

## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Jan 28, 2020

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. 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.

- Jan 01** Dues for VAA, RUSI and 15 Fd Officers Mess Associates now payable
- Jan 29** Seaforth's Museum tour  
NOABC speaker - Lt(N) Tyler Jason Burke- Keel laying HMCS Protecteur
- Jan 31** 15 Fd Centennial Reunion & birthday pty – meet & greet
- Feb 01** **15 Fd Centennial Reunion & birthday pty** **SOLD OUT**
- Feb 08** BCR Whiskey Tasting
- Mar 6** 78FH & 15 Fd Whiskey Tasting

### World War 2 – 1945

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

**Jan 29<sup>th</sup>:** The Germans attempt a counterattack in East Prussia, but valour and skill are of little avail now. XI US Corps is landed in Subic Bay on Luzon to debar the Japanese from retreating into the Bataan peninsula. German record keeping of some of their most execrable deeds is often inexact. Sometime between January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 5<sup>th</sup> at Ravensbrück Denise Madelaine Bloch, Violette Szabo, Cecily Lefort and Lilian Rolfe were executed. Denise Bloche was a French Jewish woman who had avoided being rounded up in 1942 and was working for

the Resistance. Recruited into the Special Operations Executive (SOE), she escaped France in 1943 and made it to the UK for training as a radio operator before voluntarily parachuting back into France in early 1944. She was captured in June. This courageous woman was posthumously made a member of the Légion d'honneur. Violette Szabo was 23 and the mother of an infant daughter who joined the SOE after her husband fell in battle at El Alamein. She had volunteered to jump into France and was fighting off a company of SS to cover the escape of some Resistance members when she was captured. She was posthumously awarded the George Cross and the Croix de Guerre. Rolfe was 30 and Cecily Lefort was 24. All had been extensively and brutally interrogated.

**Jan 30<sup>th</sup>:** US VI Corps takes Olongapo as it clears Subic Bay. Churchill and a fading Roosevelt meet in Malta to ensure they don't 'falta' in Yalta. The Wilhelm Gustloff is sunk by a Soviet submarine taking over 9,000 evacuated civilians and wounded German troops with her, the deadliest single ship sinking in history.

**Jan 31<sup>st</sup>:** The Czech government in London reluctantly recognizes the legitimacy of the Soviet's Lublin Committee in Poland. Private Eddie Slovak becomes the only US soldier to be executed for desertion during the War (the Germans and Soviets executed soldiers in the tens of thousands). Elements of 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne land by sea Southwest of Manila and XIV Corps are converging on Calumpit. XVIII Corps (1<sup>st</sup> US Army) re-enters Germany to the east of St Vith while the French make progress in counterattacks near Colmar. Zhukov's troops reach the banks of the Oder, 80 km from Berlin. Lieutenant George Arthur Knowland is commanding a platoon of No 1 Commando at Kangaw, Burma when 300 Japanese soldiers attack his 24 men. He leads his platoon in a 12-hour fight, using – at various times – a rifle, grenades, a Bren gun, a 2" mortar, and a submachine gun and often fighting at close quarters. The defence is successful, but Lt Knowland is mortally wounded towards its end. He is posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

**February 1945:** Closing up to the Reich's Last Defences *"He was a big tough ex-Scottish guardsman; I'll never forget him. He was standing there in the moonlight watching our companies come in, some of them with only ten or twenty men left. There were tears rolling down his cheeks and he turned to me, 'Makes you fucking think, don't it kid?'"*  
-Major William Matthews, 15<sup>th</sup> Scottish Division, Rhineland Campaign.

**General:** The massive Allied air armadas over Germany drop over 143,000 tons of bombs. The tempo is not as ferocious over Japan, but Kobe, Nagoya and Tokyo will be raided. The German U-Boat fleet trades 22 of its 150 submarines to sink 15 Allied ships.

