



## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Feb 13, 2018

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a 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>

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

- Feb 17 Regimental 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party
- Feb 21 VAA day. Museum open in the evening
- Feb 28 NOABC Speaker Lunch. *Speaker: - Alan Snowie*
- Mar 02 15 Fd & Fraser Highlanders Whisky Tasting
- Mar 16 Celtic Celebration – Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir
- May 26 VAA Artillery Day Gun Camp

### World War 2 – 1943

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

**Feb 14<sup>th</sup>:** In an ambitious plan to encircle the Allied Armies in Tunisia, 10<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Panzer Divisions are sent to hit US II Corps west of Faid; and the raw American troops discover what war can be like at the bottom of the learning curve. Rostov and Voroshilovgrad are liberated by the Soviets. The Soviet 3<sup>rd</sup> Tank and 40<sup>th</sup> Armies enter Kharkov, which is held by 1<sup>st</sup> SS Panzer Corps. Chindits cross the Chindwin river in two places heading east further into Burma. The Vought F4U Corsair makes an unpromising combat debut in a raid on a Japanese airfield in the Solomons; in time this fighter will have an 11:1 kill ratio in aerial combat and will stay in production into the 1950s.

**Feb 15<sup>th</sup>:** Rommel detaches 15<sup>th</sup> Panzer (and some Italian Armour) from the Mareth line to support von Armin's attack on the Americans by driving northwest to Gafsa and beyond.

**Feb 16<sup>th</sup>:** II SS Corps is forced out of Kharkov (despite "Hitler's usual 'hold fast' orders). Medenine is captured by 8th Army as it approaches the Mareth Line.

**Feb 17<sup>th</sup>:** Hitler finally comes close (sort of) to the Front in a three day visit to Manstein's HQ. The German counterstroke in Tunisia is making excellent progress, having savaged 1<sup>st</sup> American Armor at Sbeitla; Rommel urges an aggressive exploitation, but the German and Italian High Commands are slow in their deliberations.

**Feb 18<sup>th</sup>:** The Germans enter Sbeitla and link up in Kasserine Pass. Goebbels tries Churchill's rhetoric of 1940 on the German public, asking them to embrace total war.

**Feb 19<sup>th</sup>:** American troops arrive on Guadalcanal to muster for the next invasion in the Solomons. The German offensive in Tunisia resumes, and is aimed towards Le Kef (which the Allies expect).

**Feb 20<sup>th</sup>:** The Russians capture Pavlograd and are managing to create a large salient as they drive towards the Dnieper. The German drive on Sbiba is held up, notably by the British Guards Brigade and the 34<sup>th</sup> US Division. The probes towards Thala and Tebessa by elements of 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Panzer eventually go through 1<sup>st</sup> US Division but are then held up by the British 26<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade with US 9<sup>th</sup> Division following hard on their heels. The Allied troops in North Africa are folded into 18<sup>th</sup> Army Group under General Alexander. Manstein starts preparing his counterstroke in Southern Russia.

## **The War Diary of C31 L/Sgt Charles D Phelan, A Battery, RCHA 1939 - 1945**

*Edited by BGen (ret'd) Robert P (Bob) Beaudry CD*

### **Chapter 47. The Truce, Final Surrender, and Duty in Holland**

**27 Apr, 1945.** In late afternoon we fired to repulse some Jerries who tried to wipe out a R22R outpost. Capt Saunders who called for the shoot was severely told off by the CO, Col McCordick. In the evening we got the order that we would "not fire under any circumstances, not even on DF and SOS tasks". That's a puzzler to us all.

**28 Apr.** The Bty went out on a training exercise for 10 hours. We did battery moves, leapfrogging, and crash actions. This is war? We got a new order: "Planes with enemy markings will not be engaged". Another mystery! Then another message that DF and SOS tasks could now be engaged, but only with the personal approval of Brig Bernatchez of 3 Bde. Later we learned that this morning a small German plane had landed near the R22R HQ, with some high-ranking German officers. They were blindfolded and taken someplace. Apparently, they were there to arrange for the relief of some Dutch civilians still in the occupied zone, who are reported to be starving. The Germans flew back after about eight hours.

I was informed I passes the trades test. That brings my pay to \$2.40 a day. Pretty fair! Heard that Mussolini had been captured by Patriots.

**29 -30 Apr.** Two quiet days. The BBC reports that British aircraft have dropped food supplies into the occupied part of Holland. Mussolini was tried and shot by the Italian Patriots, and his body was hung, head down, in a Milan square.

