



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Feb 19, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Lunches in the 15th Field Officers Mess continue with Mrs Lum cooking at home and bringing the food in. The decision has been made to renovate the upstairs (Mess) kitchen at an estimated cost of \$30-35,000. Fundraising efforts have been started, with a whiskey tasting event scheduled for March. (see below)

Remember to drop your lunch ticket in the bowl when you pick up your soup/salad.

And finally, PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE VEHICLE COMPOUND!!

Whiskey Tasting Fundraiser

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78th Fraser Highlanders welcome you to attend a Fund Raising and Whisky Tasting event at our Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music from the BC Regiment (DCO) Irish Pipes and Drums.

Tickets are \$55.00 per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by the Officers of the Mess, or \$25.00 if you are only having beer, wine, or soft drinks from our No-Host Bar.

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

Dress is business casual. Kilts, of course, are welcome.

DATE: March 23rd, 2013

TIME: 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

LOCATION: 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Ave Van BC V6J 2C7

TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:

LCol James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: barrettjd007@gmail.com

All profits will go to the 15th Field Regimental Society to be directed towards the kitchen renovation fund.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

Does The Government Care For Military Veterans?

Despite the urging of the Veterans Affairs Ombudsman and all Veterans groups, governments have not addressed the funeral and burial issues that have been brought to their attention. Most recently the President of Dominion Command of the Royal Canadian Legion circulated an open letter to the media asking the government “what are you waiting for” with respect to this matter.

A recent Opinion piece by this writer presented data on just several Modern Day Veterans and their families who needed assistance, and illustrated that the government would not provide for their dignified funeral and burial. The number of Modern Day Veterans in need of financial assistance to be provided with a dignified funeral continues to increase. During 2012 the Last Post Fund used donation funds to provide a dignified funeral for 12 Veterans who were not eligible for the federal government Funeral and Burial Program. More applications for such assistance continue to be received, reviewed and responded to by the Last Post Fund.

Imagine, volunteer citizens place their lives at risk in defending Canada’s interests, yet when an indigent Veteran requires funeral and burial financial assistance, his or her government fails to respond. Since our Veterans respond when called, should not our government also respond to their final need, if required? Thankfully, the Last Post Fund’s charitable donation funds have assisted in arranging and funding the funeral and burial of Modern Day Veterans who, for the most part, are denied benefits by their government.

What a disgrace to Canada! Almost all Modern Day Veterans in need are not even granted the honour of a dignified funeral, the same honour that their WW2 and Korean War veteran counterparts remain eligible for. The government may boast their success as a G8 nation, they may boast that they have done much for Veterans, they may boast that they have re-built the military, but when it comes to Veterans’ benefits they are not doing enough. Just ask some of the Veterans groups or the Ombudsman—they will all illustrate that there is much not done despite the needs, particularly for funerals and burials. We, the citizens of Canada, ought to be asking the government and our local MP: “What are you waiting for”?

For those wishing to donate to the Last Post Fund to help Modern Day Veterans in need, one need only refer to the Last Post Fund’s web site (www.lastpostfund.ca) or call the national toll free number at 1-800-465-7113.

LGen(r) LWF Cuppens

Chair of the Last Post Fund Fundraising Committee

USS Monitor remains to be buried next month at Arlington Cemetery

By *Michael E. Ruane*, Published: February 12



NOAA - A team of conservators and researchers raises the turret of the USS Monitor out of the ocean on Aug. 5, 2002.

For 140 years the two Yankee sailors lay entombed in the turret of the USS Monitor, doomed shipmates aboard the sunken Civil War vessel 40 fathoms down and 16 miles off Cape Hatteras. Their remains were recovered when the turret was brought to the surface in an amazing feat of marine archaeology and engineering in 2002.

Next month, after a decade of trying to learn their identities, the Navy plans to bury the comrades as unidentified in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honours. The funeral, scheduled for March 8, will mark 40 years of research into the Monitor by the Navy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Va., and many other organizations. And it will lay to rest perhaps the last of over 600,000 soldiers, sailors and Marines who perished in the long ago war for the Union. The nation is currently commemorating the sesquicentennial of the war, which ran from 1861 to 1865.

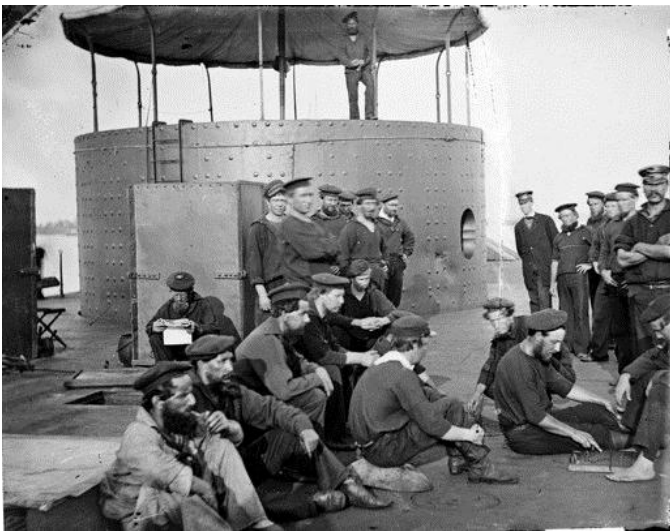
“These may very well be the last Navy personnel from the Civil War to be buried at Arlington,” Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said in a statement Tuesday. “It’s important we honour these brave men and all they represent as we reflect upon the significant role Monitor and her crew had in setting the course for our modern Navy.”

The Monitor is famous for battling the Confederate ship CSS Virginia, formerly the USS Merrimack, on March 9, 1862, at Hampton Roads, Va, in the first fight between ironclad warships.

