



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Dec 4, 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.

This is the last full newsletter for 2018. I will continue to publish a limited edition, mainly to keep advertising upcoming events and to keep the WW2 daily diary up to date. Next full edition on Jan 8.

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 - Tomorrow is the last lunch of 2018. 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. For serving personnel, uniform of the day is always acceptable at lunch.

First lunch of 2019 – Jan 9th

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

Dec 05	Last lunch of 2018
Dec 06	15 Fd Band Christmas Concert BCR Christmas Fundraiser Luncheon
Dec 09	CO's Christmas Tea
Jan 01	New Years Levée – 1100hrs in the Officers and WO & Sgts Mess
Jan 09	First lunch of 2019
Jan 26	78 th Fraser Highlanders - Burns Dinner

The **Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir** is holding a series of Christmas Concerts throughout the lower mainland over the next few weeks. See posters at the end of the newsletter.

Holiday Stand down - The Unit will stand down from Dec 9 - Jan 7. Last lunch will be Dec 5 and the first lunch of 2019 will be Jan 8. Note: Although we encourage members to bring their significant others to our lunches, the last lunch of the year has traditionally been the lunch that attendees bring their significant others, and other guests, to. If you plan to do this, please let me know ASAP so I can give numbers to Mrs Lum

World War 2 – 1943

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

Dec 5th: Ferocious fighting occurs over possession of the summit of Monte Camino.

Dec 6th: X British Corps secures the summit of Monte Camino; II US Corps starts up the slopes of Monte la Difensa and 8th Army starts to close up to the River Moro.

Dec 7th: II US Corps and VI Corps are now aimed at Monte Summacro and San Pietro. Harris claims he can end the war if he can send 15,000 Lancaster sorties over Berlin over the next few months... as it is, he does send 14,500 before March.

Dec 8th: Soviets close in on Znamenka. In Italy, French and Moroccan troops come into the front line and Italian troops are being mobilized to serve in the Allied cause. The Canadians take the lead in 8th Army's front and start to cross the Moro River. The Allies start shipping veteran formations out of Italy for return to England. Kwajalein is bombarded by five US battleships.

Essential Reading: The campaign across the Moro and into Ortona was a nightmare for the four Allied divisions in the attack, and the four German ones on the defence. The Germans were fighting with their usual defensive skill, the Allies were fighting with their usual superiority in artillery, and nature was deluging both with cold rain and mud. The duel between the 1st Canadian Division and the 1st Fallschirmjager Division was particularly stubborn and Canadians have some justification for "thinking of the climax of the campaign as their own... Any decent library on the war would be advised to include Mark Zuehlke's Ortona: Canada's Epic WWII Battle.

Dec 9th: 5th Army on Italy's western coastal plains is busy consolidating its new gains in the teeth of German counterattacks.

Dec 10th: Roosevelt signs a draft bill that lets fathers (with children born before Dec 7, 1941) go to the bottom of the list. Znamenka is liberated. 1st Canadian Division crosses the Moro in strength. US Marines extend their holdings on Bougainville, and the first US airstrip on the island opens for business.

Dec 11th: 5th Army halts while the Canadians continue to expand their Moro bridgehead on 8th Army's front. Poland's top fighter ace does something few other Allied fliers have done ...shoots down aircraft from three different enemies. By shooting down two Japanese A6M Zeroes while attached to the legendary Flying Tigers, Witold Urbanowicz raises his score to 17 wartime kills (in addition to his peace-time kill of an intruding Soviet aircraft over Poland), and has now shot down Soviet, German and Japanese aircraft. He holds the award of Virtuti Militari.

A Canadian War Hero You've Never Heard of, But Should Have

Hub Gray was a hero in the Korean War. But even after the fighting, he wouldn't back down until another soldier's bravery was honoured. *Dan Bjarnason/Bernie M Farber*

Nov 30, 2018



Soldiers from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) waded through a river in Kapyong in an undated photograph from the Korean War.

Postmedia News

A 1950 photograph of
Hub Gray.

*supplied/Postmedia
News*



Hub Gray died the other day. He was 90. You know, Hub Gray ... that war hero you never heard of. The guy from the "Forgotten War." Hub showed immense physical courage during the battle of Kapyong in the Korean War. And also, deep moral courage which he flung into another battle in the years that followed. Hub was a young lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2PPCLI), a special unit of volunteers raised specifically to fight in Korea. It was under the command of Col Jim Stone, a much-decorated, if somewhat flawed hero of the Second World War. Col Stone was quirky but brilliant. 2PPCLI arrived in Korea on Dec. 18, 1950. In April it found itself near the village of Kapyong, a milepost on the traditional invasion path into the south of Korea.

On the night of April 22, 1951, an entire Chinese division attacked, hoping to take Seoul, only a few miles away. 2PPCLI was surrounded, and on its own. This was to be Canada's first battle of the Korean War. It was a terrifying night of positions lost and retaken, hand-to-hand fighting



in the dark, with bayonets, grenades, rifle butts, and shovels. At one point, the Chinese attacked battalion headquarters from the rear. If HQ fell, the Canadians would be driven off the hill and the road to Seoul would be open. It did not fall, in part thanks to Hub Gray.

Members of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, including Mike Levy in foreground, return from patrol about two weeks before the Battle of Kapyong, in Korea in April 1951.

Hub Gray/Postmedia News

He was in charge of a small mortar/machine gun unit. Coming at them: about 500 battle-hardened Chinese. With the enemy almost on top of them, Gray's men opened fire, the Chinese attack stalled, and then fell apart, described by one Canadian as "like kicking the top off an ant hill." The Canadians were down to their last bullets when the Chinese advance finally broke. Hub's machine guns had saved HQ. And so Kapyong did not fall. Nor did Seoul. Hub Gray was a real-life hero whose courage and initiative made the difference. Five men in other units were (rightly) decorated for bravery that night. Hub Gray was not among them. In later years he wrote his own account of Kapyong ("Beyond the Danger Close") with a vivid account of the fighting, but made no mention at all of his own vital role. You'd scarcely know he was there. That's Hub Gray ... the hero you never heard of.



Hub Gray, left, is seen at a Valour Canada Flame of Remembrance Ceremony in Calgary on Nov. 15, 2013, with, from left, then deputy premier Thomas Lukaszuk, Brad Pierce of Valour Canada and Honourable Guard Commander David Holmes.

Bill Brooks/Postmedia News

An undated photograph of Mike Levy.
Postmedia News



Another neglected Kapyong hero was a dashing young lieutenant, Mike Levy, who'd fought behind the lines in Southeast Asia against the Japanese. At Kapyong, Levy was in command of an isolated platoon that came under an attack so intense his men were on the verge of being overwhelmed. He called in artillery fire on his own position. Levy was an extremely popular officer and everyone in the battalion knew he'd had his own foxholes shelled. Mysteriously, Levy got no decoration. No one could figure it out. Enter Hub Gray. Researching his own book on Kapyong, he came across Mel Canfield, an officer logging communication between Col Stone and his companies during the fighting. Canfield was a fly on the wall. Stone was contemplating the awarding of medals, and Canfield said he overheard Stone saying: "... I will not award a medal to a Jew." And there the matter stood for over half a century. But not for Hub Gray. The injustice of it all haunted him. He had moral courage that matched his battlefield bravery. He lobbied, cajoled, and prodded for years. Col Stone — who died in 2005 — was a popular commander with his men, and among historians. Some felt the Levy/Stone issue was history and best just left in the past. Not Hub. He recruited the-then governor-general, Adrienne Clarkson, to the cause, who had deep personal connections to PPCLI and to the Korean War

(she is now PPCLI's Colonel-in-Chief). In 2004, she granted a coat of arms to Mike Levy in recognition of his work that April night at Kapyong. So that's who Hub Gray was: a hero no one's heard of. He died Nov. 9 in Calgary. A pity it wasn't in the news.

