

## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Feb 11, 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 your 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.

**Feb 22** Homes for Heroes fundraiser Gala – HMCS Discovery  
**Mar 6** 78FH & 15 Fd Whiskey Tasting

### World War 2 – 1945

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

**Feb 12<sup>th</sup>:** In Burma XXXIII Corps makes a second crossing of the Irrawaddy, while the indirect approach of the IV Corps in the South finally reaches the same river at Myitche and Seikpyu, the mixed British/Chinese/US forces in the North also start attracting Japanese attention. US XI Corps now advances south in the Bataan Peninsula to clear out Japanese forces there.

**Feb 13<sup>th</sup>:** A raid by 773 Lancasters starts the raids on Dresden (which 600 US bombers will visit tomorrow) – the purposes of the raid remain controversial, but some 70,000 people will die in the raids. British troops clear the Reichswald in the Rhineland campaign. 20<sup>th</sup> Indian Division keeps its Irrawaddy Bridgehead despite determined Japanese counterattacks. The siege of Budapest is over and Malinovsky's troops take 100,000 prisoners including ethnic Germans, politically incorrect Hungarians and the survivors of the four German and three Hungarian divisions who comprised the defence; tens of thousands of Hungarian girls are raped and some 80% of the city is in ruins. Corregidor is bombarded and 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne liberates Cavite.

**Feb 14<sup>th</sup>:** The Soviets keep advancing in Pomerania and to the Neisse River. Elements of 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Army reach the bank of the Rhine opposite Emmerich as the Rhineland offensive continues; while US forces to the south are pausing for the next push. Elements of IV Corps cross the Irrawaddy as the Japanese concentrate to defend Mandalay. Water Tender Second Class Elmer Charles Bigelow on the Destroyer USS Fletcher rushes into the magazine of a gun turret after it is hit by a Japanese shell off Corregidor. Desperate to prevent a larger explosion he had grabbed two fire extinguishers but no breathing gear to protect against the poisonous fumes of combusting propellant. His selfless courage prevents further damage to his ship in exchange for mortal damage to his lungs. He receives a posthumous Medal of Honor.

**Feb 15<sup>th</sup>:** Konev's troops surround Breslau. An American Regiment is landed on the southern tip of the Bataan Peninsula.

**Feb 16<sup>th</sup>:** Task Force-58 now has 12 fleet carriers, four escort carriers, eight battleships, 15 assorted cruisers and 83 destroyers; which now come under Spruance's 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet for two days of raids in the Tokyo area. The US Navy also has ten escort carriers, five battleships, five cruisers and 16 destroyers (plus many smaller escorts) working over Iwo Jima. Another cruiser force is working over targets in the Kuriles. A battalion parachutes onto Corregidor and another lands by sea in the start of a ten-day fight to retake the island-fort in the mouth of Manila Bay.

**Feb 17<sup>th</sup>:** TF-58's latest raid is over; 2,700 sorties (with a loss of 88 aircraft) have hit numerous targets and destroyed some 180 Japanese fighters; the force is now heading to Iwo Jima. Heavy bombers also work over Iwo Jima – whose defenders hit USS Tennessee and other warships. US 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Armies stage attacks around Saarlouis and Saarbrücken; while 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division (the 'Water Rats') have cleared 10 miles of the Rhine's west bank. The RAF sinks Mussolini's last two battleships, Conte di Cavour and Impero, in Trieste harbour. More British troops land in the Arakan while heavy fighting continues around XXXIII Corps. Captured in July 1941, Lieutenant General Dmitry Karbyshev was a trained engineer who designed many sensitive Soviet fortifications and bunkers, and the Germans were eager to get the details of these. He resisted torture and deprivation for many months. He was offered relief if he would join with other turned Soviet senior officers in recruiting for the Germans from among Soviet prisoners, but again refused to cooperate. Today, he was among 400 prisoners at Mauthausen tortured to death by repeated naked exposure to ice cold water while standing outside in the freezing temperatures. For his courage and refusal to cooperate with his captors, he is later named a Hero of the Soviet Union.

**Feb 18<sup>th</sup>:** The bombardment of Iwo Jima continues with attacks on Haha Jima and Chichi Jima. US IV Corps of 5<sup>th</sup> Army attacks to the southwest of Bologna. General Ivan Chernyakhovsky, the young and talented commander of 3<sup>rd</sup> Belorussian Front dies of wounds he received undertaking a reconnaissance and is replaced by Vasilevsky. 3<sup>rd</sup> US Army (VIII, XII and XX Corps) attacks, with VII Corps breaking through the Siegfried Line; while XXX British Corps attacks towards Goch in the Rhineland. Hasso-Eccard Frieherr von Manteuffel, one of Germany's great panzer generals (and who once killed a Soviet soldier with a trench knife when his headquarters was raided), is awarded the Knights Cross with Oak Leaves, Swords and

Diamonds. After the war he becomes a politician, is invited to Eisenhower's White House and lectures at West Point.