**Feb 1<sup>st</sup>:** Zhukov's 1<sup>st</sup> Belorussian Front also closes up on the Oder River and makes a crossing at Krustin, in the face of fierce German resistance. US 7<sup>th</sup> Army's VI Corps crosses the Moder and marches on Oberhofen. Japanese resistance on Luzon stiffens up, bringing the US advances to a halt. There is another massive air raid on Iwo Jima by B-29s and B-24s.

**Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>:** British troops attack over the Maas near Breda and Nijmegen to put pressure on the Germans. French troops reach the outskirts of Colmar.

**Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>:** French and forces liberate Colmar and the Germans are under pressure along almost the entire front. Soviet troops keep turning the Germans into bite-sized pockets in East Prussia. The rest of 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne is committed to the battle south of Manila.

**Feb 4<sup>th</sup>:** 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry and 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne reach the outskirts of Manila; wherein are trapped 20,000 Japanese Marines in a mood of suicidal fury and are taking it out on the Filipino civilians. Belgium is completely liberated, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> US Armies move in on Duren. After their meeting in Malta, Churchill and Roosevelt meet Stalin at Yalta.

## **RCAF Still Dealing with Legal Issues on New Rescue Aircraft Name**

Military doesn't know when it will be able to announce a name. *David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen*  
January 13, 2020



The RCAF is still working its way through various legal issues as it tries to come up with an official Canadian name for the Airbus C-295 aircraft, the service's new fixed wing search and rescue plane. The new name was supposed to be selected by November at the earliest and December at the latest. But now the RCAF says it doesn't know when it will announce a name for the planes. "The list of possible names for the CC-295 has been further narrowed down, and those

names are currently undergoing legal, contractual, and trademark vetting," RCAF spokesperson Major Jill Lawrence explained to *Defence Watch*. "Once the process is complete, and when appropriate, the RCAF will formally announce the new name. At this time, there is no anticipated date for that announcement."

No details were provided on the new shortlisted names. The RCAF first consulted the operational search and rescue community which came up with ten names, later narrowed down to five. After that, the public was asked to vote on the names. Around 33,000 people voted, according to LCol Steve Neta, the director of RCAF public affairs. Another 1,600 comments were left on various RCAF social media sites. The RCAF then went back to its search and rescue personnel for more consultation. The RCAF published the five names being considered and an explanation for each name:

**CANSO II:** Canso aircraft served with 11 RCAF squadrons during the Second World War. They operated from both coasts and were employed in coastal patrols, convoy

protection and submarine hunting. After the Second World War, Cansos served with the RCAF in photo reconnaissance and search and rescue roles until they were finally retired in November 1962.

**GUARDIAN:** A guardian is an entity that protects a community under a set of values.

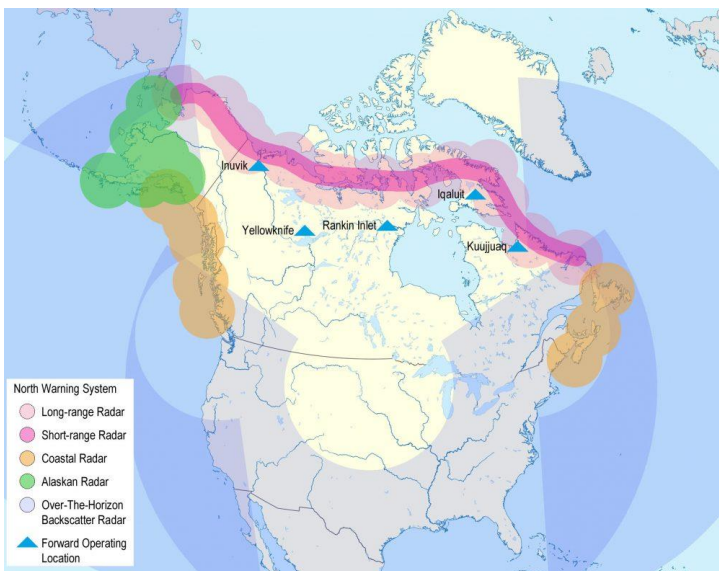
**IRIS:** Iris refers to the faculty or power of seeing. Iris was also the goddess of sea and sky in ancient Greek mythology.