**1 May.** Capt Saunders came in from FOO duty with the R22R. He said there is no small arms firing at the front, but the Jerries are openly laying mines and moving in guns. Jerries who stray into our lines cannot be captured, but are blindfolded and led back to their own lines. At 1730 hrs we fired several U Tgts on active enemy mortars – our first rounds in days! (As it turned out, these were the last WWII rounds fired by 1 Fd Regt, RCHA)

**2 May.** Quiet all day. We were told the truce has now ended but Div policy is no offensive action. Present positions will be maintained. Any enemy seen can be sniped at, and if they take the offensive, DF and CB fire may be brought down. Reports are that the Germans in Italy have surrendered, that a Russian flag is flying from the Reichstag building in Berlin, and that Hitler is presumed dead.

**3 May.** Truce is on again to allow food to be brought to the starving people in occupied Holland. A corridor between the Waal river and the Arnhem – Utrecht RR Line is being used, as well as boats to Amsterdam. If the Germans are still fighting after the food is delivered, then hostilities will resume.

**4 May.** At 2035 hrs we were quietly listening to jazz on the BBC when we were electrified to hear a special announcement that all German troops in North West Germany, Holland, and Belgium had ceased resistance. The surrender is to go into effect at 0800 hrs 5 May. We literally went wild! No more shelling and bombing! No more wondering if the next minute will be your last! Boy, what a feeling! The news spread quickly through the Regt and up to the infantry. Soon we could hear the cheers of the infantry in the distance and verey lights and starshells lit up the whole front. Civilians flocked around to verify the news and were almost as happy as we were. At 2240 hrs an order came down prohibiting the firing of small arms and stating that there would be “a rigid check on celebrations”. An hour later another Div message stated that all offensive action is to cease forthwith, with only strictly defensive firing allowed. Also, there will be no firing of any kind after 0800 hrs, 5 May. All troops are nevertheless to stand fast in readiness.

**5 May.** Lt Chamberlain, our new ACPO, was called to RHQ and returned with the news that the Germans directly opposite us had not begun to lay down their arms as yet. The situation is obscure. Three more men left for Canada on leave.

**6 May.** I went to Mass in Nijerk. I had plenty to be thankful about. In the afternoon, the CO, Col McCordick, who is leaving for Canada to run for Parliament, came around to say good-by. Afterward our BC, Maj John O’Flynn, told us we will be leaving our guns here, as we could be involved in disarming the Germans.

**7 May.** At 0835 hrs we received the following message from RHQ: “At 070141 hrs the unconditional surrender was signed by Gen Eisenhower and the German High Command. To be effective 090001 hrs” (1 minute after midnight, 8/9 May 1945). At 0900 hrs, after winning a draw amongst the Acks for the privilege, I sent the order to the troops: “Cease Fire. Stand down.” What a happy order that was! We spent the rest of the day checking stores and preparing the guns for the move to some gun storage park. The guns left at 2100 hrs; we felt practically naked without our old friends.

So ended the war in Europe! Thank the Lord it is over and our casualties were comparatively light. (Later info revealed that the Cdn Army had a total of 79,774 casualties, of whom 21,478 had died. The total for the three services was 103,409, including 38,718 dead.)

We certainly covered a lot of territory since leaving home: all over the British Isles, Sicily, Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, and Holland. Now that it is over, I wouldn't have missed it for anything!

**8 May.** We are to move today to an area around Dordrecht, where there are a large number of Germans who are afraid of laying down their arms for fear of reprisals. Along with other artillery units, we are to disarm them, collect them all together, and later they will be marched north into Germany. We left at 1400 hrs. Soon we began to pass small groups of Germans camped by the road. They still had their rifles and MGs. We totally ignored each other. The Dutch started cheering us wildly, and the farther we went the bigger the crowds. The people swarmed over us, shaking hands, throwing flowers, and cheering loudly. What a reception! In Rotterdam the crowds roared hysterically and crowded round our vehicles so thickly it took us an hour to pass through. What a glorious sensation it was! At about 2230 hrs we reached Gravendaal, and again there were large crowds. When we stopped in a large field on the edge of town, we were seized, thumped, and thrown into the air by the happy crowd.

