



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Jan 7, 2020

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 - Start tomorrow!

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

- Jan 01** Dues for VAA, RUSI and 15 Fd Officers Mess Associates now payable
- Jan 08** First lunch of 2020 – VAA General Meeting
- Jan 11** 78 Fraser Highlanders – Garrison Robbie Burns Supper
- Jan 15** RUSI Vancouver - meeting of directors
- Jan 29** Seaforth's Museum tour
- Jan 31** 15 Fd Centennial Reunion & birthday pty – meet & greet
- Feb 01** 15 Fd Centennial Reunion & birthday pty
- Mar 6** Whiskey Tasting

World War 2 – 1944

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

Jan 8th: After damaging substantial numbers of US naval ships off Luzon with Kamikaze attacks, the Japanese damage the cruiser HMAS Australia for a change. Pressure increases on 7th US Army as an envelopment of Strasbourg develops from the north and south. Sergeant Day G Turner's nine-man squad was on the receiving end of a German assault at Dahl in Luxembourg that is supported by artillery and armor. Heavily pressed he withdrew his men into a nearby house and defended it continuously for four hours until relieved. Turner led the only two unwounded men in a very determined defence. He personally bayoneted two attackers and used their weapons when his own were out of ammunition. He is awarded the Medal of Honor.

Jan 9th: The liberation of Luzon begins as elements of 6th US Army (6th, 40th, 43rd and 337th Divisions) land at the Lingayen Gulf. Some 150,000 US troops will land to challenge the 110,000 Japanese troops on the Island. Kamikaze aircraft and speedboats will damage the USS Mississippi, two cruisers and several amphibious ships. As the German offensive in Alsace continues, they attempt to take Hatten, France. Among the village's defenders is Master Sergeant Vito R Bertoldo of the 42nd US Infantry Division. Over the next 48 hours, he continually ignored close range German tank fire (at one point, the muzzle of an 88 was poked through a window of a room he was in and fired), while firing on every suitable target that he saw with a machinegun. He is believed to have killed 40 German soldiers and wounded many more. He is awarded the Medal of Honor.

Jan 10th: Now that XXXIII Corps' advance on the Irrawaddy has got the attention of the Japanese, Slim sends IV Corps to hook behind the Japanese by crossing the Irrawaddy much further south near Meiktila. The American beachhead at Luzon expands as more US troops flood in. 1st and 3rd US Armies and XXX British Corps pound on the Germans in the Bulge some more. Fighting in Alsace has centred on US VI Corps of 7th Army and it is taking some hard blows (and dishing out the same).

Jan 11th: 25th US Division and an armored combat team splash ashore at the Lingayen beaches – where the more forward elements soon make contact with the Japanese. The Japanese still have aircraft and boats for Kamikaze attacks and damage a number of smaller US naval craft. In the Ardennes, 3rd Army and XXX Corps link up at St Hubert, while 7th US Army holds up Army Group G at Bitche. There is still a lot of German armour in the Ardennes, and a platoon of infantry from the 6th Armored Division have the misfortune to run into a German Royal Tiger near Bastogne. Staff Sergeant Archer T Gammon charges ahead through thick snow to assault the German infantry shielding the 72 ton Tiger, he knocks out a machinegun crew and other infantry; drawing the fire of both the German infantry and the tank itself. His lone charge puts the massive German tank on the defensive, and it withdraws after killing the gallant NCO. S/Sgt Gammon is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Jan 12th: Zhukov's 1st Belorussian Front (which now contains seven armies), Rokossovsky's 2nd Belorussian Front (nine armies), and Konev's 1st Ukrainian Front (seven armies) are unleashed from central Poland; 1st and 2nd Baltic Fronts and 3rd Belorussian Front will start a new offensive in East Prussia and against the German pocket in Latvia. Facing the trio of famous Soviet generals are 2nd Army, 4th Panzer Army and 9th Army, (all outnumbered by four or five to one in manpower and major equipments). VII and XVIII Corps of 1st Army stage new attacks in the north of the Bulge Salient. Elements of TF-38 call on Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam and have a very good day – sinking 29 merchant ships and 11 minor warships. An attack by Kaiten human torpedoes on US anchorages at Guam and Ulithi goes unnoticed... the Japanese suicide attackers didn't even get close enough to endanger any ships. 19th Indian Division crosses the Irrawaddy north of Mandalay, which excites considerable interest from the Japanese while more British commandos land in the Arakan area.