Almost 10 months later, the two sailors were aboard the Monitor when it sank in a gale off the North Carolina coast on Dec. 31, 1862. The ship capsized and settled on the bottom upside down. Most of the 63 crewmen escaped. Sixteen men perished; the bodies of the other 14 were never recovered. The two unidentified men — an older sailor, about 35, who walked with a limp, wore a gold ring and often had a pipe clenched between his teeth, and a younger man, about 21, with a broken nose and mismatched shoes — were trapped in the turret.

More than a century later, their almost-complete skeletons were found, one on top of the other, amid a tangle of huge guns and debris. The turret resides at the Mariners' Museum today. On March 7, representatives from the Navy and NOAA will escort the remains from the military's Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hawaii, where the bones have undergone study, said a Navy spokeswoman, Lt Lauryn Dempsey. The next day the sailors will be borne to their graves in two caskets on a horse-drawn caisson during an interment ceremony at 4 p.m. The exact burial site was still being determined Tuesday.

“It’s extraordinary on a number of levels,” said David W Alberg, superintendent of NOAA’s Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. “There’s something comforting to know that, no matter what you go through, what sacrifice you make, that the nation’s promise to look after you, bring you home and honour you is as good 150 years later” as it is was back then. “Here we have two men who were lost in a storm, forgotten by even many of their descendants,” he said. “But the nation’s never forgotten.”



Library of Congress - The crew of the USS Monitor sits on the deck.

The wreck of the Monitor was located in 1973 by a Duke University research ship in a stormy region called “the graveyard of the Atlantic.” The study of the sailors’ bones yielded DNA but few other clues: the younger man’s broken nose, and indications of a limp in the older man, the ring on a finger of his right hand and a groove in his front teeth where he bit down on his pipe.

The identities of all the lost Monitor sailors are

known, and many crew members are depicted in old photographs — including a famous series taken on the ship by photographer James F. Gibson in July 1862. But it was not known which identities might go with the recovered remains. Last year, at the Navy Memorial in Washington, experts from Louisiana State University displayed clay facial reconstructions of the two men, based on models of their skulls.

Experts hoped that the clay images might, through public exposure, provide leads to the sailors’ identities. Officials noted a strong resemblance between the reconstructed face of the older sailor and that of the Monitor’s Welsh-born first-class fireman, Robert Williams, 30. In two of Gibson’s pictures, Williams appears in a cap and a moustache, standing with his arms folded. He is surrounded by other members of the crew, who lounge on the deck, playing checkers and

smoking pipes. But investigators could come up with nothing more definitive, and the sailors must now go to their graves unidentified.

Officials said the case will remain open, should further information be discovered.

DUES 2013

It's time to pay dues again:

Vancouver Artillery Association – Dues are \$75/yr. Make cheques payable to the Vancouver Artillery Association and send to the Vancouver Artillery Association at the address below.

15 Field Regt Officers Mess – Dues are \$60/yr. Make cheques payable to 15RCA Officers Mess and send to the Associate Members Representative at the address below.

Association and Mess dues to: 2025 West 11th Ave, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

RUSI Vancouver – dues are \$25/yr. Make cheques payable to RUSI Vancouver and send to Keith Freer, 524-666 Leg-in-Boot Square, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3

2013 Military Ball



The poster is enclosed in a blue border. At the top left is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police crest. To its right is the text "Vancouver Garrison Officers Society" in blue. The main title "The Military Ball" is in large, bold, red letters. To the right of the title is a yellow lion's head. Below the title is the text "We invite everyone to attend our" in black. The next line is "68th Annual Military Ball" in large, bold, red letters. Below that is "to be held at the" in black, followed by "Hyatt Regency Hotel" in large, blue, italicized letters. Underneath is "on" in black, and "April 6, 2013" in large, bold, red letters. At the bottom, it says "For information about the event and ticket orders please contact us at:" in black, followed by "bcmilitaryball@gmail.com" in blue and "Tickets - \$110pp" in black.

Mark your calendars now for the **6th of April 2013** to attend the Annual Vancouver Garrison's Military Ball, scheduled once again to be held at the Vancouver Hyatt Regency Hotel. The tariff to attend the Vancouver Military Ball remains unchanged for 2013 at \$110 per person - Tickets must be purchased in advance. To purchase tickets send an email to the address on the poster above to have an order form emailed back to you. We look forward to seeing you there.

Want to book a room at the host hotel for the Military Ball? The Hyatt has again offered a special room rate for our guests and the reservations link is pasted below. The rate is **\$149.00!** As per last year, this rate is *only available by booking on-line via this link*. You will not be able to find it if you call the Hyatt 1-800 reservation phone number or try to book via Hyatt.com.


On line reservation: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/mball2013>

Website

We are still looking for someone in our membership to act as our Webmaster. If someone on our list has the necessary skills, please contact me ASAP at bob.mugford@shaw.ca


BCR Lunch

Curry Lunch - China



Hosted by:
The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess

Coordinated by:
The BC Regiment
(DCO) Association



Date: Thursday, February 28, 2013

Time: 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(welcome at 12:15pm)
(lunch starts at 12:20pm)

Location: Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC

Dress: Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)

Price: \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by February 22, 2013)

RSVP: For more information or to register, please contact Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeaBear.com or 604.618.3607 (Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
No cancellations after February 22, 2013

NEXT LUNCH: Thursday, February 28, 2013

From the 'Punitentary'

A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

Flying is better than walking. Walking is better than running. Running is better than crawling. All of these, however, are better than extraction by a Med-Evac even if it is, technically, a form of flying.

Great Truths

Build it and they will complain.