



#### Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Nov 8, 2016

**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** Mrs Lum serves an excellent meal. Anybody who has attended will attest to the fact that the quality of the meal is top notch and you get soup, salad, main course, dessert, cheese and crackers and coffee/tea for \$20 – you won't find a better meal or deal anywhere else in town. Jacket and tie required, equivalent for ladies.

Navy lunch – 30 Nov: Guest Speaker Robert Young Director of Western Region, CSIS

**Upcoming events – Mark your calendars** Details to follow in future editions

Nov 11 - Remembrance Day - Messes will be open after the Salute

Dec 3 - St Barbara's Day Special Guest night. See invitation at end of newsletter RSVP required (with payment) by Nov 23.

- Christmas Tea - sign up list is now posted at the bar. If you can't make it in to lunch, email me to put you on the list. The Mess is looking for early replies

Jan 1 - New Year's Levée

Feb 11 - Regimental reunion dinner - details TBA

**Holiday Stand down -** The Unit will stand down from Dec 12 - Jan 6. Last lunch will be Dec 7 and the first lunch of 2017 will be Jan 11. We will start collecting soon for Mrs Lum's purse

#### World War 2 - 1941

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

**Nov** 9<sup>th</sup>: Force K from Malta attacks an Italian convoy, sinking all seven transports and one escort. The Germans finally capture Tikhvin, east of Leningrad and also take Yalta in the Crimea.

Nov 10<sup>th</sup>: Churchill makes a speech warning Japan that a war against the US will also mean one against the UK.

Nov 11<sup>th</sup>: The last Anglo-Ethiopian offensive to liberate Ethiopia begins.

**Nov 12<sup>th</sup>:** General Halder presents his plans for the final offensive on Moscow to his dubious Ostfront Army commanders. 34 Hurricanes are flown off Ark Royal and Argus to reinforce Malta.

Nov 13<sup>th</sup>: U81 and U205 intercept HMS Ark Royal and inflict lethal damage on the British aircraft carrier.

**Nov 15<sup>th</sup>:** The drive on Moscow resumes, but the Wehrmacht's spear points have been blunted by hard wear and heavy casualties while the Soviets are husbanding their reserves.

#### Job Dissatisfaction and Moves Across Country Causing Soldiers to Quit

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen October 31, 2016



A handful of troops head over to a Canadian Armed forces Airbus aircraft as it boards troops at the Shell Aerocentre apron area at the Edmonton International Airport Thursday morning. Walter Tychnowicz Edmonton Sun

Job dissatisfaction and repeated moves to new locations across the country are the top reasons behind Canadian Forces personnel leaving the military, according to a report obtained by the Ottawa Citizen. The examination of what prompts staff to

leave comes as the Canadian Forces faces a shortage of soldiers and difficulties recruiting new personnel. The briefing on retention of military staff, provided last year to Chief of the Defence Staff Gen. Jon Vance, outlined the top reasons for those in uniform to leave. A desire for "geographic stability" was the main reason, followed by "job dissatisfaction," according to the briefing obtained by the Citizen under the Access to Information law. Other reasons included the need for more pay and benefits as well as military personnel having issues with senior or unit level leadership.

The briefing for Vance noted that at least 10,000 military personnel are moved in their jobs or relocated to another part of the country each year. Those moves come at a cost to taxpayers. Having to deploy on military missions overseas was only mentioned by a small number of those surveyed as a reason for leaving. Military personnel privately say that the upheaval caused by moving families regularly, as well as the isolated nature of some bases and the lack of job opportunities for spouses, make staying in uniform difficult. Department of National Defence spokeswoman Suzanne Parker said the military is in the process of developing a revitalized strategy for retaining staff. "It will ensure that retaining qualified and competent members in uniform is a fundamental aspect of how we manage our people," Parker stated Monday in an email. "We will review and adjust or develop policies, programs and activities as required that reflect the evolving needs of our members and their families while ensuring that we maintain our operational focus."

In January, a DND report tabled in the Commons outlined problems retaining staff and recruiting. The military has said it needs more than 4,000 new recruits each year just to offset

attrition and keep 68,000 full-time troops in uniform. But the January report noted that in 2015 the Forces was facing a shortage of nearly 1,900 regular force members and 5,300 reservists. That was because of higher than expected attrition and "challenges in meeting recruiting quotas" for reservists. Military leaders have talked in the past about reducing the number of times personnel must relocate. In 2013, then Canadian Forces ombudsman Pierre Daigle also raised the issue, noting his concern about the stress, financial or otherwise, being placed on military families by such moves.