**KINGFISHER:** Found all across Canada, this bird patrols up and down rivers, constantly searching for prey. Within the First Nations of the Northwest, the kingfisher has long been recognized for its speed and agility, as well as its keen searching and hunting skills. A kingfisher was depicted on the 1986 Canadian five-dollar banknote in the “Birds of Canada” series.

**TURNSTONE:** Turnstones are one of the migratory marvels of the Arctic bird world. They have been known to fly more than 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) in a single day.

## **Defence Expert Slams Ottawa for Ignoring North Warning System Upgrade**

Federal government hasn't budgeted for NWS modernization, professor says. *Jim Bell*



*This map shows the extent of the North Warning System, as it was envisioned by Canada and the United States in 1987. The U.S. pays 60 per cent of the cost of the NWS, while Canada pays the other 40 per cent. (DND image)*

In a scathing article published on Jan 14, James Fergusson, a defence expert, says the federal government is dodging the need to replace the aging North Warning System, which is near the end of its lifespan. “A failure on Canada’s part to move forward relatively quickly could prove disastrous,” said

Fergusson, the deputy director of the Centre for Defence and Security Studies at the University of Manitoba. He made his remarks in a commentary published by the Ottawa-based Macdonald-Laurier Institute, a think tank. The North Warning System is a string of 47 long—and short—range radar stations that stretch across the Arctic from Labrador to Alaska. It was planned and built between 1985 and 1992 to replace the DEW line, with a lifespan that expires in 2025. Canada and the United States operate the system through the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD. Canada pays 40 per cent of its operating costs, while the U.S. pays the other 60 per cent. Fergusson said replacing the NWS is likely to cost roughly \$11 billion, based on an unofficial estimate he’s seen. That means, based on the current formula, that Canada’s share of the bill could amount to about \$4.4 billion.



*This radome holds radar equipment for the Cam Main North Warning System station in Cambridge Bay.*

*(Photo by Jane George)*

But at the same time, it appears as if the Department of National Defence has not provided for the replacement of the NWS in its spending plans for the future. A DND document called the Defence Investment Plan lists projects like the Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ships project and the troubled plan to replace Canada’s fleet of F-18 fighter jets. But it contains no reference to the North Warning System. “The government has apparently not budgeted for NWS modernization in either its 20-year Defence Investment Plan released in 2018 or the 2019 Update of the Defence Investment Plan,” Fergusson wrote. “Yet NWS modernization is arguably the most immediate and pressing defence requirement for North American defence, and its final costs are likely to blow a hole in the investment plan.” And Fergusson said the federal government is likely maintaining a policy of silence on NORAD and NWS modernization. Fergusson cited a story by Murray Brewster that CBC published last August on its website, partly based on leaked information from an anonymous source at DND. The story reported that the U.S. and Canada have reached a framework agreement on renewing NORAD—but the federal government offered no comment or clarification. “Despite being provided the opportunity to respond formally, the government instead said nothing publicly.

Silence on North American defence cooperation and NORAD is nothing new for this government or its predecessors,” Fergusson said. That’s likely for political reasons, since co-operation with the U.S. through NORAD always triggers concerns in Canada about loss of Canadian sovereignty. But Fergusson said that approach may backfire, because in doing so, the federal government loses an opportunity to educate the public about the importance of North American defence cooperation. “It increases the prospects for a misguided emotional debate, rather than a reasoned one, to the detriment of the government and Canadian defence,” Fergusson said. And simply replacing the current radar stations will not be enough to bring the system up to date. That’s because the federal government has extended its zone of defence further north—which means the radar line must also move further north. “In effect, NWS modernization in terms of simple replacement one for one, and northern movement, is insufficient to meet the new threat environment,” Fergusson said.