## **Homes for Heroes Fundraiser Gala**

Eventbrite email Invitation February 22, 2020

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/unsung-heroes-gala-2020-tickets-85323554047>

*Please join Rear Admiral, Bob Auchterlonie, OMM, CD Commander, Maritime Forces Pacific, at HMCS Discovery at 1830 hours on February 22, 2020 for a formal evening fundraiser gala to raise money for homeless Canadian Veterans here in British Columbia.*

Hosted by: The Order of St. George

Venue: HMCS Discovery, Stanley Park, British Columbia

Tickets: \$175.00 (Official Tax receipt after costs will be issued)

Funds to benefit the Homes for Heroes Foundation to build tiny homes for homeless Veterans in British Columbia.

*Bring current, valid photo ID and invitation to be allowed onto the base.*

Eventbrite tickets are available for purchase now. Click on link...

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/unsung-heroes-gala-2020-tickets-85323554047>

### **About this Event:**

#### **Unsung Heroes First Annual Gala**

The Order of St. George is hosting the first annual fund-raising event for Homes celebrating the unsung heroes of British Columbia. The first annual event, scheduled for 22 February 2020 at HMCS Discovery, from 1830-2300 will celebrate Commander Angus Hetherington Rankin, for whom the NLCC Captain Rankin is named. The event will be hosted by Cascadia Command at HMCS Discovery in Stanley Park.

**Our guest speaker this year is Rear Admiral Bob Auchterlonie, OMM, CD Commander of Canada's Maritime Forces Pacific. The Youth Chinese Ballet dancers from the Hongjie Dance Academy will perform for your entertainment.** They are exquisite and professional dancers and visually stunning in costume and choreography. Every year we will invite you to help us raise money for housing for Homeless Veterans while celebrating a different unsung hero from British Columbia, present or past.

## **New Artillery Round Can Successfully Hit Moving Targets**

The Marine Corps is eyeing a new artillery round that can successfully hit moving targets

*Matthew Cox, Military.Com February 07, 2020*

Raytheon Co just announced that its new laser-guided Excalibur S 155mm artillery round scored direct hits on a moving target in a secret, live-fire test for the Marine Corps last spring. The Excalibur is a combat-proven, precision artillery round capable of hitting within a few feet

of a target at ranges out to 40 kilometers, the company said. The new Excalibur S uses the same GPS technology as the Excalibur 1B variant but adds a semi-active laser seeker to engage both moving land and maritime targets. "The seeker technology will recognize that the target is no longer there, and it will pick up the laser energy from where the target is and redirect itself to that," Trevor Dunwell, director of Raytheon's Excalibur Portfolio, told Military.com.



*Raytheon Company's new laser-guided Excalibur S 155mm artillery round scored direct hits on a moving target in a secret, live-fire test for the Marine Corps last spring at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona.  
(Raytheon)*

In a US Navy test, Raytheon fired two projectiles from an M777 155mm Howitzer at a moving target at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona, and scored two direct hits, he said. "This happened in April of last year; we had to keep it close-hold working with the Navy ... more specifically for the Marines," Dunwell said. "We set the round for a specific location, we fired it off and, as soon as the round got fired, the target started moving. It realized the target wasn't there and that it had moved somewhere else and ... it switched from GPS to laser designation and then engaged the target."

*Raytheon Company's new laser-guided Excalibur S 155mm artillery round secret, live-fire test for the Marine Corps last spring at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona.  
(Raytheon)*



The Marine Corps is interested in the Excalibur S round but "has not currently placed an order," he said.

The next step is to conduct more tests this year. Dunwell would not reveal when they will occur, nor would he divulge which service will sponsor the next test. If the Marine Corps or the Army decides to purchase the new Excalibur S round, Dunwell said it would not be priced dramatically higher than the current Excalibur 1B, which costs roughly \$70,000 per round. The

new technology would be effective for use in counter-fire artillery missions, he said. "If you think about it, it is critically important because you are going to have to engage moving targets ... especially if you are doing counter-fires," Dunwell said. So, if it's a fire-and-move, now on the counter fire you should be able to engage that moving target."

## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

There's a lot of Centennial Birthday Party photos that have now been uploaded. We still need more names from the group photo. We're still short 61!

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/birthday-party-2020.html> .