**9 May.** We suddenly got orders to be ready to move at 1500 hrs with enough kit for a week. We are to establish a series of guard posts around a large area in which the German 11 Marine Div of about 55,000 men is to be concentrated and disarmed. We left at 1600 hrs and reached the village of Henn Ido Ambacht, where we got a rousing reception as we were the first Allied troops to reach the area. Here, Lt Chamberlain and I set up an LMG post and a patrol. I was assigned an NCO, Bdr Bob Caughey, and 15 men. We located billets for the men, and Bob and I found a room with a school-master who spoke quite good English. As it got dusk we got involved in quite a celebration with the crowds of happy cheering people.

**10 May.** Bob relieved me at 0200 and I had a swell sleep. In the afternoon the CPO, Lt Filliter and I went several miles to the village of Ridderkerk, where the Jerries had shot two civilians. The CPO dropped me off with a Bren and a Sten, told me to recce the area and he would return with some guards. I scrounged around for accommodation, and as no one spoke English, I had quite a time. Across the road from the dike there was a camp of about 1000 armed Germans. One Dutch woman wanted me to let fly with my Bren, and I had to convince her and the rest that it was “verboden”. Our orders are obscure, amounting to “let your conscience be your

guide”. At 1730 the trucks arrived with my guard of 3 Bdrs and 15 men. I split them into three shifts. We set up the Bren in a slit trench and got the patrol working up and down the road. Maj O’Flynn later had the patrols extended to the middle of town.

HQ 1 Cdn Div forwarded a long message from Gen Eisenhower, congratulating the Allied Force members, and reminding them of the ultimate sacrifice made by so many. HQ 1 Cdn Div also sent out a message of congratulations and thanks for a job well done.

**11 -13 May.** Large numbers of German soldiers going through every day, headed for their disarming areas. The ambition of every Canadian is to get a hold of a Luger – no luck so far.

**14 – 22 May.** I was sent back to the Bty. We moved Jerry equipment into a huge dump. I also looked after BHQ clothing replacements and collecting winter clothing. At a show at RHQ we met a couple who invited us to their home. The man, Mr Jan Van Rijsz, was terribly emancipated. He told us he had to hide for three years to avoid being sent to Germany for forced labor. Things in Holland had been tough for the last three years. There was a minimum of food, and at exorbitant prices – for example a bag of potatoes cost \$335.00. The Germans took all the gold and silver in the country, as well as radios, cars, bicycles, etc. Free soup kitchens have been set up, but it will take months to restore things to normal, and I don’t think the people will ever completely recover.

The next few times we went to see the couple we took a bit of stew, bully beef, coffee and tea. They made such a fuss over the food it was embarrassing. The man was a barber, so I had a haircut. We discussed the local collaborators, all of whom have had their heads shaved. Apparently, many of them helped the Germans, revealing hiding places of the underground and of secret radios. Many townspeople violently hate the Germans and the collaborators.

**23 May.** Two BSMs are going home on leave. I enquired and was told the leave system is still on, and was advised not to go on leave in England, as there was to be another list for Canada.

**24 -26 May.** I left for a tour of duty to set up a new post, not far from my previous one. I arranged four shifts of two men each and found accommodation. 1 Cdn Div is scheduled to sail for England before August.

**27 May.** I was put in charge of a party of 2 Bdrs, 25 men, and 4 trucks to go to Germany as escort for Jerry POWs. We left as a Regt’l party at 0745 hrs and travelled to Rotterdam. About two hours later a huge German column began moving through. There must have been 5000 in the group. Most of them were pretty sorry looking. Large crowds lined the streets and were quite orderly. The payoff, as far as I was concerned, was a bunch of kids singing “It’s a Long Way to Tipperary”. Most of the German transport was horse-drawn. Cdn Bren carriers and scout cars were spaced in the column. We moved on to a small village and established guard posts around the large field.

It was raining and the Germans huddled under pup tents . A German general came to me and said he was going to sleep in a nearby house. I told him he was sleeping in the field. He said he was in charge of the group and said: “I’m a German general.” I said “I’m a Canadian Sgt, and you’re sleeping in the field”, and drew my revolver. I marched him back to the centre of the field and left him there. That one event made the whole war almost worth while.

**28 May.** We repeated the procedure of yesterday, and stopped at another large field short of Alphen. Oddly enough, in this area the Dutch seem quite friendly towards the Germans.