It will also need new technologies to counter newer Russian long-range bombers, as well as a new generation of long-range, ground-launched Russian cruise missiles. That includes the use of “over-the-horizon” radar systems and other technologies. And in contrast with the 1980s, the federal government must now do meaningful consultation with Indigenous peoples and prepare for lengthy regulatory processes. That likely means that the government will also have to pay future environmental cleanup costs Inuit land-claim-based business entities have already stepped up to lobby for a piece of the action should the US and Canada go forward with

NWS modernization. In Nov 2018, a group of Inuit birthright corporations representing all four of the Inuit Nunangat regions, from Labrador to the Inuvialuit settlement region, formed a lobby group called the Inuit Development Corporation Association, which seeks contracts for Inuit firms in the provision of services to a new Arctic radar system. Through a company called Pan Arctic Inuit Logistics Corp., these Inuit corporations had formed a joint venture with a company called ATCO to create the Nasittuq company, which won a contract in 2001 to maintain the North Warning System. But the PAIL-ATCO joint venture lost that contract in 2014 to a company called Raytheon, after Raytheon came in with a less costly proposal that saved the government more than \$13 million a year. That contract was supposed to expire in April 2019, but there has been no indication of when or how it will be renewed.

## **Ranger Medics Save Lives with Blood Transfusions While Under Fire**

Two Army Ranger medics saved lives by taking fresh blood from uninjured soldiers in the middle of a firefight. *Haley Britzky January 24, 2020*



*A US Army Ranger combat medic takes part in routine medical training in August 2019. The Ranger O-Low Titre protocol is practiced multiple times a year to allow volunteer blood donors and medics to maintain a high level of medical proficiency.*

*Jaerett Engeseth/US Army*

We already knew that Army Rangers were a unique breed of badass but performing real-time blood transfusions while under enemy fire on the battlefield

takes it to an entirely new level. The Ranger O Low Titre Program (ROLO), developed a few years ago, allows soldiers to donate blood to their wounded comrades on the battlefield in a matter of minutes, according to a recent Army press release. "When called upon, a blood donor volunteer moves to the casualty and pulls out their issued blood donor pack," the release explains. "Either the unit's combat medic or a trained non-medic Ranger draws the blood from the volunteer. The volunteer then returns to combat and the blood is immediately administered to the casualty. "The whole process takes about 10 minutes."

Rangers in Afghanistan saw this life-saving technique executed in combat for the first time last summer, according to the release, when an assault force was pinned down for two hours in Wardak province during a night raid. During the fight, three Rangers were wounded in an initial blast; one critically-wounded casualty was pulled out of the line of fire (marginally — the only cover available was "a small lump of earth no more than one meter high," the release said), and began being assessed by combat medic Staff Sgt Charles Bowen from Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. Sgt Ty Able, also from Bravo Company, began checking out the other two Rangers. Bowen found that his casualty had a "gaping hole on the right side of his chest," with a weakening pulse. While helping him, another Ranger stumbled over to

Bowen, blood pouring from his neck. Bowen immediately moved to stop the bleeding, applying pressure to the neck wound and eventually performing, with Able, a cricothyroidotomy to help him breath — an incision in the neck to establish an airway. All of this was being done while taking machine gun and mortar fire.

After getting the neck wound under control, Bowen turned back to the casualty with the chest wound, who was bleeding out. There were no more available blood units, as they'd all been used. That's when Bowen and Able turned to ROLO — three different times, while under direct enemy fire. They drew fresh blood from pre-screened donor volunteers, all with universal type O blood, transferring it to the wounded casualties. In 2017, the ROLO Whole Blood Program was awarded the Army's Greatest Innovation Award by Army Materiel Command. The two medics also covered their patients with their own bodies to protect them from the chaos unfolding around them. "As all of the treatments and movements while under enemy fire were occurring, danger close fire missions with hellfire missiles, 30mm rounds, and 105mm rounds were being executed as close as 30 meters from our position," Bowen said in the release. "As this was happening, Sgt Able and I did our best to shield our casualties from harm and covered their ears during impact of the large munitions."

