



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Oct 29, 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.

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 - 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 07** Battle of Leliefontein Luncheon 2019
5Fd Regt Band Concert of Remembrance
- Nov 10** Remembrance Day Concert – 15 Fd Band and Welsh Men's Choir
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day Concert – 15 Fd Band and Welsh Men's Choir
- Nov 13** RUSI Vancouver Fall Speaker Series - "UBC: The Veteran Friendly Campus"
- Nov 23** 78 Fraser Highlanders – Feast of St Andrews
- Dec 07** 15 Fd Annual St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night
- Jan 11** 78 Fraser Highlanders – Garrison Robbie Burns Supper

World War 2 – 1944

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

Oct 30th: 2nd Canadian Division completes the capture of Beveland, but Walcheren remains – where the 2nd Division is facing murderous fire along the long narrow causeway to the island. US 7th Division liberate Dagami.

Oct 31st: No smart bombs, just raw skill – RAF Mosquitoes bomb the Gestapo HQ building in Aarhus with great accuracy to aid Danish resistance by destroying their records. The Germans evacuate Salonika, a move that strands many small outposts on Aegean islands. The 2nd Canadian Division sends the first of several attacks up the long-exposed causeway to Walcheren.

November 1944: Through More Mud and Blood. *“He was about five-foot two inches, but he was the biggest guy in our outfit. Fearless and a leader, going around, you know, cracking jokes, helping guys who were overloaded with ammo, volunteering for everything, night patrols, all the shit. He was also the sloppiest bugger you ever saw, and when we’d get a new officer you could see the look of disgust on his old kisser. Then, in a couple of days, you’d see the change – to respect and then admiration.”* -Extract from interview in Barry Broadfoot’s “Six War Years 1939-1945”

General: The rain of destruction on Germany continues: US bombers hit its cities with 55,700 tons and the RAF delivers 53,000 tons. RAF medium bombers are also heavily mining the Baltic ports that are used for U-boat training. B-29s launch six major raids on Japan and four on cities in China and Southeast Asia.

Nov 1st: Elements of 52nd Division and three commando brigades land on Walcheren in a hotly contested fight with the 70th Division; while the Canadian attacks up the causeway continue. The Soviets come within 50 km of Budapest. The British famine relief operation begins in Southern Greece as the last Germans to leave slip out of the north. The famine, deliberately induced by the Germans, has taken 300,000 lives. Tito and the Yugoslavian government in exile reach agreements (which Tito will later ignore) on the future government. The Japanese defenders of Leyte are reinforced, and kamikaze attacks sink one US destroyer and damage several others.

Nov 2nd: Fighting on Walcheren continues, but – far in the Allied rear -- Zebrugge and Heyst on the Channel coast are liberated. When 2Lt Robert E Femoyer’s B-17 is badly hit by flak on a raid over Merseburg Germany, he is severely wounded. However, he refuses morphine or to abandon his tasks as the aircraft’s navigator – selecting the safest route possible for the damaged aircraft to return to England. Only when it is over the English Channel does he accept morphine and relinquish his duties and dies shortly after his plane lands. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Nov 3rd: The final fighting in the Breskens pocket on the south bank of the Scheldt is over, but the fighting on Walcheren remains intense as the 52nd Division and the commandos push out of their beachhead. It sometimes happens that a country is really not aware of just who its heroes are. Charles Forbes is with the Maisonneuve Regiment, and is one of the last men off the Walcheren causeway after the two-day ordeal by fire. They had done the impossible and established a foothold over the causeway, but the Canadians are ordered to withdraw, and their costly success is not exploited. Forbes is wounded but is carrying another man through the deep mud and icy water. Quite possibly to honor him as well as the ghastly ordeal that this campaign represents, the Dutch make Lieutenant Forbes a Knight of the Military Order of William – their oldest and highest military honor. Canada (barely) remembers many of its Victoria Cross winners, but Forbes is almost entirely unknown.