**29 May.** It poured rain during the night Many of the Jerries tried to get into buildings and stables, but our guards were on the job and the Jerries spent a very wet night in the field. We set out again at 0900 hrs for the next harbor area, about 25 kms past Alphen. Here there was a convenient dike surrounded by deep water ditches. We established a post at each end, with 1 Fd manning one and 2 Fd the other. Despite the protests of the General, they stayed there – men, horses, wagons and trucks. It was not a very pleasant place in the rain.

**30 May.** We finished our guard at 0800 hrs, and as we were no longer needed, we had breakfast and moved off back to the Regt’l area, arriving at 1115 hrs. The Sgts had moved into part of a school, and we were very comfortable with lots of room and running water. That evening I went to see my barber friend, who was delighted at my tale of the marching Jerries.

**31 May.** Two more men left for Canada. I went to RHQ and voted in the Dominion and Provincial elections. Not much doing all day.

**1 – 3 Jun.** We returned rubber boots and one blanket to QM, lightening our kit. Thirteen more NCOs and men left for Canada. No sign of a Canada leave for me as yet. I was told I will probably be sent on leave to England about 5 June. Our guns came back around noon, and a gun park had to be found for them. Eventually they were placed along the waterfront with a guard over them.

**4 Jun.** My leave to England was confirmed. I went to the paymaster and exchanged some Dutch guilders for British pounds. I packed up during the evening.

## **Trudeau Is in A Fight He Can’t Win with Veterans**

And his frustration shows. *John Ivison 02.05.2018*

You have to be pretty tone-deaf to tell a man who lost a leg in Afghanistan that the government is fighting veterans’ groups in courts “because they’re asking for more than we’re able to give right now.” Yet that’s exactly what the prime minister did at a town-hall in Edmonton last Thursday — a gaffe that has gone viral on social media and infuriated veterans. Brock Blaszczyk stood to ask Justin Trudeau a question, with his prosthetic leg and medals in clear view. He was a corporal in the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, who lost a leg to a road-side bomb in Afghanistan in 2009. He asked Trudeau why his government is fighting a

legal battle with veterans (the Equitas class-action lawsuit), even though the Liberal election platform said “no veteran will be forced to fight their own government for the support and compensation they have earned.” Further, he complained he was not eligible for the new lifetime pension option, yet the Liberals have found money to pay for the re-integration of ISIL fighters and the \$10.5-million compensation payment for Omar Khadr. “What veterans are you talking about — those fighting for the freedoms and values you so proudly boast about, or those fighting against?” he said. “I was prepared to be killed in action. What I wasn’t prepared for, Mr. Prime Minister, was Canada turning its back on me.”



*Brock Blaszczyk, seen here in Afghanistan in 2010, told Justin Trudeau last week: “I was prepared to be killed in action. What I wasn’t prepared for, Mr Prime Minister, was Canada turning its back on me”  
Courtesy Angel Blaszczyk*

It was more devastating than anything Trudeau has faced in the House of Commons, by several degrees. “Thank you, sir, for your passion and strength, and your justifiable frustration and anger,” the prime minister replied courteously. But then it seemed as if his frustration got the better of him — he shot back with the line about veterans asking for more than the government can afford to give. The crowd started booing and the Teflon Prime Minister was in trouble. “Hang on ... you’re asking for honest answers,” he pleaded in vain. He tried to explain what he meant but, as any good politician knows, when you’re explaining, you’re losing. “It was pretty disappointing,” said Blaszczyk in an interview. “He said we were asking too much but, from the personal side of things, I felt like saying ‘what did you ask from me?’” The Conservatives have labelled the exchange “shameful” and “reprehensible.” They’ve released an ad that overlays the footage with examples of wasteful government spending — Omar Khadr’s settlement (\$10.5 million); Trudeau’s vacation (\$215,000); the cover artwork for the budget (\$212,000); Liberal staff moving expenses (\$220,000).

Yet the prime minister has grounds for frustration on this file. Since taking office, the Liberals have pledged an additional \$10 billion for veterans — a huge investment in financial support that the government says should leave most soldiers better off. In future, an amputee like Blaszczyk might expect to benefit from three separate payments — two of them tax-free and index-linked. From April 2019, there will be a pain and suffering award available as a lump sum or lifetime pension, delivering a maximum of \$1,150 a month. On top of that, there is another disability award for more severely injured veterans, again as a lump sum or lifetime pension, up to \$1,500 a month. The third component is an income replacement benefit, which is taxable, based on 90 per cent of the veteran’s previous salary, with a one-per-cent escalator over inflation. However, since the government was keen not to create a disincentive to work, it also

involves independent testing on the ability to work and a claw back once the veteran earns \$20,000 in income.