Bowen and Able ultimately saved six lives the night of the raid — including the Ranger who received blood transfusions on the battlefield. Lt Col Ryan Knight, MD, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Command Surgeon, said in the release that every "link in the system worked that night" to save lives. "Rangers train casualty care every day, leaders train to handle casualties, and our medics take pride in being the world experts in tactical combat casualty care," Knight said in the release. "While this is an amazing display of personal courage, medical expertise, and the most incredible saves I've ever heard of, it's also Rangers living the Ranger Creed and is what we expect every day from the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment."

## **US Army Designates New 155mm Self-Propelled Howitzer as M1299**

The US Army officially confirmed that it will designate the newest 155mm self-propelled howitzer (SPH) as M1299. The Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA gun) program evolved in the XM1299 prototype, now standardized as M1299.

*Global Defense Security army news industry 22 July 2019*



*XM1299 self-propelled  
howitzer firing test*

*(Picture source: US Army Yuma  
Proving Ground)*

The US Army's extended-range artillery system has been designed to increase the range and rate of fire on current and future M109A7 Paladin self-propelled howitzers. Compared

to its predecessors, an M1299 system is receiving two leading-edge technologies: new XM1113 rocket-boosted shells and a longer 58 caliber tube, which increases the range from 38km to 70km+, and 100 km within the forthcoming four years. In addition, the M1299 will have a fully automated ammunition loading system which increases the rate of fire from 3 rpm to 10 rpm. Removing the crew from the gun radically opens up the design space. The M1299 also receives a communications system that can work in GPS-denied environments. Many elements of the howitzer can be automatically modeled to support design decisions: gunfire shock response, electrical power draw, internal ballistics, etc. Building on mobility upgrades, the M1299 will also increase the lethality of self-propelled howitzers: new SPHs provides a “10x” capability through a combination of an increased range, increased rate of fire, increased lethality, increased reliability and greater survivability.

## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

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

**News Flash!** We’ve reached the maximum capacity for guests on Saturday night. A waiting list has been started in case others drop out. It is doubtful if there will be scalpers outside the Armoury that night. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/january-27th-2020>

Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ 2019 Mess Dinner photos  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/mixed-dining-in.html>

Photos added to the St Barbara’s Day dinner in 2016  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/st-barbara-2016.html>

Additional photos from Suds’ funeral in 2015 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2015.html>  
WOs and Sgts Mess Dinner 2012 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/wossgts-mess-dinner.html>

CWO Wishnicki visits the Idaho National Guard 2012  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/cwo-wishnicki.html>

Additional pictures added to Annual Dinner in 2011  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/annual-dinner-2011.html>

Point Grey Fort in 2008 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/point-grey-fort-2008.html>

More photos added from Cougar Salvo in 2006  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/cougar-salvo-2006.html>

A few photos from a CasAide course in 1988. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1988.html>



New names added to the group photo from 1954. Can you add some more names to the photos from when you were a member? <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/group-photos.html>

News articles from 1947 added

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1947---15th-coast-regt-rca.html>

News articles about the new Armoury approval <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1931.html>

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

Are you a former member of the 15 Fd Regimental Band? Alison Cole wants to hear from you. See poster below.

## Who (or What) Is It?

**Last Week:** The vehicle is a derelict (no tracks) Canadian Armoured Snowmobile at Fort Churchill in 1946 or 47. Photo comes from the photo album of Lt Col RH Webb. In the spring of 1943, the British Ministry of Supply expressed an immediate requirement for an armoured two-man reconnaissance snowmobile. A prototype was built of the vehicle which became known as the "Snowmobile, Armoured Canadian, Mark 1" and production started in early spring 1944. Concurrently, experimental work was instituted which led to the conversion of the snowmobile into the armoured amphibian Mudcat, of which pilot models were made in the spring of 1945. Design of a lighter load-carrying version of the Mudcat, subsequently called "Muskrat" began in October 1944 but pilot models only were produced. The final member of the snowmobile family, the Penguin, reverted to the original oversnow function.



