to be serving the public, supporting Parks Canada and enabling citizens of this country to move through Rogers Pass safely.”

For more information, please visit the [Operation PALACI web page](#)

## **The US Army's New EOD Robot Looks Like WALL-E**

*Task & Purpose Jared Keller Nov 18, 2019*



*Left, the Common Robotic System –*

*Heavy (CRS-H, or "Chris-H") from FLIR Systems;*

*right, Wall-E from Pixar's 'Wall-E'*

Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technicians may be overworked and understaffed, but at least they're getting a brand-new robot best friend to help them avoid accidental detonation. The Army has selected FLIR Systems to furnish soldiers with the Common Robotic System - Heavy (CRS-H, or "Chris-H"), a treaded robot designed to "detect, identify, access, render safe, exploit, and achieve final disposition of heavy explosive ordnance" like IEDs, the service announced on Friday. Weighing just under a half-ton when fully loaded, the cyber-hardened robot system can

travel at speeds of up to 6 mph and lift loads of up to 275 pounds with its manipulator arm for seven hours at a time.

*CRS-H makes new friends during field testing (US Army photo)*



More importantly, according to the service, "a phased, quicker acquisition plan allowed the Army to make informed program decisions based on direct Soldier feedback on commercially available technology — fielding equipment faster than typical processes allow." Translation: the Army was able to whip up this bad boy more rapidly than other acquisition projects and with increased feedback from the soldiers who will actually operate the thing downrange. "We develop equipment for Soldiers to use in demanding situations, and there is no substitute for their perspective in operating the system - their input is of utmost value," Maj James Alfaro, chief EOD capability developer at the Army's Sustainment Capability Development and Integration Directorate at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, said in an Army release.

This is obviously important and all, but how do the Army announcement somehow overlook the fact that "Chris-H" looks like someone built the lovable "WALL-E" robot from Pixar's titular cry fest and fed it Rip-Its and dip for a year? We salute you, FLIR Systems: you built a robot that looks like WALL-E *if* he'd spent months at the gym lifting and doing lines of creatine powder. That's not just a difficult task; that's a feat of human ingenuity that will go down in history. Now go build a robot that looks like one of those dumb battle droids from the first Star Wars prequel for our new robot son to destroy.

## **Assault Pioneers Make a Comeback in Canada**

*November 14, 2019 Stephen J Thorne*



*An Australian pioneer sergeant with a leather apron and axe.*

An age-old military tradition has returned to the Canadian Army just a few years after it was abandoned. Assault pioneers—long-known as the bearded, leather-aproned, axe-bearing innovators whose jobs originated with the Roman legions—are making a comeback, albeit with some modern twists. Attached to infantry units, they have typically been responsible for manual labour and light engineering work such as road-clearing (hence, the axe) and specialized explosives work, making way for assault troops to proceed with their lethal tasks. Usually about 10 men strong, they are the MacGyvers of the infantry units, coming up with



novel solutions to unique problems or obstructions that usually impede the progress of the main body of troops. The British army's Royal Pioneer Corps defines the pioneer as a skilled worker who "leads the way, embraces a purpose, tough of spirit, far-sighted, and adventurous; the person who will prepare the way for an advancing army."

A history compiled by Roland Wardle, a re-enactor pioneer in the War of 1812-era 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, says the earliest references to combat pioneers he could find was in the Bible's Book of Nehemiah, Chapter 4, Verses 17-18. "They will build on the wall, and they that bear the burdens, with those that laded, everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other handheld a weapon," it says. "For the builders, everyone had his sword girded by his side, and so builded." Imbued with their own special esprit de corps, assault pioneers more typically trace their roots to ancient Rome, before full-fledged combat engineers, when the Roman legions needed advance parties to venture ahead to secure and clear the army's advance, often under hairy conditions.