Blaszczyk said he has had a total of \$320,000 in lump-sum compensation for his injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder. But he does not know how much ongoing funding he will be entitled to, in part because he works, which will affect income replacement payments. What is clear is the level of mistrust and confusion between veterans and the government — the system is insanely complicated and soldiers are wary of bureaucrats seeking reasons to disqualify or downgrade allowances. Blaszczyk said he was expecting \$80,000 from the enriched Liberal formula but received half that, because the maximum amount was available only to double amputees. (He is considered 100-per-cent disabled by Veterans Affairs and has 58-per-cent soft tissue loss and 88-per-cent nerve damage in his remaining leg.) It remains one of the most challenging files in government, as the Conservatives well know, and they should be wary about throwing stones.

It wasn't so long ago that Julian Fantino stormed out of a meeting with veterans after being told he was talking "hogwash" — causing a rupture that helped sweep the Liberals to victory. New Veterans Affairs Minister Seamus O'Regan accused the Conservatives of having developed "amnesia" over their own policy failures. In truth, there are no gods and precious few heroes on the veterans file — beyond men like Blaszczyk. Both Conservative and Liberal governments have been defendants in the Equitas case, in which Ottawa maintains it has no legal obligation to its ex-soldiers. Trudeau may well be frustrated that his government is getting no respect for all its efforts at improving the quality of life for veterans. But he was elected on a platform that raised expectations to infinity and beyond. Former Conservative minister Erin O'Toole was right when he said Trudeau either "didn't cost, understand or care" about what he was promising, in order to secure the veterans' vote. To Blaszczyk, even the Tories look good right now. "At least we weren't given false promises," he said.

## **Mary Ellis. A Great WW2 Story.**



*Mary Ellis (pictured during her time as an Air Transport Auxiliary pilot in WW2) has celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

Mary Ellis was in a select group of female pilots who flew during World War II. She has now celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday by flying a plane over West Sussex and she flew next to one of the Spitfires she was in more than 70 years ago. Tearing through the skies above the South Coast, two Spitfires evoke powerful memories of Britain's wartime resilience. But this stirring image holds a further poignancy – for in the cockpit of the lead aircraft sits Mary Ellis, celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday by recreating her time as one of the 'Ata-girls', the select group of female pilots who flew Britain's fighters during the war. And over her shoulder is one of the actual Spitfires she flew during her 1,000 flights as a First Officer with the Air Transport Auxiliary. 'Wizard, this is wizard!' yelled the delighted centenarian through her intercom.

Mary was handed the controls of the 275mph twin-seater as it swooped over West Sussex. After about 15 minutes, she turned for home, and told her co-pilot Matt Jones: ‘Goodwood on the nose, you have control ...’ Then she settled back to enjoy the ride back to base.

*Mary Ellis (circled) was handed the controls of the 275mph twin-seater as it swooped over West Sussex.*

Earlier, Mary watched in delight as Spitfire MV154 took its place beside her in an extraordinary airborne tribute. It was a plane she had delivered to RAF Brize Norton from Southampton on September 15, 1944, and it hides a sentimental secret. For at the end of the 25-minute wartime flight, she signed the cockpit, scrawling her maiden name

Wilkins and the initials ATA. She hoped her tag might be spotted by a handsome pilot and lead to a wartime romance – although the impulsive act, a career one-off, didn't bag her a boyfriend. Mary, originally from Oxfordshire, had her first flying lesson in 1938, and flew for pleasure until 1941 when she heard a BBC radio appeal for women pilots to join the auxiliary service and so release male pilots for combat duty.



## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

The 1996 Chilliwack exercise, Canada Remembers and the Yorke island expedition photos are now on-line <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1996.html>

CD presentation photos from Canada Day 1991 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1991.html>

Visit from the Colonel Commandant in 1987 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1987.html>

Looking for names for the 2016 regimental photo <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2016.html>

Photos from the 1999 St Barbara's Day dinner. <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1999.html>

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

## **Who Is It**

**Last Week:** Naval Quick-Fire 4-inch/45 Mk IV Gun in front of the Sidney BC ANAF Vets.



*HMS Aurora* was an Arethusa-class light cruiser built at Devonport Dockyard, and commissioned into the Royal Navy in September 1914. She served with the Grand Fleet 1914–1916. She was the first ship in action at the Battle of the Dogger Bank in 1915 and was present at the surrender of the German High Seas Fleet in November 1918.

