



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Nov 19, 2019

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 need your support to keep the lunches going. Hope all you regular attendees can keep coming. The Mess serves 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 and friends. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies. For serving personnel, uniform of the day is always acceptable at lunch.

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

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|---------------|--|
| Nov 23 | 78 Fraser Highlanders – Feast of St Andrews |
| Nov 27 | NOABC Luncheon Speaker – Liberation of Holland Celebrations in Canada 2020 |
| Dec 07 | 15 Fd Annual St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night |
| Dec 15 | 15 Fd CO's Christmas Tea |
| Jan 01 | New Years Day Levee |
| Jan 11 | 78 Fraser Highlanders – Garrison Robbie Burns Supper |
| Jan 31 | 15 Fd Centennial Reunion – meet & greet |
| Feb 01 | 15 Fd Centennial Reunion |

World War 2 – 1944

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

Nov 20th: Leading elements of the 1st French Army reach Mulhouse and the Rhine River. General Scobie is placed in charge of disbanding Greek guerrilla armies, but the Communists already have plans of their own. British carrier raids hit airfields and oil fields on Sumatra.

Nov 21st: Little headway is made against the Germans in the upper reaches of the Roer. Japanese resistance on Leyte stiffens up around Ormoc. The USS Sealion torpedoes the Kongo and an escorting destroyer off Formosa. The Germans have evacuated Tirana and Durazzo so Enver Hoxha's Communist guerrillas descend from the hills and occupy the undefended cities... later naturally turning this into an epic of resistance.

Nov 22nd: The liberation of Mulhouse is completed by 1st French Army as is that of Metz by Patton's 3rd Army.

Nov 23rd: The Soviets capture Tokay in Hungary. Moscow also announces that northern Finland is clear of German forces. German 7th Army counterattacks US 9th Army.

Nov 24th: 3rd US Army crosses the Saar in the Rhineland and French 2nd Armoured Division liberates Strasbourg. The last heavy elements of the Kriegsmarine (Lutzow, Admiral Sheer and Prinz Eugen) do signal service in covering the evacuation of the garrisons in the Gulf of Riga. Few of the German battleship sailors became highly decorated; it is the U-Boat men who carry the brunt of the Kriegsmarine's battle. One of the 27 German servicemen to receive the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves, Swords and Diamonds; Fregattenkapitän Albrecht Brandi had commanded U-Boats for 12 patrols, sinking the same number of ships. But he had also escaped from internment in Spain (after scuttling his badly damaged submarine) and returned to duty this day.

Nov 25th: 1st US Army comes out the far side of the Hurtgen Forest. US carrier aircraft sink two IJN heavy cruisers, but four carriers are damaged by Kamikaze attacks.

Nov 26th: Soviet troops take Michaloyce in eastern Slovakia. Castles were meant to be easy to defend and German Fallschirmjager are no pushovers themselves. PFC Carl V Sheridan of the 9th US Infantry Division is one of the 35 men remaining in his company who are still available in an assault on Frenzenberg Castle near Weisweiler, Germany. The company has advanced over 1,000 yards through German artillery fire and has captured part of the outer courtyard, but the inner keep has solid stone walls and a wide moat. Sheridan is handling a bazooka alone and attracts the fire of the Castle's garrison of German Fallschirmjager as he gets into position to use his weapon against the oak gate on the far side of the drawbridge. It takes three rockets to blast a sufficient opening. Sheridan then leads an assault through the gate but is killed as he goes through. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

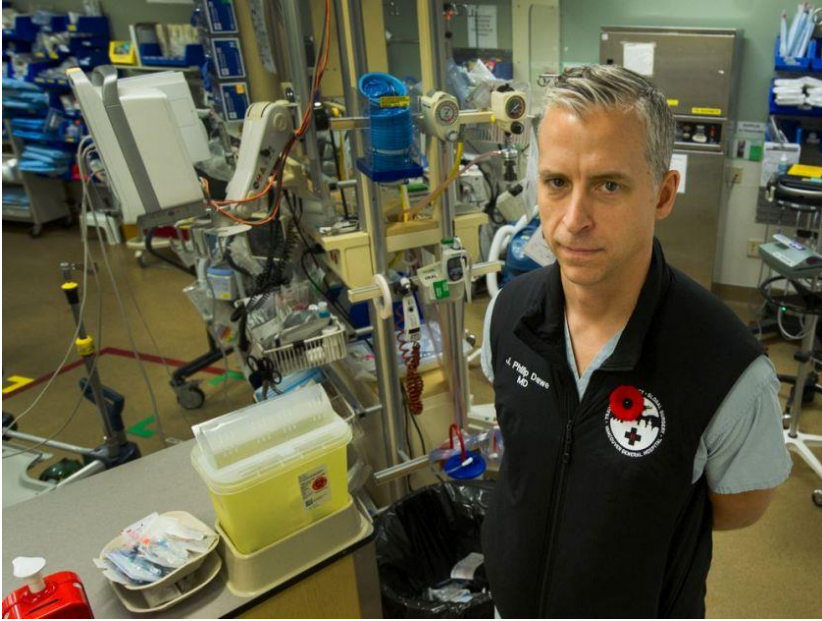
VGH Has Key Role in Training Canadian Military Trauma Surgeons