*A pioneer sergeant leads The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers during a Saint George's Day parade in Alnwick, England, on April 27, 2019.*

*Sergeant Donald Todd RLC*

Pioneers appear in the pay and muster rolls of the British Garrison at Calais in 1346. By the 1600s, pioneer contingents under their own command were attached to the artillery and, later, with the 7<sup>th</sup> of Foot (Royal Fusiliers). By 1739, the Foot Guards had organized and maintained a detachment. The Black Watch and other infantry regiments followed. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, British infantry battalions were detailing sections or squads of pioneers under the command of a corporal or sergeant. Their main tasks were to perform or supervise heavy construction work. Canadian forces fighting the First World War in Europe had at least a half-dozen pioneer battalions, including the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Pioneer Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, which distributed more than 1,000 men among infantry units. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Pioneer Battalion (48<sup>th</sup> Canadians) was attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division; the 67<sup>th</sup> Western Scots (Pioneer Battalion) joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1916 and the 123<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion was repurposed as a pioneer battalion in January 1917. It replaced the 3<sup>rd</sup> the following May as the pioneer battalion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division. The 124<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion was also repurposed and became the pioneer battalion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division. During the Second World War, it was assault pioneers who did the so-called "mouse-holing" in Ortona, Italy, blasting through the interior walls connecting Italian houses so combat troops could make their way up streets out of sight of waiting German snipers.

*Two Canadian assault pioneers with the NATO force in Kosovo in 1999. The pioneer corps was briefly disbanded and has been reintroduced as part of efforts to make the Canadian infantry more mobile and agile.*

*DND*



There are numerous stories of how the tradition of facial hair among combat pioneers came to be, prominent among them the assertion that their Roman commanders excused them from shaving because they had to be up and on their way in darkness, well ahead of the traditional infantryman. “In theory at least, the principal distinction of the pioneer was his axe, apron and his beard, the only soldiers allowed to be unshaven in the otherwise clean-shaven army,” Wardle writes. “The wearing of the beard was a privilege, because their task was considered so arduous in warfare. Away from the regiment and the niceties of formal camp life, they were permitted facial hair. “However, it may have reflected the simple fact that because they formed the advance party, usually setting off before dawn, shaving in the dark was hardly a practical proposition. Like so many other privileges in the army, it soon became a requirement and even today, it is expected of the regimental pioneer sergeant that he will grow a suitably impressive beard. “In practice, however, beards were probably much more widely worn on active service than contemporary illustrations suggest.” In British army tradition, units on parade are led by a bushy-bearded pioneer sergeant wearing his leather apron and carrying an axe over his shoulder.

*Canadian pioneers build a bunker in Croatia in 1992.  
Private collection of Maj Brian Hynes*



Bearded assault pioneers served with the Canadian Armed Forces in Afghanistan, but in the post-Cold War era, army planners eventually deemed the job redundant and not cost-efficient, so the pioneers were disbanded, and their tasks handed off to combat

engineer regiments. Captain Colton Morris, an instructor at the Canadian Army’s infantry school in Oromocto, NB, helped design a new assault pioneer course. He told *The Maple Leaf*, the CAF’s newspaper, that senior leaders have since come back to the idea that pioneers are a



good investment for the evolving army. “Engineers have a huge envelope of things that they’re responsible for,” Morris said. “And without the assault pioneers, they’ve been saying, ‘we have many tasks and in order for us to maintain all those skills, we’re running ourselves ragged.’ “Engineers and assault pioneers complement each other.”

*A Canadian soldier peers through a “mouse hole” in Ortona during the Second World War.*

The pioneers’ role in Afghanistan actually reaffirmed their value as the military shifted its emphasis to lighter, more mobile, and agile forces. The former army chief, Lieutenant-General Paul Wynnyk said the “new version of the assault pioneers will assist in maintaining mobility in complex terrain. “So that means in mountains and, particularly now, in urban environments

where skills like breaching come into play,” he said. “Right now, that task is solely held by the engineers. They have to do things like fortify buildings, clear roadways, move obstructions and all sorts of other stuff. They don’t have the personnel to augment the infantry.” The army is offering an assault pioneer course to infantry soldiers in both the regular and reserve forces. “The intention is to increase retention,” Morris said. “By bringing the assault pioneers back, we open up other options for privates, corporals, junior leaders—and even officers—to expand their breadth of experience.”

## **15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Centennial Celebration – Feb 1**

Come celebrate the Centennial of the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment at Bessborough Armoury.

