

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News July 31, 2018

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com to let me know you didn't get a copy.

Newsletter on line. This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html> . Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

Wednesday Lunches - We serve 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. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies. **Note: Lunches continue through the summer, but we are now in our 'summer doldrums' and attendance has dropped off so, if you can make it, come join us and bring a friend (or friends). During hot weather periods we do relax our jacket and tie requirement, For serving personnel, uniform of the day is always acceptable.**

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

- Aug 3-5** Abbotsford Agrifair -VAA with FAT and 25pdr (looks like it's just me)
- Aug 10-12** Abbotsford Airshow - VAA with FAT and 25pdr
- Aug 18** Steveston Train event – VAA with FAT and 25pdr
- Aug 26** Gunner Golf on August 26 on Vancouver Island (see poster at end of newsletter).
At Ardmore Golf Course - in Saanich
Play golf and support the 5th (BC) Artillery Regiment Foundation by forming a Foursome ("Gun Detachment") or joining with others as an Individual ("Gunner") or by making a donation ("In Direct Support").
- Sept 8** 15 Fd WO & Sgts Mess Annual Dinner

World War 2 – 1943

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

Aug 1943: Red Army Resurgent –The Panzers Pull Back. *Of the 403,272 tank soldiers (including a small number of women) who were trained by the Red Army in the war, 310,000*

would die. Even the most optimistic troops knew what would happen when a tank was shelled. The white-hot flash of the explosion would almost certainly ignite the tank crew's fuel and ammunition. At best, the crew—or those at least who had not been decapitated or dismembered by the shell itself—would have no “more than ninety seconds to climb out of their cabin. Much of that time would be swallowed up as they struggled to open the heavy, sometimes red-hot, hatch, which might have jammed after the impact anyway... “Have you burned yet?” was a question tank men often asked each other when they met for the first time.

-Extract from Ivan's War –Life and Death in the Red Army, 1939-1945; Catherine Merridale.

General: There are 25 U-Boats sunk this month including 10 Milchcows – most of the sinkings occur in the Bay of Biscay under long-range RAF fighter cover; the Allies lose 100,000 tons of shipping. The Bomber offensive in Northern Europe results in 14,500 tons of bombs being dropped by the RAF, while 3,600 tons are dropped by 8th Air Force; in the Mediterranean, Allied bombers concentrate on Milan and hit it with 4,000 tons of bombs.

Aug 1st: The ill-fated Polesti raid; of 177 B-24s sent to hit the Romanian oil city in a long-range low-level raid, 50 fail to return and most of the remainder are damaged. The Japanese declare Burmese independence and further declare that the newly independent Burma has declared war on the Allies and independently has embraced the Japanese Co-Prosperity Sphere. The last of the RAF big raids on Hamburg; in the last two weeks 50,000 people have been killed and 800,000 are homeless while civilians all over the Reich are terrified that the next assault could be on their own city. Heavy fighting continues in Sicily, where the Germans have withdrawn to a smaller perimeter with good defensive terrain. One of the commanders in the Polesti raid is Lt Col Addison Baker, who is flying a B-24 and leading the rest of his 93rd Bomb Group. Confusion sets in as the attack on Polesti commences but Baker is aware of a serious navigation error by the raid commander and instead leads most of the bombers to their targets himself. Over the target, his plane is in flames from flak, but he still leads the bomb run before breaking formation to avoid damaging other aircraft and to give his crew a chance to bail out. Unfortunately, his B-24 explodes in mid-air before his aircrew can escape and all of them die with him. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Aug 2nd: Hitler orders Manstein to hold Kharkov (who will ignore these commands). The USN bombards the abandoned island of Kiska. The Canadians take the Sicilian town of Regalbuto. The Japanese start thinning out on New Georgia and shifting troops over to Kolombangara.

Aug 3rd: Italian forces begin to withdraw from Sicily. The Voronezh, Steppe and Southwest Fronts start a new Soviet offensive against Army Group South. Lt Gen George Patton slaps a stress casualty (who was actually ill with malaria) in a military hospital in Sicily in the first of two noted incidents; the second follows a week later.

Aug 4th: US troops complete the capture of Munda (and its airfield) on New Georgia. Soviet troops liberate Orel and Konev and Vatutin's Fronts start a new drive on Belgorod.

Aug 5th: The Sicilian city of Catania is taken by the British, as is Paterno. Konev's Front liberates Belgorod while the Germans are falling back from Orel and incorporate the remains of 2nd Panzer Army into 9th Army.

Aug 6th: The US Navy shows it can now handle night fighting as six US destroyers sink three of four Japanese ones bound for Kolombangara in the Vella Gulf. 1st US Division takes the Sicilian town of Troina after a savage fight. Senior German and Italian diplomats and staff officers meet at Verona and the Italians assure their allies they are very much in the war.

Aug 7th: British troops on Sicily capture Adrana.

Remains of Spitfire pilot found in Cornwall 75 years after crash

Sqn Ldr Daniel Cremin, whose remains were discovered by metal detectorist, died in 1942 test flight *Steven Morris 16 Jul 2018*



*Daniel Cremin in the Iraq desert. The coroner said he died as a result of a mid-air collision with another Spitfire.
Photograph: Family handout/PA*

Seventy-five years after a distinguished Spitfire pilot crashed during a training flight over Cornwall, his remains have been finally found, identified and returned to his family to be laid to rest, an inquest heard. Sqn Ldr Daniel Cremin, 25, was killed while testing new Spitfire planes on a clear moonlit night over the far south-west of Britain on 24 March 1942, the inquest in Truro was told. His family were sent a sealed coffin purportedly carrying his remains and he was buried at Wardour Roman Catholic cemetery in Tisbury, Wiltshire. But in June last year, Stuart Palmer, a metal detectorist, discovered the Australian-born pilot's bones after digging down 4ft (1.2 metres) at the crash site near St Erth, Hayle.

Palmer called Devon and Cornwall police, who worked with the Ministry of Defence and local archaeologists to recover the remains. They were confirmed as those of Cremin after DNA testing with his son Mark, 78, who now believes that the original remains provided to the family were simply sandbags. A second service was arranged at the Wiltshire cemetery and Cremin's remains were interred in his original grave with military honours in November. Describing the inquest as very interesting and unusual, Barrie van den Berg, the assistant coroner for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, found the pilot's death had been accidental. The coroner said: "Daniel

Edward Cremin died as a result of a mid-air collision with another Spitfire. The death occurred at Frythens farm, St Erth, and his remains were only discovered 70-odd years later. "The inquiry into his death makes it clear that the cause of death is an accident and the inquest is going to record that." The inquest heard Palmer, who researches crash sites from the second world war, contacted police at 10am on 26 June last year. The detectorist had dug down at the farm and found human remains. Photographs of the remains were sent to experts, who confirmed that Palmer had discovered part of a pelvis. The crash site was known and police contacted the MoD, who began investigating. On 27 July, further excavations took place and local archaeologists from Cornwall council discovered other bones.

Police took possession of the remains until DNA testing confirmed they were those of Cremin in September 2017. DS Nigel Green, of Devon and Cornwall police, said records showed Cremin, in Spitfire AB462, took off from Portreath, where No 66 Squadron was based, at 9.20pm on 24 March 1942. Another Australian pilot, Sgt William Norman, took off in Spitfire AB496. Both planes were "the latest versions of the Spitfire" at the time, Green said. "The planes collided in mid-air," the officer told the inquest. "Both pilots were killed, and the wreckage landed in two adjacent fields." A board of inquiry took place on 27 March that year and found that Norman "misjudged" the distance between his and Cremin's Spitfires. "Sgt Norman's plane proceeded to nose-dive straight into the ground, while Sqn Ldr Cremin's plane span down as it lost a wing," Green said. "The board of inquiry found it was a tragic flying accident. He misjudged the distance flying quite fast and quite low." The inquest was read the air operations book for 66 Squadron for the date of the crash. It read: "Another Cornish spring day. Army cooperation flights, air to ground firing and cine-gun practice was carried out during the day together with routine patrols. "Sqn Ldr Cremin and Sgt Norman practised dusk landings. They took off again at 21.20 hours on a clear moonlit night for night flying practice. "They collided near St Erth and both were killed. The planes landed in adjacent fields and were burnt. "The ... evidence of a member of the local home guard who heard a crash and saw one plane spinning down points to the conclusion that they were formatting and hit in mid-air. They crashed at 22.05 hours."