Embedded surgeons get to hone their skills, ready to deploy to war zones

Gordon McIntyre Vancouver Sun November 12, 2019

Perhaps you're aware Canadian journalists are sometimes embedded with the armed forces in war zones; you're probably less aware that military doctors are embedded at Vancouver General Hospital. It's a program begun about 20 years ago to keep Canada's military medical people primed in trauma care and ready to deploy at almost a moment's notice. Dr Philip Dawe, trauma and acute care surgeon at VGH and a Canadian Forces major, is the third military doctor to head the Canadian Forces Trauma Training Centre West (another, CFTTC East, has opened

in Montreal). “Because we don’t have a main military hospital anymore ... now the model, which I think is a great model, is that we’re embedded in civilian centres,” he said.



Dr Philip Dawe is a trauma and general surgeon at VGH and serves as the medical director for the Canadian Forces Trauma Training Centre (West). He is shown at VGH in Vancouver.

Arlen Redekop / PNG

Saving military lives hits a little closer to home for Dawe than for many, and not just because his father and three brothers all also served. Matt, the youngest of the four Dawe brothers, was 27 when, along with BC soldier Colin Bason, four other Canadian soldiers and their interpreter, they died in a roadside bombing in Kandahar, Afghanistan. His mother Reine was this year’s Silver Cross Mother and on Nov 11 placed a wreath at the National War Memorial in Ottawa on behalf of all Canadian mothers who have lost a child in the military service of Canada. To this day, Dawe needs a moment to collect himself when asked about his little brother. He was already studying medicine, so his brother’s death was not an epiphany moment, he said, but it did galvanize him, cemented his desire to be more than a general practitioner. “If I could save one military person’s life overseas, then my career will be worthwhile,” he said.

There are 50 to 60 specialists among the doctors in Canada’s forces — surgeons, anesthesiologists, orthopedic surgeons, a few other specialties. In a high-level hospital such as VGH, they are able to stay up to speed on their skills while getting a solid volume of work. (Military nurses, physician assistants, paramedics and GPs are also trained in trauma.) “Then when we do deploy, we’re ready to deal with those patients we’ll see.” If a soldier in a war theatre can make it to a medical trauma centre, there is about a 97 per cent chance they will live, said Dr Ross Brown, today working at Lions Gate Hospital in North Vancouver and the first embedded military trauma physician when the program began at VGH. The program has its roots in the late 1990s following an auditor general’s report questioning the way the Canadian military’s ran its medical world, said Dr Ross Brown. “That caused the military to look at itself and do some redesign on health care,” he said. The military looked abroad — Britain, in particular, had a strong reserve force working within its National Health system, but who were “extractable” and could be deployed, and who had experience working on blast injuries and penetrating wounds.

When Brown finished his residency in general surgery at UBC, it was time for him to rejoin the military and he was assigned to Halifax, one of three general surgeons assigned to a 24-bed hospital. “I was seeing what the Brits and the Americans were doing and said, ‘Why don’t you leave me in Vancouver ... learn more and more about trauma, consolidate my own skills, do more training and I’m still deployable.’” There were lots of questions: How would he be paid? Would he take someone else’s job? What would public opinion be? It took a while, including showing up at Halifax and then being deployed to Bosnia, but when he got back the wheels were rolling for the Canadian Forces Trauma Training Centre, West. “I would not have been able to do that had it not been for the willingness of Vancouver General and Vancouver Coastal Health to say, ‘Alright, we’ll take a chance here,’” Brown said. “And the military, of course. “It was a time you could lever an idea and show everyone it was a win-win-win.”

It was early 2001. Within months the 9/11 attacks were carried out and Canada was about to deploy forces to Afghanistan. “Yep, of course we’re ready to go,” Brown said. “The Canadian Forces Trauma Training Centre was very timely to start bringing people through at a rapid rate. “The military could stand up and say, ‘We are offering equivalent care to what our soldiers would get if they were in Canada.’ “I think everybody feels good we’re contributing way back here in little Vancouver with a trauma training centre.”

The Real Obstacle for Reforming Military Spending

It isn’t in the defence ministry. It’s the Treasury Board. *Ken Hansen The Globe and Mail*

For people inside the Department of National Defence, a minority Parliament – coupled with election promises for increased social spending and tax cuts – represents an uneasy calculus. Defence spending is always on the chopping block because it represents the largest pool of discretionary spending in the federal budget, and every party spent the recent federal election campaign being vague about military policy – offering some kind of oversight-body reform or scrutiny over the billions of dollars that have been earmarked, even as they lent their support to ensuring the military has the equipment it needs. In particular, the single largest program in Canadian defence history – the Canadian Combat Ship plan for 15 warships – will be a tantalizing target for politicians looking to get rid of perceived fat. