

# Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Sept 17, 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 <a href="mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com">bob.mugford@gmail.com</a> 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: <a href="http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html">www.vancouvergunners.ca</a> and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <a href="http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html">http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html</a> . Both groups are also on Facebook at: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association">https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association</a> and <a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver">https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver</a>

**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.

- **Sept 20** 15<sup>th</sup> Fd Regt and the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser's Highlanders whiskey tasting
- Sept 28 RUSI Vancouver Inaugural Annual Dinner RSVP by TOMORROW!!

Very slow response for the dinner to date. Please get replies in ASAP!

- Oct 04 Naval Association of Canada National Conference 2019
- Oct 26 15Fd WO & Sgts Annual Mess Dinner

## **World War 2 – 1944**

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

**Sept 18**<sup>th</sup>: US Marines on Peleliu fall back with heavy losses from formidable Japanese defences on Mount Umurgrobol. British XXX Corps links up with 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne but fighting in Nijmegen is fierce and 82<sup>nd</sup>'s progress is slow. The Paras in Arnhem are cut off from the rest of their division. The Soviets finally allow US bombers to parachute 1300 containers of supplies to the AK inside Warsaw, but less than 250 actually land on Polish held territory. A Japanese ship Junyo Maru is torpedoed and sunk by a British submarine – which didn't know its holds were packed with 1,449 Allied POWs and 4,200 Javanese slave labourers. 5,620 of these unfortunates go down with the ship while 723 survivors go on to face the ordeals of the Burma railroad. Prying open the Japanese defences on Peleliu required the rawest courage from the US Marines there, but some went even further than normal. When a nest of bunkered Japanese opened up on the exposed flank of his platoon PFC Arthur J Jackson embarked on a

one man assault. Despite the torrent of fire around him, he rushed 12 different pillboxes and bunkers, destroying them with white phosphorus grenades and demolition charges; killing some 50 enemy soldiers. Decorated with the Medal of Honor, he fought again on Okinawa.

Essential Reading: The 1<sup>st</sup> US Marine Division's fight on Peleliu was probably the most intense combat experienced by any American infantry in the War especially as the new Japanese tactics that would be met on Iwo Jima and Okinawa were being encountered for the first time. One veteran of the fight, Eugene Sledge, later wrote With the Old Breed – at Peleliu and Okinawa, which remains one of the most powerful recollections of the war and can be readily mined by those interested in the psychology of men in combat.

**Sept 19<sup>th</sup>:** XXX Corps links up with 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne at Grave. German forces in Brest surrender. A German counterattack in the Moselle Valley encounters the 4<sup>th</sup> US Armored Division and the German panzers take disproportionate losses while attacking American Shermans and Hellcats. The Soviet offensive in Baltic countries continues. American Marines tackle Japanese defences on Peleliu again, and finally encounter tough resistance on Anguar. Flight Lieutenant David Samuel Anthony Lord is flying a C-47 Transport aircraft in a supply drop to the 1<sup>st</sup> British Airborne Division at Arnhem. His plane is badly hit by flak as it comes low over the LZ, and he then realizes that he has two supply containers that weren't delivered. He comes around for a second pass, completes then mission and then orders his crew to bail out (although only one leaps free before the aircraft crashes in flames). He is posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

**Sept 20<sup>th</sup>:** The British Guards Division and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne complete the capture of Nijmegen and the Waal Bridge, but the fighting is intense. In Arnhem, British Paras are driven away from the north end of the Rhine Bridge. Polish troops begin to clear the Scheldt, US troops liberate Chatel and Luneville and the British free San Marino in Italy. The main Japanese defences on Anguar are pried open. Lance Sergeant John Baskeyfield is among the soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division stranded near Arnhem and today he personifies their toughness and determination. In the defence of Oosterbeck, he is wounded along with all the rest of the crew of his Six Pounder (57mm) anti-tank gun, but he refuses evacuation and continues to man the weapon alone against a German tank attack. When his gun was knocked out of commission, he crawled towards another anti-tank gun but was hit and killed by a tank gun. He is posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

Recommended Reading: The tragedy of Arnhem generated many histories of the campaign; one of the popular books that got a wide circulation (and generated a movie by the same name) is Cornelius Ryan's 1974 treatment: A Bridge Too Far. There are other histories, but Ryan's is quite serviceable and results from many first-hand interviews with the battle's survivors.

**Sept 21<sup>st</sup>:** It is good to be on the winning side; San Marino rescinds its declaration of war on the UK and declares war on Germany instead. TF38 attacks Manila area. The Greeks, Poles and Canadians of 8<sup>th</sup> Army liberate Rimini. British XXX Corps claws its way towards the Tulip Farm north of Nijmegen, making a costly and slow progress. British Paras near Arnhem

collapse into pocket outside the town, while the Polish Para brigade lands south of the Rhine. As yet another German counterattack rolls in on "Hell's Highway" the long supply corridor supporting XXX Corps between Eindhoven and the banks of the Rhine opposite Arnhem, Private John R Towle of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne is among the defenders at Oosterhout. Taking a bazooka, he moves 200m while under fire to a position where he can use the bazooka with effect; and damages two German tanks, forcing their withdrawal. His next target is destroyed with a single round, and he prevents nine Germans from turning a farmhouse into a fire base. Moving in the open once more to attack a German halftrack, he is mortally wounded. His lone counterattack robs the German assault of much of its strength and saves the lives of many of his comrades. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Essential Reading: Paul Fussell spent a lifetime high up in the ivory tower of academia as a professor of literature, but he was also down in the mud, blood and shit as a young infantry officer in the American Army in France in 1944-45. He has spent a long time trying to reconcile the two and explain some fundamental realities about warfare and its psychological and sociological effects to other people. 'Wartime' is his exploration of wartime culture in the English-speaking world and among its armed forces. A controversial book but it covers areas that nobody else has really dared explore.

**Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>:** XXX Corps links up with Polish Parachute Brigade on the southwest bank of the Rhine. The Canadians capture Boulogne after long siege. Tallinn is captured by Soviets, which cuts off the escape route for more of Army Group North. The first US Army troops of the 81<sup>st</sup> US Division are brought in to help the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division on Peleliu. German counterattacks in the Moselle Valley end; in three days of fighting they have exchanged 55 Panthers and Tigers for 14 Shermans and Hellcats.

Essential Reading: Among Poland's many hard-fighting soldiers who continued in exile Major General Stanislaw Sosabowski is among the most famous — not least for his role as the commander of the Polish Parachute Brigade that landed in Arnhem. His autobiography was only available in English some 15 years after his death in 1967 and is fascinating reading, even if it lacks the close details some historians might have hoped for. 'Freely I Served' is one of the many biographies of Poland's exiled warriors of the conflict.

**Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>:** US troops capture Ulithi Atoll north of Palaus, the landing is unopposed, and the US Navy is interested in turning it into a giant naval anchorage. Elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Army cross the Escault Canal north of Antwerp. US troops force a pass over the Apennines.

Essential Reading: Samuel Eliot Morison was an accomplished history professor at Harvard when he was pressed into service by the US Navy to chronicle its operations in the Second World War. The result is an extremely impressive titanic work of 15 volumes: History of United States Naval Operations in World War II. Unfortunately, this set is far beyond the reach of all but the most committed of historians so the rest of us must content ourselves with its still-impressive digest The Two Ocean War: A Short History of the United States Navy in the Second World War.

**Sept 24<sup>th</sup>:** TF 38 finishes its sweep of the Philippines, having destroyed 1000 Japanese aircraft and sinking 150 ships while losing 72 of its own Aircraft. XXX Corps reaches the south bank of the Rhine opposite the beleaguered remainders of the British Airborne Division. On Peleliu, the next US assault founders against the dug-in Japanese. The RAF raids the Dortmund-Ems Canal, some of the 141 attacking aircraft are dropping a new weapon – the 12,000 pound 'Tallboy" bombs.

Sept 25<sup>th</sup>: 2,400 paratroopers are evacuated from Arnhem; 1,100 died and 6,400 (mostly wounded) are captured; hundreds more are hiding – often hidden at enormous peril by Dutch civilians. One epitaph for the dead of the operation is coined "From Heaven to Earth, for Liberty I fell // I fought. I regained my wings. Farewell." Calais is closely invested by Canadian troops, and British 2<sup>nd</sup> Army widens the narrow corridor made by XXX Corps. Tito's partisans take Banja Luka. US Marines start to crack the main Japanese defences on Peleliu, but this fortress has chewed up the better part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Regiment so far. One outstanding example of the stuff British airborne are made of is Major Robert Henry Cain, then attached to the South Staffords in the 1<sup>st</sup> UK Airborne Division. During the Arnhem fighting he has personally destroyed or disabled six tanks (including four Pzkw VI Tigers) and more self-propelled guns by going after them with PIATs and grenades. His leadership, care for his men, and disdain for his own injuries are matched to the stubborn courage he has displayed every day. He is awarded the Victoria Cross.