Essential Reading: The titanic battles on Germany's eastern approaches devour even more of Germany's remaining manpower and army equipment than the Western Allies do, and the massive expenditure of Soviet resources at this time has never really been fully understood by Westerners. The battles of the last year of the war that crushed Germany are always worth reading, and one of the better books is the recent history by Max Hastings. Erudite, with thoughtful opinions, Hastings is in his usual form with Armageddon: The Battle for Germany, 1944-1945 and the book is strongly recommended for all libraries.

Jan 13th: Yesterday, the Germans had an intact frontline in Poland, today they don't; the massive Soviet offensive has completely shattered it. The Japanese on Luzon are almost out of Kamikazes, but one manages to badly damage another US escort carrier. The American beachhead is being steadily expanded. In the Bulge, US and British troops are closing in on Houffalize. Generalleutnant Smilo Frieherr von Lüttwitz gets the thin pleasure of telling Hitler 'I told you so...' and then gets removed from the command of the shattered Armies in Poland. After five years of fighting that have seem him receive the Knights Cross with Swords and Oak Leaves, he knows what would result from an 11:1 imbalance in manpower, 20:1 in artillery and 7:1 in tanks, and has made his opinions on the matter clear. He is sent to command a phantom headquarters and to stay out of Hitler's notice, but eventually gets the last laugh... this talented and brave commander is among the first generals called on to help build the West German Army ten years later.

Essential Reading: It is a school of thought that has been contested by somewhat chauvinistic writers in recent years, but the German Army mostly performed better than most of its opponents most of the time. In terms of tactics, operational theory and ability to improvise, the German military had long demonstrated an institutionalized excellence. One of the first and best explorations of the phenomenon comes from one of the early giants of operational research analysis, Colonel T.N. Dupuy. His book 'A Genius for War: The German Army and General Staff, 1807-1945' truly is essential reading.

Jan 14th: Krakow's rail-lines to the south are cut by advancing Soviet troops, who also fend off German attempts to relieve Budapest and make advances in Czechoslovakia. Another day, another Communist-British ceasefire in Greece – the Communists ELAS says it will release all its hostages, except for those accused of collaboration (strangely, a number of accusations are about to surface, who knew?). Infantrymen seldom know quite what to make of poets and literary critics in their number. Lt Ziya Bunyadov has been lodged as his battalion's intelligence officer for two years and is at least prized for his entertainment value. Today at the Pilitsa Bridge in Poland, the poet becomes a warrior and leads an assault into the German defences where his men kill 100 of the enemy and take 45 prisoners. His conduct in capturing the bridge earns him the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Jan 15th: Another day, another series of raids by TF38, this time off Formosa and the Pescadores again. Soviet forces take Kielice in Poland and 4th Ukrainian Front begins its offensives to the south of Konev's 1st Ukrainian Front in southern Poland. US XIV Corps crosses the Agno River on Luzon while I Corps can't quite enter Rosario.

WW2 Week by Week on YouTube

There is a video series now being posted on YouTube that is doing World War 2 week by week, in installments. Check it out at:-

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsIk0qF0R1j4Y2QxGw33vYu3t70CAPV7X>

New Years Breakfast 1 Jan 2020 at Frankie's Italian Kitchen and Bar

back to front

2Lt Ken Keene

Sgt Donato Calogero

WO Ian Smith (ret'd)

MWO Angus Brady

Sgt Kazue Maruyama

Sam

Capt Richard Van
Slyke (ret'd)



back to front

Jody

Sgt Kyle Hodgson

Sgt Brenda Woods

Capt Kevin Walker

Catherine Gagnon

Col Leon Jensen
(ret'd)

Capt Doug Gayton
(ret'd)

Citroen's WW II Sabotage

Eric Mold

You're likely unaware that 2019 year was the 100th anniversary of Citroën, the French car manufacturer. France's Andre Citroën, an engineer by training, started a car factory and produced the first Citroën car in 1919, but the company went bankrupt in 1934. Citroën the man died of cancer the following year. Fast-forwarding several years, Citroën was once again a successful enterprise, having been rescued and taken over by Michelin. While doing some research I happened to stumble upon a fascinating bit of wartime Citroën lore. It involves screwing with Nazis in a genuinely clever and subtle way that nevertheless had big repercussions. I'll explain. So, when France was occupied by the Germans in 1940, major French factories like Citroën were forced to produce equipment for the Nazis. Citroën president

Pierre-Jules Boulanger, a former French Air Force Captain and World War I hero, knew he couldn't just refuse to produce anything, but he also knew there's no way in hell he's going to just roll over and build trucks for a bunch of filthy Nazis. Pierre had a plan.