— *Dan Bjarnason was a CBC documentary reporter for over 35 years. He is the author of Triumph at Kapyong; Canada's Pivotal Battle in Korea. Bernie M. Farber is a columnist, social justice advocate and former CEO of Canadian Jewish Congress. He has written numerous profiles on Canadian Jewish war heroes.*

Philanthropist Couple Step Up to Save a Piece of Canadian History

Roy MacGregor Ottawa Nov 19, 2018



Sir Cyril Woods, centre, came to Canada in 1956, with a wife, child and \$100 in his pocket. Over the next decades Mr. Woods would make millions developing car paints and undercoating, eventually retiring to Toronto, On. Susan Ross/Canadian War Museum

Sir Cyril Woods was desperate to stand up for his country. His grandfather, Charles Woods, had been a casualty of mustard gas in the Great War, spending the last six decades of his life in a veteran's hospital. His father and brother served in the Second World War. At the age of 11, the young lad from Omagh, County Tyrone, walked and ran the nearly 110 kilometres to Belfast to sign up as well, only to be twice sent home and told to grow up first. He never did make it to the front. Mr. Woods came to a new country, Canada, in 1956, with a wife, child and \$100 in his pocket. A painter by trade, over the next decades he would make millions developing car paints and undercoating, eventually retiring to Toronto where he and his second wife, Lorna (his first wife passed away several years after their arrival), have given millions to hospitals and other good causes.

On Monday, Nov 19, 2018, the Woods put up the cash necessary to ensure a rare Victoria Cross did not slip into the hands of foreign collectors. Previous medals have sold for more than three-quarters of a million dollars. Canadian War Museum



Monday afternoon in Ottawa, the Woods stood up for their adopted country (she's originally from Singapore) when they put up the cash necessary to ensure a rare Victoria Cross did not slip into the hands of foreign collectors. Previous medals have sold for more than three-quarters of a million dollars. The cross, awarded to Lieutenant Robert Hill Hanna for "outstanding gallantry, personal courage and determined leading of his company," was won during the historic Battle of Hill 70 in 1917. With officers of B Company, 29th Battalion, killed or wounded during three failed assaults to take the high ground near the coal city of Lens, France, Lt. Hanna led the survivors on one more desperate attack, rushing a key German machine-gun position and taking it. The Irish-born Mr. Hanna survived the war and lived to see Canada's Centennial in 1967, dying at the age of 79 near Abbotsford, B.C. It is not known how his medal came up for sale, nor is anyone saying how much the Woods paid for it.

When word reached the Canadian War Museum that a Canadian-won Victoria Cross was about to go on auction, the museum reached out to those running the Hill 70 Memorial Project, a not-for-profit group dedicated to raising awareness of this forgotten battle. Hill 70 was considered a significant tactical victory for the Allies and was the first time the Canadian troops came under command of one of their own, Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie. Military historians say this successful battle, along with the Canadians' role in the earlier victory at Vimy Ridge, was pivotal in having Canada move from colony to nation. The battle took place Aug. 15-25, 1917, but victory was costly: 1,877 Canadians killed and more than 7,000 wounded or missing in action. Six Canadians were awarded the highest military honour for their heroics at Hill 70. The museum has had three of the Victoria Crosses for some time but was anxious to add a fourth. James Whitham, the museum's acting director-general, approached organizers of the Hill 70 project but they felt they had no mandate to spend previously raised funds on such a purchase. Word was that there were already bids in on the Hanna medal and concerns were rising that the museum – which now holds 39 of the 99 Victoria Crosses awarded to Canadians – would miss out. "Bidding on a Victoria Cross was never part of the original plan," project chairman Mark Hutchings says. "But if we could get the museum to put up a permanent display for the Battle of Hill 70 – then bingo, it's a no-brainer."