Nov 4th: The Chief of the British Mission in Washington, General Sir John Dill, dies of a heart attack. Popular with US military planners, he is given a lavish funeral and an equestrian statue of him is in Arlington National Cemetery. Although Walcheren is not yet secure, minesweepers get to work in the Scheldt Estuary. The Soviets keep pushing towards Budapest. US troops on

Leyte start to move off “Bloody Ridge” near Dagami. The 5th Indian Division captures Kennedy Peak as Slim’s 14th Army starts to position itself on the Burmese frontiers.

Essential Reading: John Keegan’s 1991 book Churchill’s Generals contains the biographies of 20 of the leading British generals of the Second World War, and taken altogether, they are a fascinating lot. None of the biographies is in any great detail, but this is still an essential reference – particularly for the small library.

Nov 5th: Lord Moyne, the Chief British minister in the Middle East is assassinated by the Stern Gang. British troops land at Salonika. By and large, the Soviet Union could not expect too much of its submariners in the war – their submarines were not nearly as technically advanced as those of the other major combatants and the only ones with a target-rich environment (the men of the Baltic Sea Fleet) were hemmed in behind numerous minefields. Still, Grigori Ivanovich Shchedrin does stand out. A highly proficient young officer, he was given command of a new S-Class submarine in 1941 in the Pacific. The next year he led a flotilla of six submarines across the Pacific, through the Panama Canal and up to Murmansk. In the next 18 months of lurking off Norway, he did manage to sink two warships and two transports – an exemplary record for a Soviet submariner. Today he is made a Hero of the Soviet Union.

Ottawa Short-Changed More Than 270,000 Veterans

On pensions and disability payments. Accounting error is believed to have cost veterans \$165M between 2002-2010. *Murray Brewster · CBC News Nov 05, 2018*



Veterans march to Remembrance Day ceremonies at the National War Memorial in Ottawa on Nov. 11, 2015. (Adrian Wyld/Canadian Press)

More than 270,000 ex-soldiers were short-changed by Veterans Affairs Canada for over eight years because of an accounting error worth at least \$165 million, CBC News has learned. The mistake was uncovered by the veterans’ ombudsman’s office, which has worked with the federal department for over a year to get it to confirm the mistake and make amends. A written statement from Minister Seamus O’Regan confirmed a retroactive compensation program is in the works — but the affected veterans will have to wait up to two years to get their money. “We will ensure those affected receive the compensation to which they are entitled,” O’Regan said. “At this stage, given the number of individuals affected, we expect to issue payments by 2020. We will share more information with those affected as it becomes available.” The minister thanked the ombudsman, Guy Parent, for uncovering the error. “Our interest is that veterans and their families are treated fairly,” said Parent in an interview Monday with CBC News.

The error was made in the monthly indexing calculation on disability awards and pensions and is believed to have started as far back as 2002. The department didn’t factor in the basic provincial tax credit for individuals. That led to lower monthly payments for 272,000 veterans — a significant number of them Second World War and Korean War veterans. As many as

175,000 of them have since died, leaving the federal government with a legal mess to untangle related to their estates. "It's going to be a challenge," Parent said. Depending upon individual circumstances, the ombudsman said, the error would have deprived veterans of between \$50 and \$2,000 during the timeframe. "Those war veterans that are in low income and that receive the war allowance ... I mean, two thousand dollars is almost the equivalent of a monthly payment for them," the ombudsman said. "It is significant for them."

The error ran unchecked from 2002 to 2010, according to internal department numbers analyzed by the ombudsman's staff. In 2011, Veterans Affairs inexplicably resumed using the correct calculation. The department did not, however, make any move to reimburse veterans for the lost income, which would have — in the worst cases — amounted to a few hundred dollars per month. "We did not look really look at causes ... We did not look at the how or the why," said Parent. "We discovered the error. They acknowledged it and now our interest is in fairness and making sure they are repaid, and the money goes back into veterans' pockets." Parent said it is up to Veterans Affairs to explain why the error took place, when it was spotted and why nothing was done about it until the ombudsman stepped in. Conservative defence critic James Bezan was caught off guard by the news and claimed two former veterans' ministers, who served through the time when the mistake was spotted, knew nothing about it. "They were never, ever briefed on this," said Bezan, who demanded more details on the Liberal government's compensation plan.