Daigle recommended the military rethink how often it needed to transfer soldiers and uproot their families as part of its "operational requirements." Moving staff every year is expensive for taxpayers and can impose major personal and financial hardships on military families, he noted. "Why do we move people so much and how many times do we have to move?" Daigle said in a 2013 interview with the Citizen. "Yes, they need operational capacity and people have to be moved, but when they are moved for operational requirements, it is not their choice where they have to go, so to they shouldn't be paying for it and that's where we see the unfairness that needs to be addressed."

## UK Military Intelligence Issues Warning Over Russian Super Tank Threat

Robert Mendick, Chief Reporter 6 November 2016



An Armata tank in Red Square for the May Day parade this year Credit: Kirill Kudryavtsev/Afp/Getty Images

British military intelligence has issued a warning over a ground-breaking tank being developed by Russia, according to a leaked document seen by The Telegraph. The Ministry of Defence internal briefing paper raises doubts over the UK's ability to

combat the threat posed by the Kremlin's new Armata tank. It also questions why the Government has no plans for a rival tank for at least 20 years. The internal document, written by a senior Army intelligence officer, states: "Without hyperbole, Armata represents the most revolutionary step change in tank design in the last half century." It adds: "Unsurprisingly, the tank has caused a sensation," and it goes on to question the failure of current defence strategy to plan for a new tank that can compete. There is growing alarm among military chiefs that a presidential victory for Donald Trump, who has criticised US funding of NATO, could leave the West badly exposed to Vladimir Putin's aggression, especially in the vulnerable Baltic states.

A prototype of the Armata was rolled out last year at the annual May Day parade in Moscow, prompting the commissioning of the five-page intelligence report. The tank is pioneering, according to the document, because of a revolutionary turret design that makes crew less vulnerable under fire. The tank is also reckoned to be lighter, faster and lower in profile than Western rivals. The document also suggests the tank will be kitted out with a radar system currently used on state-of-the-art Russian fighter jets and new composite armour. It has a "reported higher muzzle velocity" gun and the possibility of an upgraded missile system. "As a complete package, Armata certainly deserves its billing as the most revolutionary tank in a generation," concludes the intelligence briefing paper. "For the first time, a fully automated, digitised, unmanned turret has been incorporated into a main battle tank. And for the first time a tank crew is embedded within an armoured capsule in the hull front." The Army intelligence officer says UK defence strategy has concentrated on the threat from improvised explosive devices deployed by insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan and ignored the danger posed by tanks.

Credit: Sasha Mordovets/Getty Images

The paper asks: "Are we on the cusp of a new technological arms race? Has an understandable focus on defeating the single threat of IEDs distracted Western military vehicle designers? Challenger 2 [the British tank], with life



extension programmes, is currently due to remain in service until 2035. Is it time to rethink?" The paper also raises concern over the Scout, a light armoured fighting vehicle due to be introduced for British forces from next year. "In a familiar story of measure and countermeasure, the intelligence assumptions that informed the procurement of Scout as a superior battle-winning platform may now be open to question." The document says that on top of the Armata tank, Russia is adding "six additional armoured vehicles to the stable", including a heavy infantry fighting vehicle and a self-propelled artillery system.

The intelligence report, which it stresses should "not be interpreted as an official MoD statement", also raises the spectre of far superior Russian tank numbers, with plans to build 120 Armata tanks a year from 2018. It points out Russia already has a fleet of 2,500 tanks with a reserve of 12,500, which is "35 times the size of the fleet in the British Army". "With such numbers, decisive effect is credibly achievable and losses are less important," says the document. The conclusions will ring alarm bells, not least following Russia's annexation of the Crimea and the threat to the Baltic states.