They turned to the Woods, founding donors for the project who last year attended the dedication as well as the official opening of the memorial park in France. "It's being Irish," Sir Cyril says. "Irishmen aren't scared when it comes to war. When we're loyal to our country, we'll fight for it." Fight for his country just as his grandfather had, only to pay a terrible price. Sent home from Belfast because he was too young, 11-year-old Cyril took to visiting his grandfather regularly, always taking along "a little poke of candy" for the old man in the veterans' home. "My grandfather is in my thoughts and prayers every single day," Sir Cyril says nearly 80 years later. "As a Canadian who, like Robert Hanna, was also born in Northern Ireland, I am honoured to do this. His Victoria Cross deserves to be preserved and displayed by the museum – for the benefit of all Canadians."

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Have you signed up to sponsor a CO's staircase portrait? There's only twenty left. Your name will be recorded on the back side. Check out the status here:

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/commanding-officers-wall-portraits>

Here's the latest website updates:

Regimental centennial glasses

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/december-02nd-2018>

2018 St Barbara's Day <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/st-barbara-2018.html>

2014 Robbie Burns Dinner fundraiser <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/robbie-burns.html>

2013 Change of RSM <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/change-of-rsm.html>

2013 OP Attention <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/wishnicki.html>

2012 Soldiers' Christmas Dinner

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/soldiers-christmas-2012.html>

2011 Soldiers' Christmas Dinner

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/soldiers-christmas-2011.html>

2008 Soldiers' Christmas Dinner

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/christmas-dinner---2008.html>

1970 50th Anniversary Parade <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1970.html>

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

Who Is It



Last Week: A Boeing CIM-10B Super Bomarc missile on display in Ottawa. An American long-range, surface-to-air nuclear missile developed by Boeing Airplane Company (BO) and the Michigan Aeronautic Research Center (MARC) in 1950s; produced by Boeing from 1957 to 1964. It was the first long-range anti-aircraft missile in the world and was operated by the US Air Force and served with two RCAF missile squadrons as part of NORAD from 1962 to 1972, although never saw action. It was remotely launched by Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) computer control to intercept Soviet bombers. Political debate surrounding Bomarc's

nuclear warheads played a significant role in the collapse of Canada's minority government in 1963. Obsolete Bomarc's served as target drones for testing more modern air-defence missiles.

The chap in the middle is Major General George

Pearkes VC, PC, CC, CB, DSO, MC, CD, OD who served as BC's 20th Lieutenant Governor from October 1960 – July 1968.

This Week: “Never in the field of human conflict has so little been known about so many.” So said a famous politician, although who is not recorded, as the label has fallen off the record. In any case, he was possibly referring to the lads who flew this snappy crate. Aficionados of historically inaccurate John Wayne movies might recall one with this beast as the main good guy. Others might think of the Desert Air Force and the struggle against the not-all-that-bad Rommel.



However, we wish you to think long and hard and be truly Canadian. This week’s quiz photo is about this aeroplane in the maple-syrup sticky hands of our Canuck flyboys. The first question is: what type of kite is this? Secondly, where could one have seen them locally when they were in service? And, finally, did they ever see action, and, if so, where? Your responses may be sent to that Flying Tiger of an editor, Bob Mugford bob.mugford@outlook.com or the Biggles of the Museum, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Keep ‘em flying!

From the ‘Punitary’

How many sides does a house have? Two, an inside and an outside!

Murphy’s Other Laws

It is impossible to make anything foolproof because fools are so ingenious

Quotable Quotes

Personally, I’m always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught.
Winston Churchill

15 Fd Artillery Regimental Band Christmas Concert – 6 Dec

The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society and
Naval Officers' Association of BC, in partnership with

The Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCN
and
the Partita Choir from the Vancouver Bach Children's Choirs
present

Santa's Journey

a Christmas concert



DECEMBER 6TH 7:30PM

VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE, 600 HAMILTON STREET

TICKETS

\$20 adults

\$10 seniors/students/children

Available at the door and at
santas-journey.eventbrite.ca

Proceeds donated to local charities
ISS of BC, MOSAIC and SUCCESS



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION

You are invited to the

2018 Annual Christmas Fundraiser

When: Thursday, December 6, 2018

Time: 11:30 AM – Doors Open

Lunch: Served from 12:15 PM to 12:45 PM
Followed by Silent Auction and Raffle

Where: The Drill Hall
Home of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO)
620 Beatty Street
Vancouver, BC

Tickets: \$35.00 if confirmed by December 1, 2018
\$40.00 if confirmed December 2 to December 6, 2018
Please note, cancellations after December 5, 2018 will be invoiced

Menu: Turkey - With all the trimmings!