Sean Bruyey, a veteran advocate and long-time critic of the department, said he wonders what would have happened had the ombudsman not dug into the file and whether the department was trying to hide its mistake. "They were waiting for someone to hopefully not find this information," he said. "And when it was found, the fact that they're not being agile and responsive to get this solved, paints a picture of a department that's sorely out of touch with how it impacts veterans." Canada's former top military commander, retired general Rick Hillier, said he is willing to believe the miscalculation was an honest bureaucratic snafu, but he still has questions. "You do wonder why it took so long to recognize it was an error and why there wasn't some ... compensation at the end of it," Hillier said. Some veterans did end up receiving reimbursement — but inadvertently, and without knowing it. The Liberal government's 2016 budget poured more money into disability awards, and the measure included retroactive payments. But the ombudsman said the difference was not made up for those who received disability pensions between 2002 and 2010.

US Army Has Already Secretly Fielded Its Lighter, Stronger Helmet

A handful of lucky soldiers get to try them. *Matthew Cox Military.com October 16, 2019*

In late September, the Army secretly fielded a small number of helmets that offer increased protection against high-performance sniper rounds. Army equipment officials "quietly fielded" 150 of these improved Integrated Head Protection System (IHPS) helmets to soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas as part of the first issue of the service's new Enhanced Night Vision Goggle-Binoculars, Brig Gen Anthony Potts, commander of Program Executive Office Soldier, told reporters today at the 2019 Association

of the United States of the Army's annual meeting. The first generation of IHPS weighs about three pounds, in size medium, but to get to a "classified level of protection against higher-level threats, what we had to do for our soldiers is put another two-pound applique on the top of the helmet," Potts said. "Soldiers don't particularly like the fact that they have five pounds on their head, but if you are traveling through urban areas or areas where there is a known sniper threat, our soldiers are willing to put the additional applique on for at least a period of time," he added.



*The Integrated Head Protection System
(Military.com/Matthew Cox)*

But Army scientists at the Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center have developed a new process for molding the polyethylene helmet material that reduces its weight by up to 40%, Douglas Tamilio, director of the NSRDEC, told reporters. The new process allowed manufacturers to produce an

IHPS helmet that offers the same ballistic protection without the additional applique. "So, instead of having five pounds to protect against that threat in a very specific region of your helmet, now the entire helmet protects against that threat at three pounds," Potts said. The Army is working with defense companies to produce more of the new design, Potts said. "We have done enough testing to know that it absolutely meets the current level of threat, but we also know that it exceeds that," Potts said. "Now, it's about getting more companies that can actually press that mold. So, once that goes out, we will no longer field that applique for those IHPS helmets."

US Bombs Its Own Ammo Dump in Syria

As most troops beat a hasty retreat from the country. *Jeff Schogol Task & Purpose October 16, 2019*

The US military's withdrawal from northeast Syria is looking more like Dunkirk every day. On Wednesday, the US military had to call in an airstrike on one of its own ammunition dumps in northern Syria because the cargo trucks required to safely remove the ammo are needed elsewhere to support the withdrawal, Task & Purpose has learned. Two F-15Es destroyed the LaFarge Cement factory between Kobane and Ayn Issa after all US troops had left the area, said Army Col Myles Caggins, a spokesman for the US-led military coalition fighting ISIS in Syria and Iraq. "Blowing the ammo was part of the plan," Caggins told Task & Purpose. "Abandoning unguarded ammo would not be prudent."