The invitation to our Centennial Celebration is open and inclusive to all of our extended Regimental Family, friends, and comrades.

What you can expect:

- Live bands and dancing
- Favourite local food trucks will cater, included with your ticket
- Messes will be open for beverages
- Centennial Souvenir Coins, glassware, mugs, t-shirts will be available for purchase

Saturday February 1, 2020 6:00PM – 11:30PM

Dress is casual.

Tickets \$30 - can be purchased through EventBrite at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/15th-field-artillery-regiment-centennial-celebration-tickets-81257570581>

Make sure you come early as parking is limited.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

### **Support our Regimental Centennial by buying into our 50/50 fundraiser!**

BC Gaming Event Licence# 119430

1 Ticket costs \$5.00

5 Tickets cost \$20.00

30 Tickets cost \$100.00

Draw takes place at the Regimental Centennial Celebration

Find a ticket seller at Bessborough Armoury or email your name and address with an interac e-transfer to [15rca100th@gmail.com](mailto:15rca100th@gmail.com)

## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

Here’s the latest activities from the website of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA.

Presentation of Honorary Colonel scrolls <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2019.html>

Additional Remembrance Day photos 2019

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/remembrance-day-2019.html>



Additional Freedom of the City Parade photos 1995  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/75th-freedom-of-the-city.html>

Menu from Sergeants' Mess Dinner 1980  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/sgts-dinner-1980.html>

Drumhead Ceremony programme 1978  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/drumhead-ceremony.html>

Sunset Ceremony programme 1975  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/sunset-ceremony-1975.html>

Armistice Day 1920 newspaper article <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1920.html>

Assistance Required with Isaak Skuce photos – Would you happen to know any of the details?  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/capt-skuce.html>

Don't forget to check out the Regimental Centennial page  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/centennial-page.html>

Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! [president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)

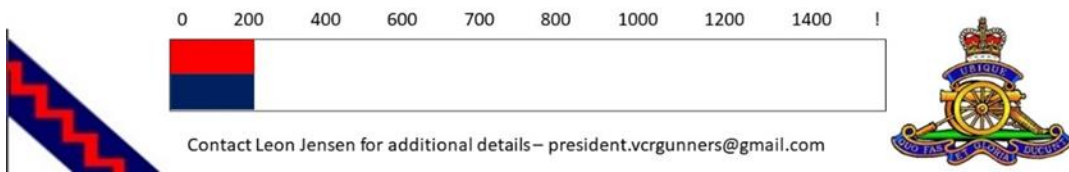


## The 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Museum

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!



## Who (or What) Is It?



**Last Week:** This is HMS Ocean in Kure, Japan (the Commonwealth occupation zone), in 1953. Ocean was in action in Korea from May to November of 1953. The photo would have been taken in May of 53, as 1 RCHA was returning home.

*Photo from the collection of Capt Redmond, 1RCHA.*

**This Week:** Those of you who visit our Bessborough Armoury will be aware that we are attempting to restore a Quick Firing 18 pounder gun of 1918 vintage, such as was used by 15<sup>th</sup> Field Brigade, Canadian Artillery, from its establishment in 1920 to its conversion to coast artillery in 1938. The version we have is actually the later, pneumatic tire one, but this was also used by Bessborough's wartime 39<sup>th</sup> Reserve Brigade, in a successful attempt to defend Vancouver from the Axis powers.

No doubt, the sight of the mighty 18 pdr would made the Nazis and their Japanese allies weak at the knees, and is probably the reason that the only firing on a Canadian West Coast domestic target during the Second World War was by a cowardly and ungentlemanly submarine (and, yes, we know about the nefarious balloons, too). That said, our gun rather pales in comparison to the beast portrayed in this week's quiz. It's a monster! At the rate we are restoring our gun (donations, by the way, are happily accepted), doing so to this piece would take a hundred years.



So, keen enthusiasts of noisy weapons, the query for this week is simple. What is this gun, and where is it? Send your answers by courier, telegraph messenger boy, or electronic mail to the editor, Bob Mugford

([bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com)) or to the author, John Redmond ([johnd.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd._redmond@telus.net)). Happy researching!

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

What did the doctor do about my short-term memory problems? Made me pay in advance.