John Reynold's book *Citroën 2CV* describes Boulanger's sabotage efforts. Of course, he instructed workers to set a nice, leisurely pace when building trucks (likely Citroën T45 trucks) for the Wehrmacht, but that's fairly obvious. What was brilliant was Boulanger's idea to move the little notch on the trucks' oil dipsticks that indicated the proper level of oil down just a bit lower. By moving the notch down, the trucks would not have enough oil, but German mechanics would have no idea, because, hey, the little notch on the dipstick says its just fine. Then, after the truck has been used for a while and is out deployed somewhere crucial, whammo, the engine seizes up, and you've got a lot of angry, stranded, vulnerable Nazis, balling up their little fists and madly barking curses in German. It's such a fantastic act of sabotage: it's extremely cheap to implement, it's subtle, there's no way to see something amiss is happening as the trucks are being built, and it delivers its blow away from the site of the sabotage and when it will cause the most inconvenience and trouble.

That's some mighty good sabotaging, Pierre. Happy 100th Anniversary, Citroën. The Free World thanks you.

Telephone Scam Alert from VAC

Dear Stakeholders and Advisory Group members,

Veterans Affairs Canada is aware of frauds and scams attempting to mimic real federal government services to gain access to personal and financial information. We take these matters very seriously. You are reminded that we will never request a Social Insurance Number, banking or credit card information over the phone. We urge Veterans and all Canadians to be vigilant when a person claiming to be from Veterans Affairs Canada asks for personal or banking information.

If you believe someone is fraudulently seeking your personal information, we encourage you to report it to the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#) and your local police.

The alert can be found here: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/news-media/alerts#1>

We encourage you to pass this along to anyone who may be affected.

Sincerely,

Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Team

Veterans Affairs Canada vac.engagement.acc@canada.ca

The US Army's New Boot Mounted Personnel Tracker

Never lose a soldier again. Task & Purpose Jared Keller December 27, 2019



A warfighter localization sensor unit or WarLoc, in action (Robotics Research photo)

Army commanders may never have to worry about losing a lieutenant ever again. The Army last week awarded a \$16.5 million contract to Maryland-based defense contractor Robotic Research for boot-mounted trackers so dismounted soldiers can keep tabs on one another in environments where GPS-based systems are ineffective. The "warfighter localization sensor unit," known as WarLoc, is designed to operate in GPS-degraded and -denied environments such as underground facilities or dense urban terrain. It also resembles a court-ordered ankle bracelet. "WarLoc's small-form factor and state-of-the-art capability to provide highly accurate localization and positional information in GPS-denied environments make this device a perfect fit for America's forces tasked with defending our freedoms on the front lines," Robotic Research president Alberto Lacaze said in a statement.

WarLoc will be fielded to four deployed brigade combat teams "in various locations" in the near future according to the company. As the Pentagon reorients from 18 years of counterterrorism operations in the Middle East to "great power competition" with Russia and China, the Army is increasingly focused on locator devices capable of functioning in contested environments where GPS may prove either unreliable or jammed outright. "Imagine soldiers going inside of a very large building and getting lost or turned around in an underground facility, and someone else is jamming GPS, or blue force tracker stops working," Lacaze told Defense News. "This allows you to continue that capability, even when GPS is jammed either because of natural causes like being underground or because someone's purposefully doing it." According to the company, the first batch of WarLocs have already been delivered to the service. No word yet on whether or not the WarLoc will be available to soldiers for land nav portion of their Expert Soldier Badge test.



CFMWS & BMO Renew Partnership



Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS) has recently signed a ten-year extension of its partnership with BMO Bank of Montreal to deliver the Canadian Defence

Community Banking Program. With the extension, BMO continues to be the Official Bank and exclusive provider of banking services and financial products to members of the Canadian Defence Community.

“Over the past decade, our partnership with BMO has allowed us to improve the lives of members, veterans and their families, and we are excited to continue delivering a wide range of benefits specifically designed for our Defence Community,” said Sean N Cantelon, CEO, Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services. “We look forward to working with BMO in this renewed partnership to enhance services that meet the needs of the Defence community, today and tomorrow.”

To learn more about the Canadian Defence Community Banking Program and other financial services offered by Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services go to:-

<https://cfmws.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e3ac4a30959c3a73fb47df888&id=4d2ba3c63b&e=91fdbbf188>



We're proud to extend our relationship with the Canadian Defence Community for another 10 years! All CFOne members, including Canadian Armed Forces members, veterans and their families can get **FREE banking!** Plus, BMO employee pricing on mortgages.