Cremin was born in Sydney in 1917 and enlisted with the Royal Australian Air Force in 1936. He was commissioned in the Royal Air Force two years later after being part of a pilot exchange scheme between Britain and Australia. In 1938 he served in the Middle East, being promoted to flight lieutenant two years later. During that time, he met Patricia Whitmore near Cairo and they secretly married in 1939. She returned to her family in Wiltshire when war broke out. Their son, Mark, was born in February 1940 but Cremin remained on duty in the Middle East. He won a Distinguished Flying Cross in 1941 for his bravery during the siege of Habbaniya in Iraq. That Christmas, he was able to return to Wiltshire to be with his wife and meet his baby son but then went to Portreath in Cornwall. The inscription on Cremin's grave reads: "He left the vivid air signed with his honour." His wife lived in Tisbury until her death in 1974. His grandson was named Daniel Mark Cremin, in memory of his fallen grandfather. Mark Cremin said: "It has somehow come to a conclusion for me. It's now all in one place and drawn together."

Canadian Army to Take Delivery of New SMP Trucks

David Pugliese December 15, 2017

The Canadian Armed Forces will start receiving the first of its new standard military pattern (SMP) trucks by the end of this year. The SMP trucks are coming from Mack Defense, LLC. “The final delivery of the SMP trucks is expected mid-2019, with the project conclusion in 2020,” Department of National Defence spokeswoman Jessica Lamirande told Esprit de Corps. In June 2015, two contracts were awarded to Mack Defense, LLC for the purchase of 1,500 Standard Military Pattern trucks, 300 trailers and 150 armour protection systems, including spare parts, maintenance and project management services. The deal also included 20 years of in-service support. Vehicles will deliver in five variants — Load Handling System, Mobile Repair Team, Cargo, Cargo with Crane, and Gun Tractor — from Prévost, located in Saint-Nicolas, Québec to Canadian Armed Forces bases across the country over the course of the next few years, added Lamirande. The SMP is the last component of the Medium Support Vehicle System (MSVS) project, which is a multi-phased project that, besides SMP, is composed of following:

1,300 militarized commercial off-the-shelf (MilCOTS) trucks; delivery is completed.

994 shelters; delivery is completed.

Kitting of 846 of the shelters; kitting is completed.



Mack Defense — through its Canadian partner Prévost — has been contracted to deliver more than 1,500 8x8 trucks as part of the Canadian military’s Medium Support Vehicle System (MSVS) Standard Military Pattern (SMP) program in multiple variants. The firm will also provide an initial five years of in-service support for the SMP fleet operating in Canada and throughout the world. Mack will also provide 300 trailers and 150 armour protection systems as part of the two contracts valued at \$725 million CAD. Deliveries will begin in the fall of 2017 with completion expected in 2019. (Mack Defense)

DEW Engineering and Development has played a significant role in the MSVS program. In December 2016, Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan highlighted the delivery of the last mobile workspaces from DEW Engineering for use by the Canadian Armed Forces as medical and dental clinics, workshops, field kitchens and command posts. The mobile workspaces or “kitted shelters” are equipped with items including workbenches, electronic and office equipment, power generators and tools, the Canadian Armed Forces pointed out. The equipment (kitting) transforms the shelters, which are container-based workspaces that provide environmental protection, into functional units providing crucial support services. The new mobile workspaces from DEW were bought as part of the MSVS project, which aims to modernize the military’s fleet of logistical trucks and mobile workspaces. They were delivered on time and on budget, the Canadian government pointed out.

DEW Engineering was contracted to deliver a total of 994 (plus one prototype) baseline (empty) shelters. Delivery was completed in February 2015. DEW was also contracted to deliver 846 kits to convert the empty shelters into functional units. Total value of contracts awarded was \$233-million, the government noted. Meanwhile, the \$834-million contract that was awarded to Mack Defense for SMPs had been challenged by Oshkosh Defense Canada Inc., another firm that bid on the project. Following a four-month review, the Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT) in the spring of 2016 ruled in Oshkosh’s favour and upheld, in part, some of its concerns related to shortfalls in the procurement processes, technical compliance and testing protocols. The CITT ruling recommended that Public Services and Procurement Canada re-evaluate Oshkosh’s bid and conduct a re-evaluation of vehicles for the SMP project. Failing that, the government could provide monetary compensation to Oshkosh, the CITT noted. The Canadian government, however, has decided to challenge the CITT decision. It has gone to the Federal Court of Appeal with its case and those legal proceedings are underway. The legal challenge has not affected the delivery of the SMP vehicles.

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Here’s the latest additions to the website. Have you got any photos or stories to share?

18 Pounder restoration update <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/18-pounder.html>

Master Bombardier Ian Smith CD <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1996.html>

Officer Cadet Dave Scott in 1993 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1993.html>

Medak Pocket video <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/unprofor-1993.html>

Change of Command Certificate 1991 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1991.html>

Gunner Glenn Patterson <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1972.html>

RSM Warrant Officer 1st Class Dave Penman <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1961.html>

Colonel R Theodore Dumoulin <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1957.html>

Lest we Forget - Lieutenant Richard Secord Phillips 1953
<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1953.html>

Regimental Wedding in 1952 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1952---43rd-haa-regt-rca.html>

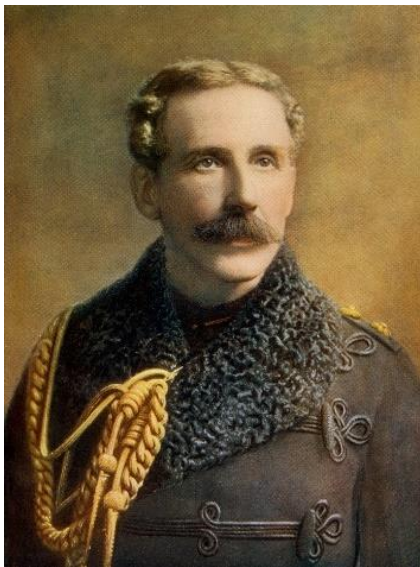
Acting Bombardier LJ O'Donnell MM & Driver Murdock A. Kennedy, MM
<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/mm.html>

Want to join our shoe box club? Put your old photos in a shoe box with/without a sheet of paper with descriptions, drop the shoe box off at Bessborough Armoury c/o Colonel (ret'd) Leon Jensen. I'll scan them and place them on line in the appropriate yearbook.

Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! Contact Leon Jensen at president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

Who Is It

Last Week: General Sir William Dillon Otter KCB CVO VD, 3 Dec 1843 - 6 May 1929



A veteran of the Battle of Ridgeway in 1866 and a part-time soldier, Otter joined the permanent force in 1883. A veteran of the Battle of Ridgeway in 1866 and a part-time soldier, Otter joined the permanent force in 1883. He commanded the Battleford column in the North-West Campaign of 1885 and was the first commanding officer of the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry in 1893. In 1899 Otter was the obvious choice to lead the first Canadian contingent in the South African War. His austere professionalism was unpopular with subordinates but contributed to Canadian prestige. In 1908 he was the first Canadian-born chief of the general staff and was inspector general of the Canadian Militia 1910-12, when he retired.

