



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Jan 8, 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 - Tomorrow is the first lunch of 2019. We need your support to keep the lunches going. Hope all you regular attendees can make it. I am moving so won't make this week. 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.

- Jan 09** First lunch of 2019
- Jan 26** 78th Fraser Highlanders - Burns Dinner
- Feb 1-3** Yorke Island event
- Feb 02** 15 Fd 99th Birthday Social
JP Fell Pipe Band Burns Supper

RUSI Speaker Series for 2019

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

World War 2 – 1943

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

Jan 9th: US Engineers complete a second airfield on Bougainville. US troops start to attack Cevaro and Monte Trochio, adjacent to Monte Cassino.

Jan 10th: The US troops on New Britain expand their bridgehead – just as Japanese resistance is growing fast.

Jan 11th: There are new Soviet attacks at Mozyr in the southeastern Belarus. The US airfield at Saidor on New Guinea is now operational. Roosevelt asks Congress for a national service law to prevent any more damaging labor strikes. The French Expeditionary Corps makes a go at Monte Cassino's outer defences while US IV Corps tries to close up to the Rapido River again.

Jan 12th: US 34th Division liberates Cervaro and moves on Cassino while the French Expeditionary Corps attacks towards Sant' Elia; II US Corps and the French Corps are only now drawing near the Gustav Line and Monte Cassino is in sight... which it will dominate for months.

Jan 14th: The Japanese can no longer contain the Marines on Cape Gloucester. The Soviet Leningrad, Volkhov and 2nd Baltic Fronts start an offensive to finally break the siege of Leningrad. After being under Federal control since 17th December, US railroads are returned to private control when the Unions agree not to strike.

Essential Reading: On June 22, 1941, Gefreiter G Bidermann and eleven other German soldiers crossed the frontier into Russia as an anti-tank gun crew in the 132nd Division. Eventually, Bidermann returned home in 1948 as a decorated captain after three years as a POW in the USSR. One man returned home in 1942 with one eye, another in 1943 after leaving an arm and a leg in Russia, the rest fell. Gottlob Bidermann's engrossing account of his soldiering in Russia was published as In Deadly Combat: A German Soldier's Memoir of the Eastern Front. Not being from one of the celebrated elite formations, but from an ordinary infantry division, Bidermann's recollections are even more useful to any library on the Second World War.

Jan 15th: The Germans are proving stubborn around Leningrad and fierce fighting ensues. Mark Clark's 5th Army "has finally closed up to the Gustav line, but must continue to push to distract the German from the coming Anzio operation. The Australians take Sio on New Guinea.

Essential Reading: The long ordeal around Cassino for 5th Army was only just getting started, and the complex series of battles needed to break through the Gustav Line deserves careful explanation. One of the best such explorations was by Professor Dominick Graham in Cassino which dates from 1971 and was another of the excellent publications by Ballantine on the war years.

They Shall Not Grow Old is a Stunning World War I Documentary

The director Peter Jackson discusses the process of restoring 100-year-old footage for his new film and capturing the humanity of soldiers with unprecedented clarity. David Sims Dec 19, 2018

What immediately stands out in Peter Jackson's documentary *They Shall Not Grow Old* is the faces of its subjects. A painstaking restoration of century-old video footage from the First World War, the film is a complex project with a simple goal: to try to convey what it was like to live and fight on the Western Front from 1914 to 1918. But the technology Jackson deploys is so advanced that the documentary, which has been colorized and enhanced, captures a surprising degree of character and realism. The British soldiers' faces smile, wrinkle, and grimace—all without the artificial, sped-up look typical of archival cinema. "You recognize the minutiae of being a human being; it suddenly comes into sharp focus," Jackson said in an interview with *The Atlantic* about how his film—quite literally—offers a different way of seeing the men who fought in World War I. "You realize, for 100 years, we've seen these guys at a super-fast speed, full of grain, jerky, jumping up and down, which has completely disguised their humanity." In creating *They Shall Not Grow Old*, a five-year process carried out in tandem with the British Imperial War Museum and the BBC, Jackson tried to emphasize that personal touch, crafting a documentary experience that's far more immersive and tactile than most. Though *They Shall Not Grow Old* has already aired on British television, it is best seen in a theater. The film is being screened with eerily impressive 3-D projection that adds an extra layer of verisimilitude, but to Jackson these added presentation elements aren't the main draw. More significant is the restoration itself, which was completed by his company WingNut Films, the main force behind his effects-driven *Lord of the Rings* and *Hobbit* movies. (An American company called Stereo D did the colorization and 3-D conversion for *They Shall Not Grow Old*.)