Brigadier Ben Barry, a land warfare specialist at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said two features on the Armata would threaten NATO forces. "Firstly, it is the first tank designed with an unmanned turret. This will potentially improve crew survivability," he said. "The turret also looks to have the stretch potential to accommodate a larger-calibre gun of up to

150mm. If fielded, this would overmatch the guns and armour on existing NATO tanks. "Secondly, it appears to be the first tank designed from the outset with an active protection system, to intercept incoming anti-tank guided missiles and shoulder-launched anti-tank weapons." He added: "This has the potential to greatly reduce the firepower of NATO infantry. Of course, there are few Armata yet, and it is not clear how rapidly they will enter service. But as they do, they will increase the effectiveness of Russian armoured forces." The Russian defence ministry announced in September that it had signed a contract for the delivery of the first 100 Armata tanks. Another 2,200 are expected to follow. By contrast, the British Army has 227 Challenger 2 main battle tanks, dating from 1998. Germany has 410 Leopard 2 tanks, and France has 200 Leclerc tanks. America has 2,338 M1 Abrams main battle tanks – although just 250 tanks and armoured fighting vehicles are stationed in Eastern Europe. The Ukrainian government estimates that Russian-backed separatists in their country have 700 tanks.

Lord West of Spithead, a former First Sea Lord, said he was "very concerned" about Russian rearmament. "At the moment, their economy is a war economy," he said. "They have got the GDP of Italy and they are trying to spend the same on defence as America. What they are doing is unsupportable and when something is unsupportable, then anything could happen." Fears over Russia's tank programme have intensified over the prospect of a Trump win in Tuesday's US election. Trump has threatened to abandon a core tenet of NATO – that an attack on one member is an attack on all under article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty – over his belief that Washington is shouldering too much of the financial burden for the military alliance. General Sir Richard Shirreff, the former deputy supreme allied Commander Europe, said: "Here we are days from the election and that's a real, real threat – Trump saying he might not commit to article 5. "The defence of Europe during the Cold War depended on total certainty that whichever president was in the Oval Office, of whatever party, [the US] would come to Europe's defence."

#### Diver May Have Found 'Lost Nuke'

Missing Since Cold War Off Canada's Coast - 4 November 2016



The Mark IV nuclear bomb that was released over the Pacific Ocean in 1950 after a US air force flight's engines caught fire during a simulated drop.

Photograph: Globalsecurity.org Ashifa Kassam in Toronto

The RCN will be heading to the coast of British Columbia to investigate claims that a diver may have come across "the lost nuke" – a Mark IV

bomb that went missing after an American B-36 bomber crashed in the region during the cold war. Diver Sean Smyrichinsky was wrapping up a day of diving near Haida Gwaii, 80km west of the coast of British Columbia, when he stumbled across what may be the remains of the world's first known "broken arrow" – the code name for accidents involving American nuclear weapons. "I was just looking for fish for the next day. I figured I would do a little

reconnaissance dive looking around and on my dive, I got pretty far from my boat," he told the CBC. "And then I found something that I had never, ever seen before."

The object was huge, he said, measuring around 12 feet long. "It resembled a bagel cut in half, and then around the circle of the bagel these bolts all molded into it, like half spheres. It was the strangest thing I had ever seen." He came out of the water, excitedly describing the bowlshaped object and its bolts that were bigger than basketballs. "I started telling my crew: 'My God, I found a UFO." He sketched a rough outline of what he had seen on a napkin.

Smyrichinsky started asking around, curious if anyone else had ever come across the mysterious object. "Nobody had ever seen it before or heard of it. Nobody ever dives there," he told the Vancouver Sun. "Then some old-timer said: 'Oh, you might have found that bomb." It was a reference to the Mark IV, a 10-foot, blimp-shaped nuclear bomb weighing some five tonnes and which went missing over the Pacific during a US air force B-36 training flight on 13 February 1950. According to the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada, the intercontinental bomber had left an air base in Alaska for a mission that included a simulated drop on San Francisco, when three of the plane's six engines caught fire. The crew was forced to abandon the bomber but US air force reports said they first jettisoned the bomb over the Pacific. The US military said the lost bomb was a dummy capsule – packed with lead rather than the plutonium core needed for an atomic explosion. The bomber disappeared from the radar screen just before midnight. Days later, 12 of the 17 men onboard were found alive. The plane, set to autopilot by the crew before they parachuted out of the aircraft, crashed into the snow-covered mountains of northern British Columbia.