## This Could Be the US Army's New 6.8mm Cartridge of Choice

Matthew Cox, Military.com September 10, 2019



True Velocity's 6.8mm composite-cased cartridge (Courtesy photo)

A Texas-based ammunition company recently unveiled its new 6.8mm cartridge, which the Army will consider for the Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW) effort designed to replace the 5.56mm M4A1 carbine and M249 squad automatic weapon in close-combat units. True Velocity's 6.8mm composite-cased cartridge will be part of the NGSW auto-rifle, rifle and

ammo prototype package being submitted by General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems Inc., which includes Beretta Defense Technologies, according to a recent True Velocity news release. The Army recently chose General Dynamics OTS, along with AAI Corporation Textron Systems and Sig Sauer Inc., in a down-select that moves competitors to the next phase of testing for the future weapons effort.

The service plans to select a final design for both weapons and ammunition modeled around a government 6.8mm projectile from a single company in the first quarter of 2022 and begin replacing both M4s and M249s in an infantry brigade combat team in the first quarter of 2023, Army modernization officials have said. The new prototyping agreements call for each vendor to deliver 43 NGSW automatic rifles and 53 NGSW rifles, as well as 845,000 rounds of 6.8mm ammunition, according to the original solicitation. The Army will evaluate each vendor's weapons and ammunition package as a single submission, according to modernization officials. So far, the service has been tight-lipped about the specifics of the 6.8mm ammunition except to say it will provide increased lethality at longer ranges compared to the current M855A1 5.56mm ammunition.

True Velocity's proprietary 6.8mm case design will provide soldiers with "significant logistical and operational advantages over traditional brass-cased ammunition, including substantially increased effective range and muzzle energy, drastic reduction in cartridge weight and enhanced accuracy," according to the release from True Velocity. "True Velocity's 6.8mm composite case design produces a level of performance, consistency and efficiency never before seen in small-arms ammunition," Chris Tedford, president and CEO of True Velocity, said in the release. "Combining True Velocity's innovation and technology with the expertise of General Dynamics OTS and Beretta results in a weapon system solution that exceeds NGSW requirements and provides the US Army with a definitive edge on the field of battle."

## Scientists Want to Inject Night Vision Straight into Troops' Eyeballs

Jared Keller Task & Purpose September 04, 2019



US Marine 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Johnathon Bradley, an MV-22 pilot with Marine Medium Tilt Rotor Squadron 165, attached to Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Central Command, uses night-vision goggles to observe an ordnance range during a tail-gunner certification course in which Marines qualify with the M2 Browning 50 caliber machine gun from the rear of an MV-22B Osprey in southwest Asia Jan. 23, 2019. (US Marine Corps/Cpl. Alina Thackray))

The US military may be working overtime to reduce the weight of a standard-issue pair of night vision googles to the point where it feels like you're wearing nothing at all, but a group of scientists think they've cracked the code of "built-in" night vision thanks to dollop of special particles and a needle to the eyeball. A group of researchers attending the American Chemical Society's national meeting in San Diego, California this month plan on presenting a method for using ultra-small nanoparticles, injected into the eye, to imbue a subject with the ability to see near-infrared light, according to an August press release. "When we look at the universe, we see only visible light," Massachusetts Medical School nanoparticle expert and the project's principal investigator, Gang Han said in the release. "But if we had near-infrared vision, we could see the universe in a whole new way. We might be able to do infrared astronomy with the naked eye or have night vision without bulky equipment."

According to Popular Science, human vision usually operates within wavelengths between 380 to 700 nanometers. But in February, a paper authored Gang and fellow researchers at the University of Science and Technology of China described how they injected special ""ocular injectable photoreceptor-binding up conversion" nanoparticles that absorb infrared light and produce visible (and therefore perceivable) light into the retinas of lab rats. The result? The nanoparticles basically created "thousands of tiny infrared goggles *inside the rodents' eyes*," as The Atlantic artfully explained at the time. "With their technologically augmented retinas, the mice could respond to infrared light that would otherwise have been invisible to them." This is obviously has fascinating applications beyond combat: As one expert told Stars and Stripes, the temporary nature of the treatment presents less of a risk to the average warfighter than permanent augmentations, and various nanoparticle designs could enable customs officials to detect "smuggled radioactive materials" by eyeball alone.