Learn more 

Epic Ski Pass 2019/2020

If you like to ski, this is one deal that is truly epic. Vail Resorts continues to honour the epic service of the Company's founders from the 10th Mountain Division, and men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, Canadian Armed Forces and Australian Defence Force, by continuing the Military Epic Pass program into the 2019-20 season. The 2019-20 Military Epic Pass

provides an incredible value for service members and their families to enjoy unlimited, unrestricted skiing at the Company's owned and operated resorts.

It's insane. \$199 for unlimited, unrestricted skiing for active duty and retired at nearly an \$800 savings. There are great deals for veterans, too. For details go to:-

<https://www.epicpass.com/pass-results/military.aspx>

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Here's the latest activities from the website of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA:

Lots of things happening for our Centennial! Have you ordered your tickets for the Birthday Party? <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/centennial-page.html>

Battlefield Tour Update <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/battlefield-tour-2020.html>

Great New Year's Day Breakfast crowd <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2020.html>

A few Levee pictures

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-20205681603>

Was this our last 1812 performance? <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1989.html>

Recruiting ad in 1988 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1988.html>

Group Photo Advanced Technician Course 1985 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1985.html>

Changing of the Guard 1976 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1976.html>

Guns on Parade in 1969 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1969.html>

Anti-Aircraft live firing Spanish Banks

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1945---11th-aa-regt-rca-rf.html>

Band stood up in 1933 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/band-1933.html>

Armistice Day 1921 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1921.html>

Important Visitor in 1920 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1920.html>

Don't forget the VAA meeting on the 8th!

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-2020>

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

Who (or What) Is It?



Last Week: *From the photo album of Lt Col RH Webb - captured 1937 Mercedes-Benz 320 Staff Car - Type 320 (W142) JE. The caption says "En route to Holland with captured Jerry auto". All are 12 FD RCA officers.*

This Week: We continue this week with our land-themed photos, again from the same source as last week's, the photo album of Lt Col RH Webb. None of these photos has been previously published, so it is something of an honour to be able to present them to our vast readership. Our editor assures me that the number of subscribers exceeds single digits, by far, maybe even into the teens! As our readers can see from their manly, soldierly bearing, the men in this picture are Canadians. Their cool, casual poses, plus natural confidence assures us of this (plus the fact that the caption also states their nationality). No slovenly, hands-in-pockets, gum-chewing for these warriors of the King!



Their steed, however, seems to be in need of some work on its suspension system, and might have one or two other mechanical issues making it less than roadworthy. From its cobbled together, inelegant design, we can instantly see that it is no product of the British Empire, as we were famous for the sleekness of our vehicles, such as the mighty Vickers Light Tank Mk VI, or the streamlined Churchills. It is, as you have guessed, an evil Nazi weapon. However, part of it brings to mind

not just the defeat of Hitler's regime, but that of an ally of ours. All of which brings us to the questions of the week. What is this ugly thing? What part of it was once friendly to our armed forces? Answers and musings may be sent to the editor, Bob Mugford

(bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the editor, John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)).

From the 'Punitary'

How does a snowman get around? He rides an icicle!

Murphy's Other Laws

You know that your landing gear is up and locked when it takes full power to taxi to the terminal.

Quotable Quotes

The whole point of getting things done is knowing what to leave undone. - *Oswald Chambers*

Dues 2020

As of Jan 1, memberships dues are payable for 15 Fd Regt Officers Mess Associate Members, Vancouver Artillery Association and the Royal United Services Institute - Vancouver Society. Details below.

Dues for the **Vancouver Artillery Association** are \$25, payable to the Vancouver Artillery Association. Dues cheques can be mailed to:

Treasurer, Vancouver Artillery Association
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

VAA dues can also be paid by e-transfer by sending payments to:-
president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

Dues for **RUSI Vancouver** are \$50 (\$25 for students), payable to RUSI Vancouver. Send to:

Treasurer, RUSI Vancouver
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

Dues for **15 Fd Officers' Mess Associate Members** are \$60, payable to 15 RCA Officers Mess. Send to:

Treasurer, 15 Fd Regt Officers Mess
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7



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, 11 January, 2020

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 6 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

15 Fd Centennial Reunion

15th Field Artillery Regiment's

Open Messes

Live Music and Dancing

100th Centennial Reunion

Tickets—\$30

Band Reunion Concert

Equipment Displays

Food Trucks (included in the ticket price)



Bessborough Armoury
2025 West 11th Ave, Vancouver

31 Jan	Meet and Greet 1800 - 2300
1 Feb	Open House 1300 – 1600 &
1 Feb	Reunion Party 1800 – 2330

[* click here for Tickets at Eventbrite *](#)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/15th-field-artillery-regiment-centennial-celebration-tickets-81257570581>