The parallels between what he had seen and the story of the lost nuke sent Smyrichinsky searching online. "And sure enough, there was a story about this lost bomb," he told CBC. A search turned up a photo resembling what he had seen. "A big circle with these balls, I had no idea that particular bomb contained all these big balls, bigger than basketballs." A further search suggested that the balls – each some 20 inches across, he said – were home to the initiating explosives in the Mark IV. The bomber had crashed some 50 miles south of where he had been diving. "I'm in the right area and it looks like it could be a piece of that thing," he said. "What else could it possibly be? I was thinking UFO, but probably not a UFO, right?" Smyrichinsky detailed his find in an email to DND, who told him they were looking into the matter with "keen interest". The Canadian Armed Forces said on Friday that a Canadian navy ship would be deployed in the coming weeks to investigate the object. Government records indicate that the lost bomb was a dummy and poses no risk of nuclear detonation, said a spokesperson. "Nonetheless we do want to be sure and we do want to investigate it further," he said. A team specialising in unexploded ordnance will determine what risk, if any, the object poses and whether it should be retrieved from its resting place or left as is, he added.

#### Minister Launches Veterans' Week at Senate Ceremony

OTTAWA, Nov. 3, 2016 - The Honourable Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, joined the Honourable George Furey, Speaker of the

Senate of Canada and the Honourable Geoff Regan, Speaker of the House of Commons, for a special remembrance ceremony in the Senate Chamber today. The Senate ceremony of remembrance is a signature event and marks the beginning of Veterans' Week in Canada. This annual commemorative ceremony invites Veterans and currently serving Canadian Armed Forces personnel to participate in the official launch of this important week, which encourages acts of remembrance and continued support for Canada's Veterans.

Veterans' Week is celebrated in Canada every year from November 5 to 11. The Government of Canada, as well as Veterans' organizations, youth groups, and individuals throughout the country hold hundreds of commemorative ceremonies and events to honour Canada's Veterans, still-serving CAF personnel and RCMP, as well as to pay tribute to those who have fallen in the line of duty.

#### Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

The following pages were updated over the last week. Were you in attendance at any of the events? Did we get the information correct? Have you got a story that you might wish to share? Some additional photographs? Contact Leon Jensen at <a href="LeonJ1@hotmail.com">LeonJ1@hotmail.com</a>

43<sup>rd</sup> HAA Regt 1955 http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1955---43rd-maa-regt-rca.html

Wainwright 1956 <a href="http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1956---15th-fd-regt-rca.htmll">http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1956---15th-fd-regt-rca.htmll</a>

43<sup>rd</sup> HAA Regt 1957 http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1957---43rd-maa-regt-rca.html

St Barbara's Day 1967 <a href="http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1967.html">http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1967.html</a>

Fort Lewis 1971 <a href="http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1981.html">http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1981.html</a>

Christmas Dinner 1973 <a href="http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1973.html">http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1973.html</a>

Don't forget about the Remembrance Day activities coming up! Click Here:

http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/vancouver-artillery-association-remembrance-day-activities

Who is it? Last Week: Local Vancouver militia units set up displays of their equipment



at the Northeast corner of the Oakridge mall parking area at 41<sup>st</sup> and Oak, on 29 - 31 of Aug 1963. The displays operated from 0900hrs to 2200hrs. each day. On the 30 Aug, the BCR's band and a fifty-man composite militia honour guard, formed from the summer YTSP course of 1963, performed a sunset ceremony. The next evening the band of the 15th Field and the guard performed a second ceremony. The Daily Province and the Oakridge News advertised the event and over 800

citizens watched both performances. In the foreground is an original US M1A1 (C2) 105mm Howitzer belonging to 15 Fd at that time. Behind that is a Sherman tank from the BCRs and to the right of the tank is what looks like the back end of a 1953 International Harvester 3 Ton (SCP) Stake truck.

**This Week:** Although the photo archives of the Museum of the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, RCA are vast, requiring a huge vault to house them (well, a filing cabinet), we are starting to run short of our own mystery photos for the quiz. After all, 4,000 photos of C1 (and a few of C2 and C3) howitzers do not raise the curiosity of the reader as much as the few photos of rarer pieces we have. So, we are appealing to our readership to send us scans of photos that might be of interest in our weekly quiz. Scans should be done to at least 300 dpi if of a photo, and 1200 dpi if of a slide. Please crop away any borders. If you don't have a scanner, I can do it for you.



So, this week's "outside the museum" photo comes from young Peter Moogk. He is a keen lad when it comes to photography, and took this shot whilst on a journey to assist the economy of Greece this past summer. The object in question is apparently Bulgarian, captured by our heroic Greek allies during one of the many heated disputes that the Balkans has seen in the past few centuries (millennia?). However, beyond that information, we

haven't a clue what it really is, other than being a gun, mounted in a turret, and dating from before the Great War.