We've also posted some great photos from the Coastal Artillery Tour

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/regt-museum-2020.html> and a visit to the Museum.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/regt-museum-2020.html>

All of the band members in the 2012 Parliament group photo have been identified!

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/group-photos.html>

We're still missing seven names from the 2007 group photo

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2007.html>

A feature article about the Stanley Park Battery <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2004.html>

The band was in the newspaper with some articles in 2003 –

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2003.html>

News articles about the regiment posted in the 2002 yearbook.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2002.html>

Yearbook Update 1953 – Two members of the lower mainland artillery are selected to line the route for the coronation. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1953.html>

First Annual Artillery Officers' Mess Dinner <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1952.html>

There were some interesting news stories from both the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 43<sup>rd</sup> in 1951

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1951---15th-fd-regt-rca.html>

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1951---43rd-haa-regt-rca.html>

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Coast Regiment RCA was formed in 1949

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1949---vancouver-coast-regt-rca.html>

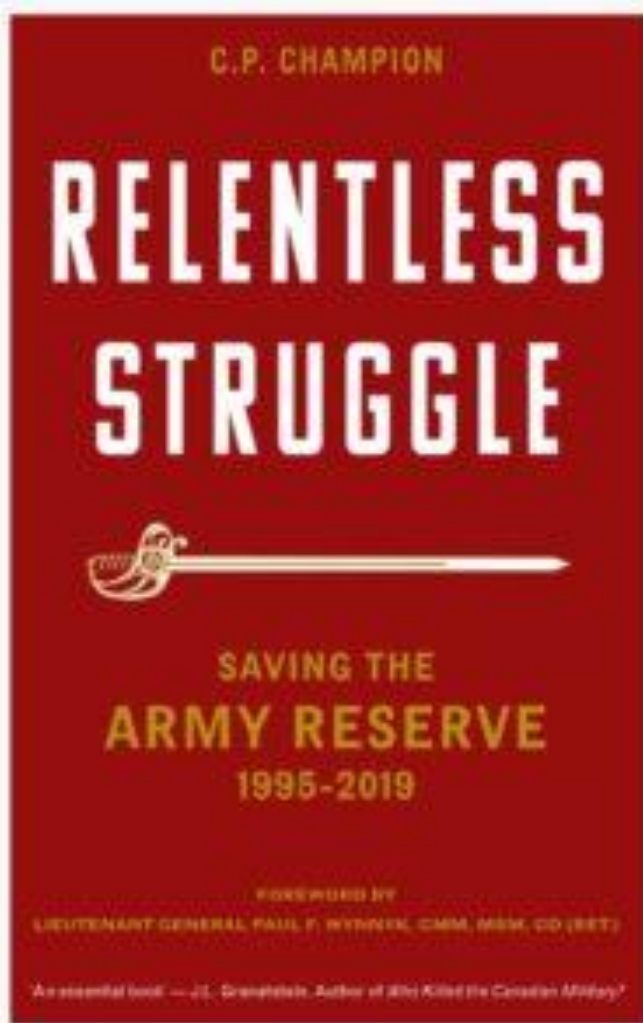
Keep those stories, names, calendar events and pictures coming!

[president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)



## Saving the Canadian Army Reserve

Relentless Struggle: Saving the Army Reserve 1995-2019



In a new book, *Relentless Struggle: Saving the Army Reserve 1995-2019*, CP Champion tells the story of Reserves 2000. It was a group of concerned citizens of sufficient stature and influence, many of them Honorary Colonels (HCOLs) of Army Reserve units who, throughout what became known as the “decade of darkness”, thwarted plans by senior officers and civilian officials based mainly in National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ) to amalgamate, shrink and de-fund the Canadian Forces Reserves. “This book is about a group of Canadians who came together to stop a recurring tendency in the upper ranks of the Canadian Armed Forces to weaken and...cripple Canada’s Army Reserve,” Champion writes. The attacks on the part-time force came against the explicit wishes of successive Ministers of National Defence, even against the policy of the prime minister himself. They were sustained for years and they were very nearly successful. How they were stopped forms Champion’s inspiring account of indefatigable effort and undaunted

courage by people of high principle. “Time and again Reserves 2000 prevented the regular forces from effectively destroying the reserves,” Champion writes. “Time and again they brought a new minister...to appreciate the perils of listening only to NDHQ, which had almost no corporate memory.” As an aside, *Relentless Struggle* also provides a case study on Canada’s own deep state. The Reserves are important, especially with Canada’s regular army getting ever smaller and, generally, less capable. In Afghanistan reservists at times formed up to 20 percent of Canada’s deployed soldiers. They were deployed on prior missions as well. One officer who commanded Reservists in Bosnia, including in actual heavy combat in the Medak Pocket, said that Reservists were “often the most capable and members of those units.” Champion avoids operational specifics on that mission or Afghanistan; *Relentless Struggle* isn’t a book of war stories. Instead he cites writers such as Christie Blatchford, who covered the topic and who in 2016 hinted at the issue of civil servants ignoring orders and trying to kill the reserves.