The White House first announced on Oct 6 that a small number of US special operators in northeastern Syria would withdraw ahead of Turkey's invasion of Kurdish-held territory, but the Turkish military operation proved to be bigger than expected. The Turks have advanced deeper into Kurdish territory and further to the west than the US government thought they would, a senior defense official told reporters on Tuesday. On Oct 11, US troops operating near Kobane came under Turkish artillery fire. No US personnel were harmed. The incident was the first significant indicator that the Turks would operate outside the safety zone they had said they were establishing in northeast Syria, the senior defense official said. Defense Secretary Mark Esper announced on Oct 13 that most US troops would withdraw from Syria to avoid being caught between the warring sides. A small residual force is expected to remain at the Al Tanf garrison – for now

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Your Vancouver Artillery Association President/Website Manager has been absent over the last two months due to the Federal Election. I have now returned and looking forward to receiving any regimental photographs and/or stories. The main focus over the next three months will be producing the draft copy of our 100 year history. The best way to make sure that you're included in that history is to send me your story! President.vcrgunners@gmail.com

Sadly, our only update for the week is the passing of Bombardier Graeme Mutton CD <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2019.html>

End of Mission. Stand Easy.

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: Our Quiz Author, John Redmond, took this picture back in the early 60s. The shadowy face in the cab is his buddy, Murray Wilson, whose dad was a naval officer at HMCS Churchill. The vehicle is a Penguin Mk II (not a III, as some websites say). It was very fast but cramped. The Nodwell (featured in a previous quiz), which replaced it was quite spacious, and much more reliable. It also had a much more comfortable ride, given its longer and wider wheelbase. This picture answers the question as to which company was at Fort Churchill. It was 18 Coy, as can be seen on the Unit tac sign of the Penguin in the photo.



This Week: There are, it is rumoured, some people who don't like dogs. I find that hard to believe, just as I find it hard to believe that there are folks who don't like garlic, or, shudder!, won't eat sushi. Our canine colleagues have played a role in armies since the days of Chief Og's Regiment of Light Clubs, back about 20,000 BC. Most have been companions or mascots, and a few, primarily in the Middle Ages, were used in the offence. All one has to do to find a dog in the armed forces of most nations is to look at an old group photo. There is usually a poochie with the lads and/or lasses (and almost never a cat, I hasten to add).

Our Canadian Army even has its own furry hero in the form of Gander, a Newfoundland dog, who died heroically with the Royal Rifles of Canada during the Battle of Hong Kong. He was posthumously awarded the Dickin Medal, the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross. This tradition is dying out in our armed forces, due to over-regulation, supposed allergies, perceived offence-giving to those who prefer cats or goldfish, etc. But it lives on in the hearts of all true soldiers, sailors and air personnel. All of which brings us to this week's photo. Isn't he adorable! Well, pretty much so, given that he's stuffed and mounted in a glass box. Nonetheless, he would, if dressed in a Hello Kitty vest, fit right in with the hipster crowd in Yaletown. However, he is a true hero, and a veteran of a hard-fought conflict. His life and death are well-recorded and remembered by all who love their canine pals.



So, dear dog-friendly reader, can you tell us who this little fellow is, and what became of him? Where is he now (other than stuffed and in a glass box)? We will give you one hint: things didn't go well for our

side in his battle, nor did his retirement turn out to be very satisfying. Send your woofs and wags to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Walkies!

From the 'Punitentary'

Why doesn't a mummy take a vacation? He is afraid that he will relax and unwind.

Murphy's Other Laws

If at first you don't succeed, call in an air strike.

Quotable Quotes

Dreams will get you nowhere, a good kick in the pants will take you a long way. *Baltasar Gracian*



Royal Canadian Armoured Corps (Cavalry)

Battle of Leliefontein Luncheon 2019

You and your guests are most cordially invited to attend the annual Leliefontein Luncheon to commemorate the Royal Canadian Dragoon's battle in South Africa on 7 November 1900

The Luncheon will commence at 1100hrs and conclude at approximately 1400hrs to meet ferry schedules.