-
- **Silent Auction!**
 - **The usual valuable lucky prize draws!**
 - **If you can't attend, a donation will be welcomed.***
 - **Funds raised help us to fund Association Bursaries, Commemorative events, support of five cadet corps and numerous other projects of The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust.**
 - **Enjoy great company, good food and have fun while helping a worthy cause.**

RSVP by Wednesday, December 5, 2018 to:
Charlotte Yen at 604-630-4585 or e-mail to: corporate@hplaw.ca

*** Please send any cheques to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust
c/o #208 – 1899 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., V5C 5T1**



The Commanding Officer

LCol Pierre Lajoie CD

invites you to his

Annual Christmas Tea

to be held on

Sunday December 9th 2018

in the

15th Field Artillery Regiment Officers' Mess

commencing at Two o'clock in the afternoon

Dress: Jacket & Tie

Cost: \$ 20 per person at the door

Please sign up at the Bar !!

Email bob.mugford@outlook.com BY NOV 30
to have your party added to the bar list



Fort Fraser Garrison



I request the company of our Officers, Miladies and Guests at our annual

Garrison Burns Supper

to be held in

The Officers' Mess at Bessborough Armoury,
15th Field Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

Saturday, 26 January 2019

1800hrs for 1900hrs

Dress: Scarlets, Highland Evening wear, Black Tie or Business Attire
Tariff: \$78 per Person

RSVP to jobarb@shaw.ca or 604-522-5766

ASAP! (before 19 January)

Places will be allocated on the sequence (date & time) of RSVP emails received
at jobarb@shaw.ca

Members have priority, but please RSVP soonest as this event is
usually oversubscribed.

Looking forward to seeing you there

James Barrett, Maj.

Officer Commanding



VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Sounds of Christmas

Adults \$30 , Seniors \$28, Students \$15

Wed Nov 28th, 7:30 pm

with Burnaby Central Secondary School,
Chamber "A" Choir

**Michael J Fox Theatre,
7373 McPherson Ave**

Tickets: vwmc.ca or call 604 878 1190

Sat Dec 1, 2:30 pm

with North Surrey Secondary School Choir Polaris

**White Rock Baptist Church
1657 140th St. White Rock**

Tickets: bpt.me/3656481

**Brownpapertickets 1 800 838 3006
Tapestry Music, White Rock 1335 Johnston Rd.**

Sat Dec 8, 7:30 pm

with Magee Secondary School Choir

**Shaughnessy Heights United Church
1550 West 33rd Ave, Vancouver**

**Tickets: bpt.me/36564586
Brownpapertickets 1 800 838 3006**

A small service charge will be applied by brownpapertickets.





VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Sounds of Christmas

Fri Dec 7, 7:30 pm

with Argyle Secondary School

Senior Concert Choir, Chamber Choir & Senior Vocal Ensemble

Centennial Theatre, 2300 Lonsdale Ave.

Tickets: nvrc.ca

Box Office 604 984 4484

Adult \$34, Senior \$30, Student \$15

Price includes all service charges





VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Sounds of Christmas

Sat Dec 15, 2:30 pm

With WJ Mouat Secondary School Choir

**Abbotsford Arts Centre
2329 Crescent Way, Abbotsford**

**Tickets: chilliwackculturalcentre.ca
Box Office 604 391 7469**

Adults \$33, Senior \$31, Student \$17

Price includes all service charges.