*The original article was too big to publish in this newsletter. To see the complete article, go to:* <https://c2cjournal.ca/2020/01/saving-the-canadian-army-reserve/>

# Green On! Go! The Airborne Gunner History



It is now possible to order and download the E Book (electronic) version of "*Green On! Go!*" *The History of Canada's Airborne Gunners*. By LCol (Ret'd) BA Reid CD RCA and Maj (Ret'd) JDG Chaplin CD RCA.

For ordering, the link to the publisher's web site is:-

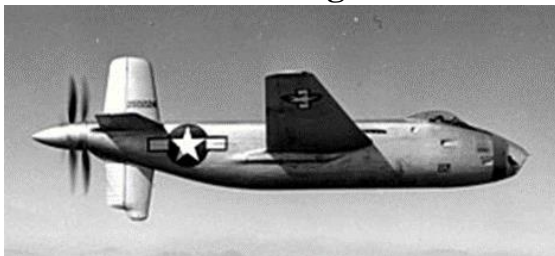
<https://commonerspublishing.com/books/green-on-go/> where, for those in Canada, the selection may be made to purchase the hard copy (\$38.95 plus postage and tax = \$53.50). Also available on the same page is the E Book version (\$19.99 + tax = \$22.59). In addition to the above distributor copies of the hard cover book may also be purchased at the RCA Kit and Gift Shop, CFB Shilo, [rcakitshop@outlook.com](mailto:rcakitshop@outlook.com), the 2 RCHA Kit Shop, CFB Petawawa <https://www.2rcha.com/contact.html> and Audrey's Books in Edmonton <https://www.audreys.ca/>.

May I ask that you distribute this information through your appropriate means (e mail list, publication or web page etc). Also, on a final note for those who may not be aware, the project has donated \$5000.00 to the RCA Heritage Fund from the proceeds of the sales/donations to date. This support (to the RCA Heritage Fund) will continue throughout the duration of the project and afterwards.) The book's copyright has been assigned to the RCA Heritage Fund.

Thank you for your assistance. UBIQUE  
Mike Walker, Chairman, The Oversight Committee.

## Who (or What) Is It?

**Last Week: The Douglas XB-42 Mixmaster** was an experimental bomber aircraft, designed



for a high, top speed. The unconventional approach was to mount the two engines within the fuselage driving a pair of contra-rotating propellers mounted at the tail in a pusher configuration, leaving the wing and fuselage clean and free of drag-inducing protrusions. First flight occurred in May 1944. Two prototype aircraft were built,

but the end of World War II changed priorities and the advent of the jet engine gave an alternative way toward achieving high speed. The program was cancelled in 1948.

**This Week:** We return this week to clanking, khaki and green things, much loved by some of you who still wear spurs. Over the more than a century of armoured fighting vehicle history in this great dominion, we have seen some periods of affluent purchase, but far, far more of parsimonious, indeed niggardly spending. Some have speculated that this latter lack of funding is due to the Scottish nature of some ministers, but those who have so thought have been taken care of by the Ancient and Honourable Society of Alba, and forced to repent by joining the Scottish Association of Nudists, a chilling prospect. The real reason is simply that Canadians think little, if at all, of their armed forces, save in times of great need. In short, they have read Kipling:

“For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Chuck him out, the brute!"  
But it's "Saviour of 'is country" when the guns begin to shoot;”

Nonetheless, there have been attempts to equip the army with the most modern of weapons, even in peace time, but few and far between. One such attempt took place in the years just before the Second World War, when Canada bought Vickers Tank, Light Mk VIs for the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps. Although the vehicles did not see active service with us (although they did with the Mother Country), they proved useful in training our burgeoning armed forces.



However, we don't think that this vehicle, pictured here, was part of that purchase. It certainly would appeal to the bean counters as a cheaper version of, well, anything bigger than a wheelbarrow. It appears to have some armour, and a Bren gun, as well as the requisite tracks. However, we have no idea what it actually is. Can you help us? Send your ideas to the editor, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com)), or the author, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)).

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

What's the king of all school supplies? The ruler.

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

If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up to him.

### **Quotable Quotes**

The aim of education is the knowledge not of facts but of values. - William Ralph Inge



**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.