If any of you have any information on this beast, please send such, along with your memories of fine Hellenic cuisine, to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond (johnd.\_redmond@telus.net). Yasu!

#### From the 'Punitentary'

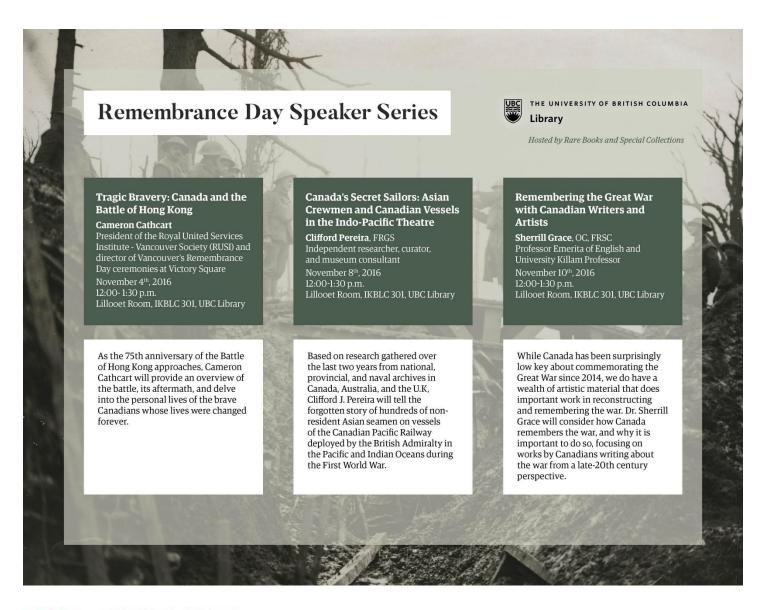
What type of blood does a pessimist have? B-negative!

#### Murphy's Other Laws

No matter what goes wrong, there is always somebody who knew it would.

#### **Quotable Quotes**

The secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his opportunity when it comes. *Benjamin Disraeli* 





### refreshingly local"



#### Enjoy 15% off Best Available Rate! It's our way of honoring you.

Each year around this time, we take a step back from our caffeine-fueled days to remember and honor our heroes, the veterans and active duty military members. To show our appreciation, we're proud to offer veterans 15% off Best Available Rate for stays from November 1 to November 30, 2016 at participating hotels.

Do you know a veteran or an active military member in your community? Help us extend our gratitude and share the love. Guests must present Veterans or military ID upon hotel check-in to receive rate.



# SongsofRemembrance

Wednesday, Nov. 9th at 8pm

CHILLIWACK CULTURAL CENTRE

TICKETS \$34, \$32, \$17 (students)



from the CHILLIWACK CULTURAL CENTRE Boxoffice @ Chilliwackculturalcentre.ca or call (1) 604-391-SHOW (7469)