But despite these applications, it's still a *needle to the eye*. No THANK you. Look, the Army's new Enhanced Night Vision Goggles (ENVG-III) are finally rolling out to soldiers after years in the works, and they only weigh two pounds *tops*. Call me a traditionalist, but I would much prefer an external headset to getting bunch of crap jammed in my eye — or at least some badass contact lenses.

## Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

No update this week.

Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! <a href="mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com">president.vcrgunners@gmail.com</a>

## **VIA Rail Discount for Veterans**

VIA is offering a 40% off the best available fares in Sleeper Plus class onboard the Canadian (Toronto-Vancouver train) —for qualifying members of the Canadian Armed Forces, National Defence civilian personnel, veterans, and their immediate families. The offer ends on September 23, 2019. For details see:- <a href="https://www.viarail.ca/en/canadian-forces">https://www.viarail.ca/en/canadian-forces</a>

## Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: The McDonnell XF-85 Goblin is an American prototype fighter aircraft



conceived during World War II by McDonnell Aircraft. It was intended to deploy from the bomb bay of the giant Convair B-36 bomber as a parasite fighter. The XF-85's intended role was to defend bombers from hostile interceptor aircraft, a need demonstrated during World War II. McDonnell

built two prototypes before the Air Force (USAAF) terminated the program. The XF-85 was a response to a USAAF requirement for a fighter to be carried within the Northrop XB-35 and B-36, then under development. This was to address the limited range of existing interceptor aircraft compared to the greater range of new bomber designs. The XF-85 was a diminutive jet aircraft featuring a distinctive egg-shaped fuselage and a forked-tail stabilizer design. The prototypes were built and underwent testing and evaluation in 1948. Flight tests showed

promise in the design, but the aircraft's performance was inferior to the jet fighters it would have faced in combat, and there were difficulties in docking. The XF-85 was swiftly canceled, and the prototypes were thereafter relegated to museum exhibits.

**This Week:** Many of our thousands of readers are members of various militaria clubs, such as the Canadian Society for Military Medals and Insignia, or the Military Collectors' Club of Canada. These enthusiasts have many and varied collecting interests, from firearms to individual soldier's histories. Collectors with a bit of space might even have the occasional historic military vehicle, such as those that sometimes feature in this column. However, the



most space-efficient wing of the hobby is the collecting of insignia. And, that is what this week's photo is all about. Pictured is a very handsome soldier (my father, actually), relaxing in a field with his trusty pipe, as was his wont, from time to time. For me, the photo is of interest as it's the only one of him as an adult in which he is not sporting a moustache. However, for you, it's something about the uniform that leads us to this week's question. What can you tell of his career from the insignia, etc. that he wears?

If you know, please contact the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@outlook.com), or me, the author, John Redmond (johnd.\_redmond@telus.net). By the way, if anyone has a ribbon for the medal "Hid in a cave near Squamish to avoid conscription", please contact

the author. I know someone who needs it for his "Stolen Valour" page.

## From the 'Punitentary'

What happened to the cannibal who came late for a family dinner? He got the cold shoulder.

## **Murphy's Other Laws**

Odd objects attract fire - never lurk behind one.

## **Quotable Quotes**

Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get. - Dale Carnegie

# 15th FIELD ARTILLERY RCA &

# THE 78th FRASER HIGHLANDERS IRISH WHISKEY TASTING AND FUND RAISER

ARE YOU A PROUD GUNNER? A PROUD HIGHLANDER WHO SUPPORTS OUR HOME AT THE BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY? AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER WHO WANTS TO STAND TALL AND SHOW THEIR SUPPORT TO THE AIMS OF THE REGIMENT DURING ITS CENTENNIAL YEAR IN 2020?

#### WAIT NO LONGER!

All profits raised by the 15th Field Regimental Society and the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison will go towards supporting the 15 Field Centennial Projects next year in 2020.

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 an Irish Whiskey fund raising and whisky tasting event. There will be food, draw prizes, and music.

For the Full 'Whiskey 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 Rowe, 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 - September 20th, 2019

TIME: 1800 hrs - 2300 hrs

LOCATION: 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA

2025 West 11th 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

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations upon request.