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

If you try to please everyone, nobody will like it.

### **Quotable Quotes**

The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up. - *Paul Valery*

# NOABC Luncheon Speaker



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia  
Founded 1919

Luncheon Speaker's Series organized by NOABC

Wednesday, November 27, 2019  
Officers' Mess, 15<sup>th</sup> RCA Bessborough Armoury

## The Liberation of Holland celebrations in Canada and Metro Vancouver in 2020



The Liberation of Holland in 1945 was brought about primarily by the Canadians, a monumental struggle of service and sacrifice in the pursuit of democracy & freedom. Canadians signed up from across our country, joining forces to sail across the Atlantic Ocean to liberate a people they did not know. As many Dutch people of that generation will say, "thank God they came." Meanwhile, back in Canada, the Dutch royal family found refuge in Ottawa, where Princess Margriet was born in 1943.

The Dutch people have never forgotten the Canadian liberators. Each spring the Dutch government sends 100,000 tulips to Ottawa, a heartfelt gesture gesturing an unbroken friendship. Now, 75 years later, there will be a number of celebrations to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Holland, and this enduring connection between our two nations. Consul-General Henk Snoeken in Vancouver will share with us the activities that will take place in Metro Vancouver to mark this special anniversary.

### Speaker's biography



Henk Snoeken is Consul-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Vancouver. He had various positions in Dutch ministries, from which the latest were: Deputy Director for National Spatial Planning (2010-2014) and Deputy Director for International Relations (2014-2018) at the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment. As a policymaker he has been working in the field of spatial planning, water management, logistics and sustainability. In the field of international relations his focus was on climate policy, public-private cooperation and economic diplomacy.

### CV

2014-2018 Deputy Director International Affairs, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment  
2012-2013 Acting Director for National Spatial Planning, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment  
2011-2013 Deputy Director for National Spatial Planning, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment  
2002-2011 Program Director Civic Integration Policy Ministry of Justice  
1998-2002 Head Integration Policy Ministry of the Interior  
1992-2002 Various positions at University of Amsterdam and University of Tilburg

**If you plan to attend the lunch and presentation please respond to David Reece  
by Sunday, November 24, 2019**

At either [dreece@telus.net](mailto:dreece@telus.net) or call/text at 778-227-8203 so that he can advise the caterer.



# 15 Fd Regt Officers Mess St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night



**The Commanding Officer**  
*Lieutenant Colonel J.P.P. Lajoie, CD*  
*and the Officers*  
*of*  
*15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment*  
*The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery*

*request the pleasure of your company*  
*at their annual*

## **ST BARBARA'S DAY SPECIAL GUEST NIGHT**

*to be held at the*  
**BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY**  
*2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC*

*on*  
*Saturday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, 2019*  
*at*  
*six o'clock in the evening*

*Dress. Mess Kit, DEU, or Formal attire, with decorations.*

*Tariff. \$120 – Seats will be reserved when payment is received. There will be no tickets available the night of the event.*

*If paying in person, please notify VPMC, Lieutenant Chris Purdon at [mess15rca@gmail.com](mailto:mess15rca@gmail.com) and payment to be paid at the door on the night of the event.*

*Cheques payable to "Officers Mess 15 Fd Regt"  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7*

*RSVP by 20 November 2019 to  
[mess15rca@gmail.com](mailto:mess15rca@gmail.com)*

## CO's Annual Christmas Tea



*The Commanding Officer*

*LCol Pierre Lajoie CD*

*invites you to his*

*Annual Christmas Tea*

*to be held on*

*Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> 2019*

*in the*

*15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Officers' Mess*

*commencing at Two o'clock in the afternoon*

Dress: Jacket & Tie

Cost: \$ 20 per person at the door

Please sign up at the Bar or

RSVP Lt Chris Purdon, [mess15rca@gmail.com](mailto:mess15rca@gmail.com)

# Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir Christmas Concert

## Christmas Traditions Around the World



The 90+ member Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir, under the direction of Music Director Jonathan Quick, with piano accompanist Karen Lee-Morlang, and guest soprano and violin soloists, presents *Christmas Traditions Around the World*. With seven concerts this season, there's a venue near you! Join us for a repertoire of traditional carols, new arrangements, a bit of gospel, and of course a taste of Welsh.