**This Week:** Behold a great vehicle! Well, not quite as large as the photo might seem to show, as the CMP truck is resting on top of the main tracked thingie, and there are other tracked devices on either side. Still, it is an impressive object. Most wars are not much fun, and only a few are justifiable (although, fortunately, the ones we've been in seem to have fit that definition). However, conflict does seem to spur the imagination of boffins and others of similar cranial capacity, leading to machines of great interest to many of us. This in turn leads to hours and hours of fun and creativity on the part of the intellectual elite we call 'modellers'. However, not all these fascinating tools of war have been 'kitted', as the jargon has it, and this, I think (although I might be wrong) is one such that has never been committed to plastic or resin. Nonetheless, such would never stop the truly committed, who will simply customize a related kit, or scratch-build the model from bits and bobs, much to the disgust of their long-suffering spouses (assuming they ever left their mum's basement or attic). Research for scratch-building can be long and tedious, and can also be exciting, involving trips to places such as the Tank Museum (Bovington) in the UK, or even the legendary Kubinka one in Russia. Imagine the joy one's spouse feels when he or she (usually the latter, if I am to be honest) hears that this year's vacation will be to the Ontario Regiment Museum in exotic Oshawa, rather than to New York or Paris!



Well, enough imaginary travel. We come to this week's simple question. What is the vehicle in the centre of the photo? If you are a true modelling geek, you might even tell us where it is located. Send your answers to the 1/1 scale editor, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com)), or the model author, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Don't sniff too much of the glue!

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

Why did the lonely man buy some shares? Because it's much nicer having some company.

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

If your plan is working perfectly, you are about to lose.

### **Quotable Quotes**

Surround yourself with people who take their work seriously, but not themselves, those who work hard and play hard. *Colin Powell*

## 2020 marks the 100th year anniversary of the 15th Field Regiment, RCA. Please join the band in our Centennial Reunion Celebrations from Jan 29th to Feb 1st!

All former and current members of the Band of the 15th Field Regiment, RCA are invited and we hope to see you there

**Note: Tickets to the Saturday night event are now sold out**



**Please join our open rehearsal on January 30th!**

**We would love to see you.**

As a former band member, you are invited to join the Band at our weekly Thursday night rehearsal at the Hoffmeister Building, located at 1755 West 1st Avenue (next to the Seaforth Armoury). There is ample parking on the street and in the adjoining parkade (2nd level and up, only). After entering the building, turn left on the main floor to reach our state-of-the-art new band room. Bring your instrument, and let's have some fun making music again! An RSVP is not required, but please feel free to send

us a quick note [here](#) if you plan on attending. Start time is 7:30pm.



We invite you to attend our joint concert with the UBC Concert Winds on Wednesday, January 29th at 7:30pm, at the UBC Old Auditorium. Admission is FREE! More info about the concert can be found here:-

<https://www.facebook.com/events/429570487929788/>

If you are not in contact with the Band, please send your contact info to Alison Cole at [alisoncole@telus.net](mailto:alisoncole@telus.net)

## **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



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia  
Founded 1919

Luncheon Speaker's Series organized by NOABC  
Wednesday, January 29, 2020

## **National Ship Building Strategy Milestone Keel Laying Ceremony – HMCS Protecteur**

The National Ship Building Strategy reached a major milestone on January 16, 2020 when a keel laying ceremony took place last week at the Seaspan shipyard in North Vancouver.

“Today’s ceremony marks another critical milestone in the renewal of the Royal Canadian Navy Fleet via Canada’s National Shipbuilding Strategy,” Vice-Admiral Art McDonald, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy said in a statement.