Entertainment by Irish Singer Patrick Chessell and his Band



and the Directors of

# Royal United Services Institute Vancouver Society

request the pleasure of the company of you and your guests

at our

# Inaugural Annual Dinner

Celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our 'Royal' Designation

to be held at

BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY 2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

on

Saturday, the Twenty-Eighth of September 2019

at

six thirty for seven o'clock in the evening

RSVP by 18 September 2019

to RSVP@rusivancouver.ca

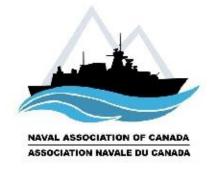
Send payment to: Treasurer, RUSI Vancouver 2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Vancouver, BC V6J 3C7 **Dress**: Business Formal (Mess Dress Optional)

Tariff. \$50 per person

Make cheques payable to: RUSI Vancouver

Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu or Vegetarian - please indicate choice on RSVP

## **Naval Association of Canada National Conference 2019**



#### Naval Association of Canada National Conference 2019

Sponsored by the Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia

0800 - 1630 October 4, 2019

#### **BCIT Marine Campus**

265 West Esplanade North Vancouver, British Columbia

#### Agenda

0730 – 0830 Registration and Continental Breakfast

0830 Opening and Recognition of NOABC 100th Anniversary

## 0845 Canada and the Pacific (Strategic Situation)

Canada-China Relations: Predatory, Promising or Problematic

Dr. James Boutilier (Special Advisor to the RCN Commander Maritime Forces Pacific)

#### China's Campaign of Influence and Intimidation in Canada

Jonathan Manthorpe (Author and Journalist)

#### The National Security Context for Canada's Relations with China

Richard Fadden (Former National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Canada, Deputy Minister of National Defence, and Director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service)

#### Q&A Session on the Strategic Situation in the Pacific

Panel of speakers above Moderated by Senator Yuen Pau Woo

## 1115 The Challenges and Roles for the Navy

The Royal Canadian Navy in the Pacific and the Strategic Vision of the RCN: "Ready to Help, Ready to Lead, Ready to Fight"

Rear-Admiral J.R. (Bob) Auchterlonie, OMM, CD, RCN (Commander Maritime Forces Pacific)

#### 1200 Lunch

## 1245 Naval Reserve – International Perspective

#### RCN Reserve Priorities, Plans and Challenges

Capt (N) Alan Offer, CD, RCN (Deputy Commander Naval Reserves)

#### Royal Navy Reserve Experience and Future Plans

Cmdre Martin Quinn, ADC, RN, Commander Maritime Reserves

#### US Navy Reserves and Future Plans

TBA

#### Q&A Session on Challenges and Roles for Navy Reserves

Panel of speakers above

Moderated by Cmdre David Craig, CD, RCN (Ret'd)

#### 1500 Marine Industry

Seaspan: RCN Joint Support Ship Program

Cory Zachrisson, Seaspan

#### Association of BC Marine Industries (ABCMI)

Dan McGreer, BASc (Nav Arch), Principal Naval Architect, Vard Marine, Inc., Secretary, ABCMI

## 1615 Closing Remarks

Conference includes continental breakfast and light lunch
The charge is \$85.00 per person
Please register by 20 September using the form below

NAC National Conference 2019	
Attendee:	Affiliation:
Email address:	Phone:

Send Payment by: Cheque: Payee NOABC, post to L. Fournier (above address)

By email to: ljfournier@shaw.ca

e-transfer: Payee/Security NOABC email: critophs@hotmail.com

# 15Fd WO & Sgts Annual Mess Dinner

The Regimental Sergeant-Major
Warrant Officers and Sergeants
of the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment,
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

Cordially invite you to their

# ANNUAL MESS DINNER

Saturday, 26th October 2019

Cocktails: 18:00 hrs Dinner: 19:00 hrs

To be held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Bessborough Armoury 2025 West 11th Avenue

Vancouver, BC

RSVP required no later than 11th October 2019, as space is limited, to the Unit Chief Clerk (Sgt Woods), 2025 West 11th Ave, Vancouver BC V6J 2C7

Email: brenda.woods@forces.gc.ca

Telephone: 604-666-4876

Dress Mess Kit/Formal Ticket price: \$60.00 Cheque payable to 15th Field Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' mess. Pay at the door or mail in payment