10% DISCOUNT
FOR GROUPS of TEN OR MORE



# With Glowing Hearts: Songs of Remembrance

Friday, November 11th, 2016 2:30pm

South Delta Baptist Church, 1988 56th St., Tsawwassen

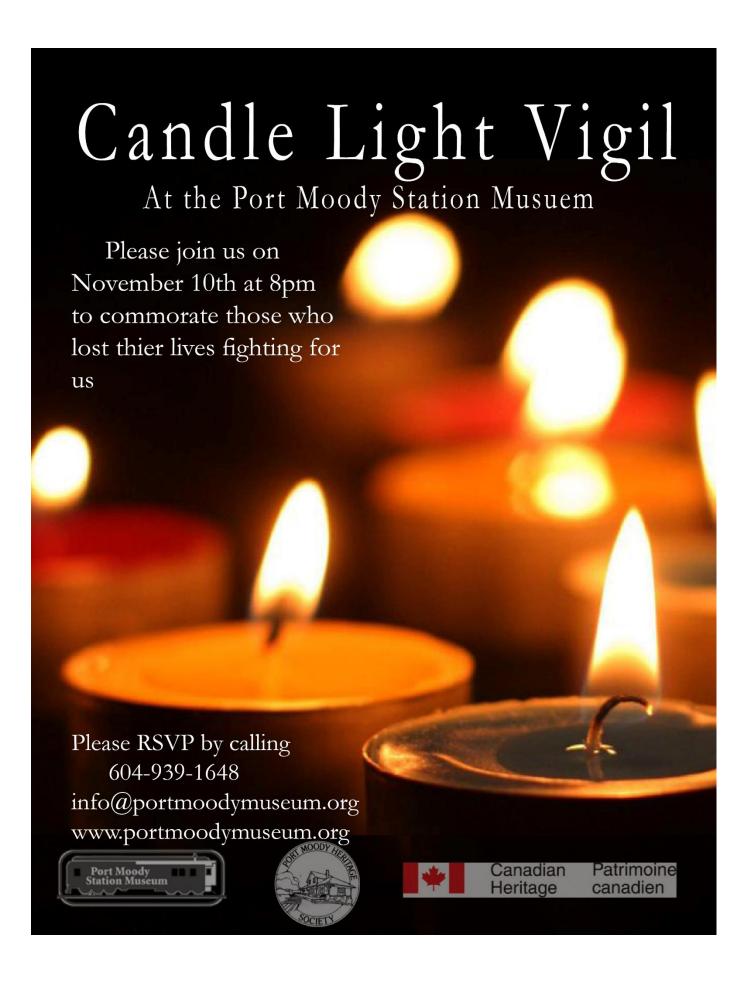
Tickets \$29/\$27/\$12

10% discount for groups of 10 or more

Tickets available at www.vwmc.ca or at the door.







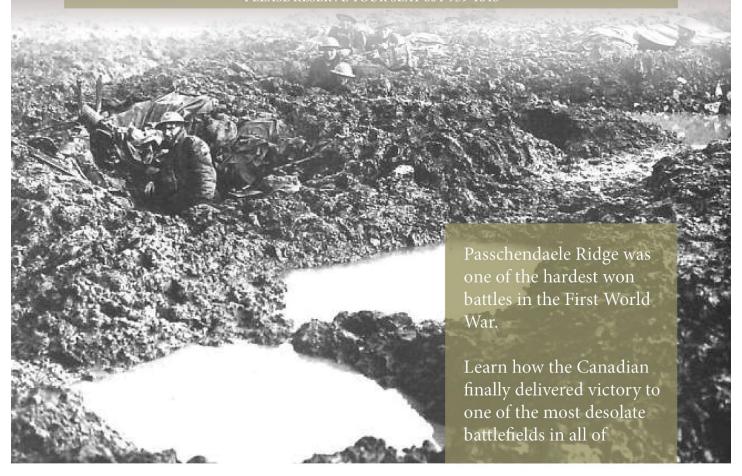
# TRENCH TALKS



November 6, 2016 at 1:00pm

The Port Moody Station Museum presents Trench Talks: Battle at Passchendaele

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SEAT 604-939-1648







Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

2734 Murray Street
Port Moody, BC,V3H 1X2
(604) 939-1648 | portmoodymuseum.org
info@portmoodymuseum.org

#### St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night – 3 Dec 2016



The Commanding Officer
LCol B.A. Purcell, CD
and the Officers
of

15th Field Artillery Regiment
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

request the pleasure of your company at their annual

> ST BARBARA'S DAY SPECIAL GUEST NIGHT

to be held at the

BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY

2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

on

Saturday, the Third of December, 2016

ai

six o'clock for seven o'clock in the evening

Dress: Mess Kit or Formal attire, with decorations

RSVP by 23 November 2016 with payment

Tarif: \$ 105 - Seats will be reserved when payment is received (\$95 if received by 9 November 2016). There will be no tickets available the night of the event.

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

If paying in person, please see the Adjutant during regular work hours or Wednesday night between 7 and 10pm.

Questions to VPMC: Capt Isaak Skuce mess15rca@gmail.com

#### From Vimy to Juno National Travelling Exhibition

The Juno Beach Centre and the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada cordially invite you to a special reception honouring the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Christmas Dinner at Ortona in conjunction with:



## Friday, December 16, 2016 17h to 19h

The Seaforth Highlanders Armoury 1650 Burrard St., Vancouver, British Columbia

Please confirm your presence by **November 15, 2016** dbenoit@junobeach.org / 877-828-5866 ext. 123

From Vimy to Juno is made possible with support from the Department of Canadian Heritage.