We are again delighted to share the stage with the magical strings, voices and medieval instruments of the [Winter Harp](#) ensemble in New Westminster on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and with some exceptional secondary school choirs who will present a portion of the programme on their own, and join us for a few combined songs, on three other occasions.

This year we are also partnering with the [St. James Music Academy](#), "inspiring Vancouver's inner city youth to bring social transformation through the power and joy of music". Proceeds from our November 29<sup>th</sup> concert at Christ Church Cathedral will go to support music education programs for children and youth in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside community. Youth members from the St. James orchestra program will perform a selected set of works during the concert.

Concert details, prices and ticketing arrangements vary by location and date. Some service charges apply. Go to our new website <https://vancouverchoir.ca/tickets-events/> or select the direct online and other options below. Advance purchase highly recommended, especially for Massey Theatre (Dec 1<sup>st</sup>) and Surrey Arts Centre (Dec 10<sup>th</sup>).

| Date and Time                                      | Location and collaboration  | Ticket purchase   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Fri Nov 29<sup>th</sup></b><br>7:30pm to 9:30pm | <b>Christ Church Cathedral</b> , Georgia & Burrard Streets, downtown Vancouver. Close to SkyTrain Burrard Station, and Canada Line Vancouver City Centre Station; fundraiser for St. James Music Academy. | Brown Paper Tickets <a href="#">online</a> , or phone <b>1-800-838-3006</b>   |
| <b>Sat Nov 30<sup>th</sup></b><br>2:30pm to 4:30pm | <b>White Rock Baptist Church</b> , 1657 140 <sup>th</sup> Street, Surrey; with North Surrey Secondary School choir.   | Brown Paper Tickets <a href="#">online</a> , or phone <b>1-800-838-3006</b> ; or at Tapestry Music, 1335 Johnston Rd, White Rock. |
| <b>Sun Dec 1<sup>st</sup></b><br>2:30pm to 4:30pm  | <b>Massey Theatre</b> , 735 Eighth Avenue, New Westminster; with Winter Harp.   | Tickets Tonight <a href="#">online</a> , or phone the Massey Theatre box office <b>604-521-5050</b> (Tues-Sat, 12pm-6pm).         |
| <b>Fri Dec 6<sup>th</sup></b><br>7:30pm to 9:30pm  | <b>Centennial Theatre</b> , 2300 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver with Argyle Secondary School Concert Choir  | Centennial Theatre <a href="#">online</a> , or phone the box office <b>604-984-4484</b> (Tues-Sat, 1pm-6pm).                      |
| <b>Sat Dec 7<sup>th</sup></b><br>7:30pm to 9:30pm  | <b>Shaughnessy Heights United Church</b> , 1550 West 33 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver; with Magee Secondary School choir.   | Brown Paper Tickets, <a href="#">online</a> , or phone <b>1-800-838-3006</b> .  |
| <b>Tue Dec 10<sup>th</sup></b><br>7:30pm to 9:30pm | <b>Surrey Arts Centre</b> , 13750 88 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Surrey   | Surrey Civic Theatres <a href="#">online</a> , or phone the box office <b>604-501-5566</b> .                                      |
| <b>Sun Dec 15<sup>th</sup></b><br>7:30pm to 9:30pm | <b>Chilliwack Cultural Centre</b> , HUB International Theatre, 9201 Corbould St, Chilliwack   | Chilliwack Cultural Centre <a href="#">online</a> , or phone the box office <b>604-391-7469</b> .                                 |

Visit our website at [www.vancouverchoir.ca](http://www.vancouverchoir.ca) to learn more about the choir, our CDs, and opportunities to audition for the choir.

## Heads up for Celtic Fest 2020

The VWMC will be performing two concerts during Celtic Fest:

- **Sat Mar 14 2020**, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Christ Church Cathedral, Georgia & Burrard Streets, Vancouver.
- **Sun Mar 15 2020**, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, ACT Theatre, Maple Ridge.

Online tickets now available at <https://vancouverchoir.ca/tickets-events/>.





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 \\*](#)