Warner Bros.

When the Imperial War Museums first contacted Jackson and handed him 100 hours of raw footage, it asked only that the video be presented to audiences in a "fresh and original way," without any new material from the modern era. Unsure at first how to translate those instructions into a full-

fledged documentary, Jackson began by tackling the restoration. During World War I, footage was shot on hand-cranked, black-and-white cameras, usually at 10 to 12 frames per second, which creates an "over-cranked" (or sped-up) visual when the film is played at the 24-frames-per-second standard of modern cinema. "I set about doing four or five months of testing with a little piece of film that [the Imperial War Museums] sent, and I was amazed at the results," Jackson said. "It was so sharp and so clear, it looked like it was shot now. It was way better than I ever dreamt it could be." The director and his team carefully filled in the frame gaps, removed damage from the footage, and hired lip-readers to discern what people were saying so that dialogue could be dubbed in along with sound effects. "To me, the colorizing is the icing

on the cake,” Jackson said. “But the transformation happens when you take away all that damage and get [the soldiers] moving at a normal human speed. They become real people again.”

Only after beginning the restoration did Jackson hit upon the idea for the documentary’s unique presentation: The film would focus exclusively on the trench warfare of the Western Front, and it would be narrated only by audio interviews conducted in the 1960s and ’70s with British soldiers who fought on those battlefields. “[Our goal] really became, at that point: We’ve got to show the war as the soldiers saw it,” Jackson said. *They Shall Not Grow Old* doesn’t try to encompass every aspect of the massive conflict that was World War I, avoiding the potted-history approach of many documentaries. “I didn’t want to impose my own ideas on [the film]. I wanted to listen to everything on the audio interviews, to look at all the footage, and to let that find its own shape,” Jackson said. “To be quite honest,” he added, “the 100 hours of footage could make up seven or eight entirely different films.” So, he ended up setting aside material about the air force, the naval battles, the women-led efforts in UK factories, and farther-flung engagements such as the Gallipoli campaign, knowing he wouldn’t be able to do them justice with one film. Jackson was thus able to take a more slice-of-life approach to his subjects. “The mundane parts of being on the Western Front are the most interesting. These soldiers, they couldn’t talk about the history of the First World War, they couldn’t talk about the strategy and tactics,” he said. “There’s one guy who says [in an interview], ‘All we knew is what we could see in front of our eyes. Everything else, to the left, to the right, we had no clue.’ That myopic, super-detailed ... view became the story that I should tell. It’s a story you don’t often see in the history books and the documentaries. It’s what they ate, how they slept, how they went to the loo, what the rats and lice were like. The comradeship, the friendship.”

The film begins with soldiers recalling what it was like signing up for the war (and acknowledging their limited understanding of the conflict), going through basic training, living in the trenches, and going “over the top” into the nightmare of no man’s land. As a sort of oral history with expressive visuals, *They Shall Not Grow Old* succeeds at putting the viewer into the middle of a distant period. I was personally taken aback by the profound sense of camaraderie on display, by the grins on people’s faces despite the bleak surroundings, and by the genuine compassion that many British soldiers expressed for their German counterparts. “You listen to these guys, and you realize they don’t consider themselves to be the victims that we have turned them into,” Jackson said of the film’s subjects. “They don’t want our pity; they don’t feel self-pity. They were there, they chose to be there, they made the best of it, and for some of them it was a period of intense excitement ... Some of them even thought it was fun. That surprised me.”