Following the war, Aurora was placed in reserve and in 1920, the cruiser was transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy. After her arrival in Canada she set out on a training cruise to Esquimalt BC via the Panama Canal and returning to Halifax. Her service with the Royal Canadian Navy was brief, being paid off in 1922. The cruiser was sold for scrap in 1927 and broken up by AA Lasseque, Sorel, QC. The gun was one of six of Aurora's secondary armament. Its land service record is unknown, but it possibly defended the Victoria area during the Second World War. One is noted as being installed just east of Fort MacAuley in July of 1940.

**This Week:** This week we venture into uncharted waters. No. This is not yet another ship-related quiz. That is a saying, an idiom, and not to be taken literally. Rather, we venture into the world of fashion, at least in the military sense (a word that does not spring to mind readily in these days of "one uniform fits all": CADPAT). What we have is a bit of bling for soldiers, but one that serves a purpose. You might notice, on the very rare occasions when our Reserve Army lads and lasses are wearing their DEU (Distinctive Environmental Uniforms....someone in Ottawa got paid for that!), which look vaguely like the old Service Dress (but in the wrong colour, and without proper belts) they sport bling on various parts of the upper anatomy. Traditionally, this bling would include brass or silver buttons, shoulder titles, collar dogs, medals or ribbons, coloured epaulettes or tabs, piping, etc. It all depends on the time and the traditions of the army. One item that originated in the Great War, and continues to this day, is

the kind of colourful patch shown below. Pretty, isn't it!



Your task, dear military sleuths, is to identify this colourful item, and tell the thousands of readers of this fine newsletter how it relates to the martial history of this great dominion, or kingdom, or whatever we actually are. Answers should be sent to the editor, [bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com), or, if he can't be found, the author, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Thank you, and dress well.

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

Do skunks celebrate Valentine's Day? Sure, they're very scent-imental!

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

Friends come and go but enemies accumulate

### **Quotable Quotes**

Our character is what we do when we think no one is looking. - *H Jackson Brown, Jr*



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia

Founded 1919

## MONTHLY LUNCH PROGRAM

Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Officers Mess  
Bessborough Armoury  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC.

1130 am bar open  
1200 noon lunch  
1 pm speaker  
4 course hot lunch  
\$20 per person

Dress – Business attire, blazers tie etc

*Speaker:-Alan Snowie*  
*“Bi-Planes over Vimy 100 Anniversary &*  
*Bi-Planes Over Canada - Canada150”*

RSVP for lunch numbers please to [dreese@telus.net](mailto:dreese@telus.net) or phone or text

778-227-8203 by 1600 hrs

Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> 2017

# **15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA & The 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser's Highlanders Fund Raiser and Scotch 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, and music. Did we say whisky?

Tickets are **\$55.00** per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskys, or a meager **\$25.00** if you are only having beer, wine, or soft drinks from our No-Host Bar. Credit Cards, or Cheques please, to make things easier for Bernie who will be at the door.

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

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

**DATE:**

**Friday – March 2<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**

**TIME:**

**1800 hrs – 2300 hrs**

**LOCATION:**

**15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Van, 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 will go to support the activities of the 15th Field Regimental Society and the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison. Tax receipts will be issued for all donations upon request.

# VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR



**ONE OF CANADA'S LARGEST MALE VOICE CHOIRS**

**Musical Director: Jonathan Quick**

**Pianist: Karen Lee-Morlang**

**Celtic Instruments: Tim Fanning**

**Presents**

## **Celtic Celebrations**

**The ACT Theatre in Maple Ridge**

**Friday March 16th**

**7:30 p.m.**

**A concert of favorite songs from Ireland, Scotland and Wales  
to celebrate a wonderful shared heritage of poetry and song.**

**Adults \$34 Seniors \$32 Students \$15**

**The ACT Arts Centre at 604-476-2787**

**[www.theactmapleridge.org/buy-tickets](http://www.theactmapleridge.org/buy-tickets)**



# Artillery Day 2018



The  
**Vancouver Artillery Association**  
is hosting a  
**Gun Camp**  
on  
**Saturday, 26 May 2018**

The intent of the Artillery Day Gun Camp is to deploy artillery detachments in public areas throughout the Lower Mainland of British Columbia where artillery units have had a presence today and in the past.

Do you own artillery ordnance that could be part of this display?

Contact Leon Jensen OMM CD for additional details – [president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)