All Black Hats and Supporting Arms Welcome

Thursday, 7 November 2019

At

**Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club
1949 Marina Way
North Saanich,
British Columbia, Canada**

Dress

Suggested- jacket and tie

Tariff

\$35.00

RSVP

David Scandrett - scand@shaw.ca



Remembrance Day Concerts – 15 Fd Band and Welsh Men's Choir

**The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir &
Band of the 15th Field Regiment, RCA**

Present

With Glowing Hearts
Music & Songs of Remembrance

SUNDAY NOV 10TH, 2:30 PM

MONDAY NOV 11TH, 2:30 PM

MASSEY THEATRE

SOUTH DELTA BAPTIST CHURCH

735 8TH AVE. NEW WESTMINSTER

1988 56 STREET, DELTA, BC

FOR TICKET PURCHASE AND PRICING

VISIT

WWW.VANCOUVERCHOIR.CA



Share the emotion and the joy. Join us to remember.

5Fd Regt Band Remembrance Day Concert



DISTRICT OF
OAK BAY

The Canadian College of Performing Arts and
The Band of the 5th (British Columbia) Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery
in partnership with the District of Oak Bay present a

CONCERT OF REMEMBRANCE



Thursday November 7 7:00pm

Dave Dunnet Theatre at Oak Bay High
admission by donation

tickets at ccpacanada.com or at the door

Proceeds to support the Military Family Resource Center
and the Canadian Heritage Arts Society.

JOIN US

RUSI VANCOUVER SPEAKER SERIES

Wednesday, 13 November 2019

5:00 to 7:00 pm

Bessborough Armoury

Topic - “UBC: The Veteran Friendly Campus”

**Speaker: Tim Laidler, CD, MA – Executive Director,
Centre for Group Counselling and Trauma, UBC**

Mark your calendars for a presentation by Tim Laidler, Veteran of Afghanistan and former member of the B.C. Regiment (DCO), who will outline how the University of British Columbia will soon become a Veteran Friendly Campus.

Starting in 2020 UBC will provide programs and services to meet the unique needs of Veterans already on campus and those enrolling at UBC in the coming years.

This is your opportunity to learn about UBC’s six pillar approach that will range from mental health support to priority housing for veterans living on campus.

The RUSI Vancouver Speaker Series is free, everyone is welcome, and a no-host bar and refreshments will be available. Please confirm you will attend on November 13. Send your e-mail RSVP to LHCCATHCART@GMAIL.COM.

Hosted by RUSI Vancouver in cooperation with LCol. Pierre Lajoie, Commanding Officer, 15 Field Artillery Regiment, and the President and Members of the Officers Mess.



Fort Fraser Garrison

Please join us as we celebrate the Patron Saint of Scotland at our annual

Feast of St. Andrew

Mess Dinner

Saturday, 23 November, 2019

in the Officers' Mess, 15th Field Regiment RCA

2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

1800hrs for 1900

RSVP by 19 November to jobarb@shaw.ca

In the spirit of the season the garrison collects donations of gift cards and cash for those less fortunate than we; please help out.

Donations of monies to the UGM and Angel Tree will happily be accepted and tax receipts for donations in excess of \$100 will be available.

Proceeds of our Christmas Bottle Raffle will go to support the Union Gospel Mission's food program.

Tariff: \$65.00 per person. *RSVP requested jobarb@shaw.ca or 604-522-5766

Dress: Highland Evening Dress, Mess Kit or Business Attire.
Ladies equivalent.

yours aye,

James Barrett CD, Major
Officer Commanding



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
15th 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 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

on
Saturday, the 7th 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 and payment to be paid at the door on the night of the event.

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

*RSVP by 20 November 2019 to
mess15rca@gmail.com*



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,
15th Field Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th 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 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

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

Looking forward to seeing you there

James Barrett, Maj. Officer Commanding