He commanded Internment operations during WWI. Otter was knighted in 1913 and in 1922 became the second Canadian soldier, after Sir Arthur Currie, to reach the rank of general. After WW1, Otter headed the Otter Commission which was tasked to establish links of perpetuation from the units of Canadian Expeditionary Force back to the institutionally separate units of the Canadian Militia in the years following the First World War. This establishment of perpetuation, based primarily on geographical connections through original recruiting areas of the CEF battalions, provided a basis by which the achievements and battle honours of the CEF units transferred back to the units of the standing Militia.

This Week: As one travels around the world (seeking interesting stories on behalf of this fine newsletter), refining oneself and acquiring knowledge the way Croesus acquired gold, one finds places that are, in themselves, the equivalent of studying for a PhD. Such was the case during a recent visit to a famous museum (the name of which will be revealed next week) where your author came across this interesting vehicle.

At first sight, I thought I knew its origins, but, upon careful examination, which included putting on my spectacles, I concluded that I did not really know that. Moreover, I could not figure out what the purpose of this elegant tracked-automobile was. Its superstructure is unlike

anything seen in current service and includes bits and bobs of unfamiliar function. As the subject of our quiz was in a storage area, there was no signage to explain what it was, nor was there anyone nearby who could help me; all the staff were fully occupied by ex-service types recounting their somewhat interesting experiences with various other pieces of equipment stored in and around this Mecca of military.



So, dear enthusiastic reader, can you help us out? If so, let the kindly editor know, bob.mugford@outlook.com, or drop a line to the author, John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). All I know is that the RCAMC cadet corps to which I once belonged didn't have one of these (but we had loads of shell dressings!).

From the 'Punitary'

What do you call a dictionary on drugs? HIGH-Definition.

Murphy's Other Laws

Chicken Little only has to be right once

Quotable Quotes

There is only one happiness in life, to love and be loved. *George Sand*

ABBOTSFORD AGRIFAIR 2018

August 2018 will mark the 108th Abbotsford AGRIFAIR.

A lot has changed in the past 108 years!

Family dynamics have changed – no longer is the nuclear family considered the “norm”. Now there are blended families, working parents, co-parenting, an entire generation who values volunteerism and community participation. This is the family of today and Agrifair is an integral part of enriching family life in our diverse and inclusive community. *Community* neighbors are coming closer together, feeling the need to be a part of something bigger, something important. Agrifair takes the role of community leader very seriously and celebrates our past and embraces the future through fun, family events and education. People are bombarded with so much negativity in the world - day to day and minute to minute, Agrifair’s board of directors and staff felt that after celebrating Canada’s 150th last year – we still have reason to celebrate!

We invite you to celebrate Family and Community with us at Agrifair 2018, August 3-5. We are deep in the planning stages of 2018 that will include new attractions, more entertainment while still maintaining affordable pricing for families and our community. Partnering with so many amazing attractions such as the Dock Dog Show, the **Demolition Derby** in the motor sports arena including the **FMX Bike Riders** and a brand new competition, the Logger Sports Show in conjunction with the **Laughing Logger** entertainment show. Expanding on our agricultural program and adding to the **Country Horse Classic** show with a new Dog & Pony addition. Our Family building will continue to improve and add fun for both young and old, including our free **Family Relief Room**. Don’t miss our edu-entertainment areas through out the fair grounds. And so much more proving we are the best little country fair on earth!!

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the province of BC.

FAIR HOURS & GATE PRICES

GATE PRICING

10 and under FREE

One Day Adult \$12/day

One Day Student \$10/day

One Day Senior \$10/day

3 – day weekend wristband \$18 (in & out gate privileges)

1 entry parking pass \$5 (no in & out privileges)

3-day parking pass \$30 (in & out privileges - limited availability)

GATE HOURS

Admission Gates open at 10:00am and close at 10:00pm

The Fair is open from 10:00am and closes at 11:00pm

FAMILY PETS

Although we appreciate you want your pets to have as much fun as you – only Guide Assistance pets are allowed on site.