Still, the film doesn’t hold back in its depiction of the brutality of trench combat, and how most British soldiers started seeing the war as a pointless effort the longer it dragged on. “The strongest opinion they would have had was, ‘The German army’s in Belgium and France, and we’re coming over here to push them out because we’re friends [with Belgium and France],” Jackson said. “I don’t think people could quite get their heads around why the British and the

Germans were suddenly enemies.” As the conflict winds down and more prisoners of war are taken, testimonial after testimonial in *They Shall Not Grow Old* suggests that British soldiers saw little difference between themselves and their supposed adversaries. “They were dealing with the same hardships, eating the same crappy food, in the same freezing conditions, and they felt a sort of empathy,” Jackson said. “They were there because their governments told them to be there.” That empathy, mixed with a sense of futility, is what makes *They Shall Not Grow Old* such a precise triumph. Jackson takes whatever amorphous ideas the average viewer might have about the First World War and uses real human experience to give them shape. As the film’s hundred-year-old footage springs to life, each face—whether muddied, wearied, relieved, or overjoyed—suddenly belongs to a recognizable person again. It’s both thrilling and humbling to witness.

See a preview of the film at: <https://youtu.be/irabKK9Bhds>

Ancient Horse with Bronze-Plated Saddle is Discovered in Pompeii

The remains of three horses were found in Pompeii, Italy. One of the horses was wearing a bronze-plated military saddle and ready to go when Mount Vesuvius erupted and buried the ancient city.

Palko Karasz Dec. 26, 2018

LONDON — The horse, a purebred, was wearing a bronze-plated military saddle and ready to go when Mount Vesuvius erupted and buried the ancient city of Pompeii in A.D. 79. The horse, too, was covered in pumice and ash. Almost 2,000 years later, archaeologists unearthed the immobilized horse, along with the remains of two others, in the remnants of a stable attached to a sumptuous suburban villa in Civita Giuliana, outside the walls of what remains of Pompeii, the Archaeological Park of Pompeii said in a statement on Monday. The horses are among a growing list of archaeological treasures dug up at the Pompeii site, discovered in the late 16th century. This year, Pompeian excavations have found a shrine with wall paintings that hint at Roman life in the first century; the skeleton of a man who had fled the volcanic eruption only to be buried by a rock; and a well-preserved fresco in a house on the Via del Vesuvio depicting the mythological rape of Leda, the queen of Sparta, by Zeus in the form of a swan.



An archaeologist inspects the remains of a horse skeleton in the Pompeii archaeological site, Italy, Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018. A tall horse, well-groomed with the saddle and the richly decorated bronze trimmings, believed to have belonged to an high rank military magistrate has been recently discovered, Professor Massimo Osanna, director of the Pompeii archeological site said to the Italian news agency ANSA. (Cesare Abbate/ANSA Via AP)

The horses probably perished soon after the volcanic explosion, with their frozen postures suggesting they had been unable to wrest free. The saddled horse and its elaborate harness were discovered over the summer, the archaeological park statement said. Instead of stirrups, the saddle had four bronze-plated wooden horns, one in each corner, to help keep the rider stable. Researchers compared the saddle to those used by Romans around the time Mount Vesuvius erupted. In May, researchers completed a plaster cast of the first horse found at the site. The dimensions suggested that the horses, including the latest discovered, had been of a valuable breed, officials said in a statement, a type used to display social status. The discovery of the horses confirmed that the stable had been part of a prestigious estate, Massimo Osanna, the Pompeii site's general director, said in the statement. The villa was enhanced with "richly frescoed and furnished rooms, and sumptuous sloping terraces facing onto the Gulf of Naples and Capri, as well as an efficient servant's quarter, with a farmyard, oil and wine warehouses and densely cultivated lands," according to the statement. Archaeologists discovered 15 rooms from the villa in the early 20th century, and smaller finds since then. In 1955, dividing walls were found in excavations at Civita Giuliana. In recent decades, scavengers visited the site too, digging illegal tunnels below the estate. To stop the illegal tunneling, official excavations began again this year. In 2019, with the aid of 2 million euros (\$2.27 million), archaeologists will continue the work with an eye toward opening the site to the public, Mr Osanna said.

Inflatable Operating Unit Set to Revolutionise Emergency Surgery

Sarah Newey, Global Health Security Correspondent 20 Dec 2018

A UK-funded inflatable operating theatre that fits into a backpack is set to revolutionise surgery in emergencies when doctors are forced to operate on the hoof. Despite its Heath Robinson-like appearance, the SurgiBox will be a boon for doctors working in conflict zones and humanitarian crises, such as earthquakes and other natural disasters, when they have to operate quickly, in the open air and with minimal equipment. One of the biggest problems for medics in the field is finding a sterile environment in which to operate. But the SurgiBox, part funded by the Department for International Development, completely covers a patient and provides a sealed, hygienic area for doctors to work in. "It's incredibly exciting because SurgiBox creates the opportunity to make safe surgery accessible," the inventor, Dr Debbie Lin Teodorescu,

told *The Telegraph*. "It's not just a good operating room, but a better than state-of-the-art operating room."

The SurgiBox is a UK Funded patient-sized operating theatre that can be used anywhere



The kit has the potential to revolutionise healthcare in conflict zones and humanitarian disasters

Photo Credit: Michael Hughes/DFID



The idea is to shrink a whole operating theatre into one backpack. The tent-like enclosure is made of single-use, clear plastic to ensure no cross contamination between operations. A rechargeable battery inflates the SurgiBox in less than two minutes and powers the airflow system to keep it sterile. Once the tent is inflated doctors can work on the patient through armholes. The whole kit weighs less than five kilograms and fits into a 30 litre backpack. Although it can be used for any operation, including caesareans, it has been designed mainly for chest, abdominal, orthopedic and pelvic procedures which are most common in the field. The designers of SurgiBox, which costs as little as £100 to manufacture, say it is a significant improvement on the current drapes used in the field, but at a similar price. It also protects health workers from blood splatters and other bodily fluids. “Surgery can happen anywhere in the field,” said Dr Teodorescu. “If [doctors] have a surgical tent they operate there, if they have a bombed out school they might use that. People have to be incredibly resourceful in these situations. “But our system doesn’t rely on having anything . You don’t even need an operating table. It means surgery can happen anywhere,” she added. SurgiBox has been seven years in the making and the current model is the sixth design.

Dr Teodorescu came up with the idea while at medical school, after her supervisor told her about the challenges of performing surgery following the Haiti earthquake. “As an idealistic student, I thought this seemed insane,” said Dr Teodorescu, “So I started working with the idea of a transportable surgical box, like a glove box. The idea has changed since then, but that’s where the name came from.” But although the design is yet to be piloted in the field, the SurgiBox team hopes to receive regulatory approval for trials by the end of next year. The process will be aided by a US \$250,000 (£200,000) grant from the Humanitarian Grand Challenge fund, a joint venture between the UK, US and Netherlands governments. SurgiBox is one of 23 innovations supported by the fund, which will invest a total of £25 million in projects over the next two years. “UK aid is at the cutting edge of research and innovation that will change the way that emergency surgery is delivered in conflict and disaster zones, allowing safe, effective surgery any place, any time,” said Penny Mordaunt, international development secretary. “This is one of several projects from the Humanitarian Grand Challenge, which I initiated with my counterparts at USAID to support and nurture ideas which will allow us to deliver aid more effectively in the future.”

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

A few more of the Commanding Officer portraits have been sponsored over the Christmas season. There's only 14 more and you need to select yours before they're all gone. Remember, your name will be recorded on the back side. The oldest one is that of Lieutenant-Colonel Cyril Gainsborough Beeston ED. This fine gentleman served in Egypt, the Balkans 1917, the attack on Beersheba and the capture of Jerusalem. Would you like to sponsor him? Contact president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

Here's some of the updates from over the Christmas season:

2011 Canada Day <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/canada-day-2011.html>

2011 Claymore Steel www.vancouvergunners.ca/claymore-steel-2011.html

2014 Firefighting exercise <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/dom-op-2004.html>

2018 Christmas Dinner <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/christmas-dinner-2018.html>

Have you checked out the Regiment Centennial glasses?

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/december-02nd-2018>

Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! Contact Leon Jensen at president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

Who Is It

Last Week: It is a Curtiss P-40, photographed at either Boundary Bay, or, more likely, Patricia Bay. The **Curtiss P-40 Warhawk** is an American single-engine, single-seat, all-metal fighter and ground-attack aircraft that first flew in 1938. The P-40 design was a modification of the previous Curtiss P-36 Hawk which reduced development time and enabled a rapid entry into production and operational service. The Warhawk was used by most Allied powers during World War II and remained in frontline service until the end of the war. It was the third most-produced American fighter of World War II, after the P-51 and P-47; by November 1944, when production of the P-40 ceased, 13,738 had been built.



Busting the fire balloons launched over the Fraser Valley by the Japanese Navy in WW2. Painting by famous local artist William H Hall

This Week: Just as there was once a time of wooden ships and iron men, there was also a time of wooden aeroplanes and men of steel. Canada was mapped by such men and

'planes, going to places where none had been before, at least in the aerial sense. Taking a look at this week's photo, would you attempt to cross a mountain range in such a craft? At least it would seem that engine maintenance was fairly easy (and probably frequently necessary); all one had to do was leave the spacious, air-conditioned cockpit and walk a short distance to the offending motor. Of course, the engines were a bit more reliable than they had been a few years before. In fact, that used by the iconic Beaver was first designed around the time of our photo queen.



So, what is this elegant ship of the skies?

What is its connection to Canada, and to the West Coast?

Did you ever serve in one (you must be rather elderly now, if you did)? Send your musings to the editor, bob.mugford@outlook.com or to the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Straighten up and fly right!

From the 'Punitary'

How do you get breakfast in bed? Sleep in the kitchen.

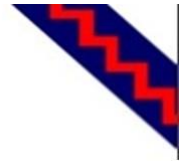
Murphy's Other Laws

Left to themselves, things tend to go from bad to worse. Any attempt to correct this will only accelerate the process.

Quotable Quotes

Good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life. - *Mark Twain*

Yorke Island Visit



BC Parks Sayward Public Presentation 1 - 3 February 2019

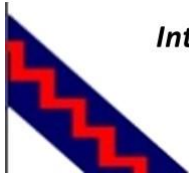
Friday, February 1st (10am – 2pm): Yorke Island field visits, familiarization tour.

Friday, February 1st (6pm – 9pm): Open House and evening presentations from the Heritage Branch, Vancouver Artillery Association, etc.

Saturday, February 2nd (1pm – 4pm): Planning Open House, lunch for volunteers and partner discussions. Display poster/tables, e.g. Campbell River Museum, etc.

Sunday, February 3rd (9am – 3pm): Alternate date for Yorke Island field visits.

Interested? Send an email to president.vcrgunners@gmail.com for details



Dues 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

78 Fraser Highlanders Garrison Burns Supper



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

Garrison Burns Supper

to be held in

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

Saturday, 26 January 2019

1800hrs for 1900hrs

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

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

ASAP! (before 19 January)

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

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

Looking forward to seeing you there

James Barrett, Maj.
Officer Commanding

JP Fell Pipe Band Burns Supper

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

February 2, 2019

Proudly Associated with 6 Engineer Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers



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

Join us for an evening of:

Pipes and Drums,

Scottish Country Dancing,

Door Prizes,

Silent Auction and a

Delicious Buffet Dinner.

15 Field Regt Birthday Fund Raising Social

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

*Cordially invite you
to their*

99th Birthday

**&
ALL RANKS FUND RAISING SOCIAL**

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

Saturday, 2nd February 2019

Cocktails: 18:30 for 19:00 hrs

LIVE MUSIC and DJ

To be held at

Bessborough Armoury

2025 West 11th Avenue

Vancouver, BC

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

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