



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Dec 11, 2018

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.

This is the last full newsletter for 2018. I will continue to publish a limited edition, mainly to keep advertising upcoming events and to keep the WW2 daily diary up to date. Next full edition on Jan 8.

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 -

First lunch of 2019 – Jan 9th

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

Jan 01 New Years Levée – 1100hrs in the Officers and WO & Sgts Mess

Jan 09 First lunch of 2019

Jan 26 78th Fraser Highlanders - Burns Dinner

Feb 02 15 Fd 99th Birthday Social

The **Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir** is holding a series of Christmas Concerts throughout the lower mainland over the next few weeks. See posters at the end of the newsletter.

Holiday Stand down - The Unit will stand down from Dec 9 - Jan 7.

World War 2 – 1943

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

Dec 12th: Dr Benes, leader of the Czech-government-in-exile is in Moscow to sign treaties of Soviet-Czech friendship.

Essential Reading: Dr Edvard Benes remains a complex figure, and there is some controversy attached to him (including allegations he was a Soviet agent, and he was the author of 'ethnic cleansing' laws that drove ethnic Germans and Hungarians out of Czechoslovakia after the war). He was, however, a statesman and diplomat and the leader of a government-in-exile. A complete library on the Second World War would require a biography of the man and the Oxford Press biography of him (The Life of Edvard Benes, 1884-1948: Czechoslovakia in Peace and War) by Zbynek Zeman and Antonin Klimak admirably suits the bill.

Dec 13th: P-51s escort US bombers all the way to a raid on Kiel in their first escort mission.

Dec 14th: The Baltic Front begins a new offensive near Nevel, and Konev's Front takes Cherkassy. As the 1st Canadian Division continues to claw its way towards Ortona through mud, shellfire, and Fallschirmjäger, Captain Paul Triquet of the Royal 22^e "Van Doos" rallies the remaining 17 members of his company in an assault on Casa Berardi and leads them to the objective, holding on under heavy shell fire and against repeated counter-attacks until relieved. His cheerful disregard for danger and success against impossible odds earned him the Victoria Cross.

Essential Reading: Wherever they were encountered, German Fallschirmjager were hard-fighting elite troops with a high élan; and without the odium so often earned by the Waffen SS. They have not "attracted the same amount of interest that either the Waffen SS or the Panzer troops have garnered either. A library hoping to mend this fault would do well to acquire Christopher Ailsby's Hitler's Sky Warriors: German Paratroops in Action, 1939-45. It is a slender book but is probably the best that is currently available.

Dec 15th: American force land on a small island off New Britain. 5th Army resumes its offensive towards Monte Lungo and San Pietro.

Dec 17th: 5th Army makes progress on Monte Sammucro and in San Pietro.

Dec 18th: The contest for San Pietro continues hot and strong, but increasingly goes the 5th Army's way.

St Barbara' Dinner

We were honoured to have the Col Commandant of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery in attendance at the dinner this year. BGen James Selbie OMM CD presented his Col Commandant coins and Col Commandants Commendations to several serving and retired attendees.

Capt Rob Wishnicki and Maj (ret) Bob Mugford were presented with a Col Commandant' Coin and Col Al DeGenova and Maj (ret) Peter Moogk were presented with the Col Commandant's Commendation.



Capt Rob Wishnicki



Maj (ret)Bob Mugford



Col Al DeGenova



Maj (ret) Peter Moogk

Who Is It

Returns in the new year



VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Sounds of Christmas

Sat Dec 15, 2:30 pm

With WJ Mouat Secondary School Choir

**Abbotsford Arts Centre
2329 Crescent Way, Abbotsford**

**Tickets: chilliwackculturalcentre.ca
Box Office 604 391 7469**

Adults \$33, Senior \$31, Student \$17

Price includes all service charges.





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, 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

***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**