If you require more information please call 604-852-6674 or email **agrifair@telus.net**

The Vancouver Artillery Association will be attending with the FAT and 25pdr and we are looking for volunteers to help staff the display. Note that members of our display team are admitted to the Agrifair free. If you are available, please contact me at **bob.mugford@gmail.com** At the moment, I am the only one on the list and would appreciate some help.

Abbotsford Airshow - Schedule of Events

***PLEASE NOTE: Performance times are approximate and subject to change without notice. Only select performers are listed below. For full lineup, please see our 2018 Performers page. ***

Friday Aug 10, 2018

Time	Twilight Show
15:00	<i>Gates Open</i> Static Display, Exhibit Area and Concessions Open
16:30	US Navy Blue Angels
17:40	Opening Ceremonies & Anthems
18:00	Canadian Forces Snowbirds
19:30	<i>Static Display Closes</i>
20:30	CF-18 Hornet Twilight Demo
21:45	Fireworks Finale
22:30	<i>Gates Close</i>

Saturday & Sunday Aug 11 & 12, 2018

Time	Full Day Shows
09:00	<i>Gates Open</i> Static Display, Exhibit Area and Concessions Open
10:45	Opening Ceremonies & Anthems
11:00	Flying Events Begin
14:00	US Navy Blue Angels
15:00	CF-18 Hornet Demo
15:45	Canadian Forces Snowbirds
16:30	Flying Events End
17:00	<i>Static Display Closes</i>
18:00	<i>Gates Close</i>

The Vancouver Artillery Association will be attending with the FAT and 25pdr and we are looking for volunteers to help staff the display. Note that members of our display team are admitted to the Airshow free. If you are available, please contact me at

bob.mugford@gmail.com

ALL ABOARD!

AT THE STEVESTON INTERURBAN TRAM

- Date: August 18, 2018
- Time: 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Location: [Steveston Interurban Tram](#)
- Address: 4011 Moncton Street, Richmond, BC V7E 3A8
- Price: Free
- [Website](#)

DETAILS

All Aboard! is your ticket to discover Richmond's transportation heritage. Richmond's transportation past and present rolls into the Steveston Interurban Tram. Explore Tram Car 1220 and the surrounding site filled with guest transportation experts, live music, children's crafts and activities and more



The Vancouver Artillery Association will be attending with the FAT and 25pdr and we are looking for volunteers to help staff the display. If you are available, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com

**Fifth (BC) Artillery Regiment RCA Foundation and
the Vancouver Island Artillery Association**



4th Annual - Drive for Victory

9-Hole, Texas Scramble at Ardmore Golf Course

Supporting the Foundation's programs

Fundraising projects in support of the Regiment and its Cadet Corps

Sunday, August 26, 2018

Meet 3:30 Start 4:00

Ardmore Golf Course

930 Ardmore Drive, Sidney, BC

(250) 656-4621

Register at Eventbrite (see below)

Or, for more information please contact:

Stu McDonald (604) 886-6847 ssmcd2@gmail.com

Dress: Golf attire Collared shirt, no jeans

**9 holes of golf followed by dinner: choice of steak, chicken, salmon or ribs
Secret Score Wins \$200**

Come support the Foundation in its support of serving soldiers
and the Cadet Corps
and

An opportunity for fellowship with other Island Gunners and their supporters

**Admission: \$300 a foursome Individuals \$80
(dinner only \$25) - or make a donation at Eventbrite**

Register at Eventbrite at:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/fourth-annual-drive-for-victory-foundation-and-viaa-golf-tournament-tickets-47700940798?ref=estw>

Charitable donation receipts will be provided for a portion of each admission fee or donation.

Canadian Charity Number 88894 5664

To Register go to:-

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/fourth-annual-drive-for-victory-foundation-and-viaa-golf-tournament-tickets-47700940798?ref=estw>

**The Regimental Sergeant-Major
Warrant Officers and Sergeants
of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment,
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery**

*Cordially invite you
to their*

ANNUAL MESS DINNER

Saturday, 8th September 2018

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 by 29th August 2018
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