Seaspan says it will be the largest naval ship by length ever built in Canada. Keel laying is one of the four specially celebrated events in the life of a ship; the others are launching, commissioning, and decommissioning (paying off). In earlier times, the event recognized as the keel laying was the initial placement of the central timber making up the backbone of a vessel, called the keel. As steel ships replaced wooden ones, the central timber gave way to a central steel beam. Modern ships are now largely built in a series of pre-fabricated, complete hull sections rather than being built around a single keel. The event recognized as the keel laying is the first joining of modular components, or the lowering of the first module into place in the building dock. It is now often called "keel authentication", and is the ceremonial beginning of the ship's life, although some modules may have been started months before that stage of construction.

### **Speaker’s biography**

Lieutenant Tyler Jason Burke currently serves in the Royal Canadian Navy as a Marine Systems Engineering Officer. He frequently reminds his younger sister and brother, a reservist air force captain and an army dental officer respectively, that the navy is – after all – the Senior Service. TJ’s beautiful wife, Lauren, is soon expecting – or perhaps not – a third child to add to the Burke Clan. His daughters, Clara and Verity, are loving their Daddy’s posting to the Vancouver Detachment of the Joint Support Ship Project. TJ previously served as a Damage Control Training Officer at the Atlantic Naval Fleet School and a Marine Systems Specialist at the Formation Technical Authority. His ship postings include time on Fredericton and Preserver as well as the ‘stone-frigate’ shore offices of Halifax and Toronto. TJ’s marine engineering training spanned from Victoria, BC to Portsmouth, UK. Prior to his commissioning, TJ completed a Combined Honours in Physics and the History of Science/Technology at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS. TJ was also a proud member of the 824 Silver Dart Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron for six years. TJ originally hails from River Bourgeois, a small village nestled on the southern coast of Cape Breton Island. His paternal ancestors were from France and sailed to Nova Scotia (Nouvelle France/Acadie) approximately four centuries ago. They were some of the first European colonists to the Americas.

**If you plan to attend the lunch and presentation please respond to David Reece  
by Sunday, January 26, 2020**

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



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)**

**SOLD OUT**

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 \\*](#)

# Regimental Whiskey Tasting

*Hosted by:*



*The British Columbia  
Regiment  
Officers' Mess &  
Sgts' & WOs' Mess*



**Date:** Saturday, February 8, 2020

**Time:** Bar Open from 6:30pm - Late.  
Whiskies presented 7:30-10pm.

**Location:** Upstairs Messes of the British Columbia Regiment  
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC

**Dress:** Casual Dress/Kilt Encouraged (No Jeans Please)

**Price:** \$60/person (Includes 5x Full Measures of Whiskey)

**\*\*For those not partaking in the Whiskey Tasting, the option of a \$20/person donation to the Unit Fund is available.**

**RSVP:** Tickets are available by presale only  
on a first-come-first-served basis!

For more information or to purchase tickets, email:  
Maj Adam McLeod, at "adamcleod@gmail.com"

Payment via e-transfer, no cash sales at the door.  
No cancellations after January 24, 2019



**15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA  
&  
The 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser's Highlanders**

**Annual 2020 Fund Raiser and Whisky Tasting Night**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser's Highlanders invite you, and any like-minded guests of your acquaintance, to attend our annual fund raising and whisky tasting event at the historic Bessborough Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, music, and there will be whisky!

For the Full 'Whisky Fleet', Tickets are **\$55.00** per person by Credit Card, Cheque, or by exact change, otherwise your \$60 in bills will be gratefully accepted towards our good cause. Bernard who will be relieving you of your burden of carrying cash will meet you at the front door and will be most appreciative. For those who are driving or prefer the options from the No-Host bar, you pay a meager **\$25.00**.

**Only 50 tickets will be sold for the full whisky fleet! Bring guests!**

Dress is business casual. Kilts and highland dress, of course, are most welcome.

**DATE:** Friday – March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**TIME:** 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

**LOCATION:** 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

**DO NOT MISS OUT!  
TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:**

Major James Barrett  
Cell: (604) 916-1766  
E-Mail: [barrettjd007@gmail.com](mailto:barrettjd007@gmail.com)

All profits raised by the event will be equally shared between the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Regimental Society and the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison in support of their activities.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations upon request.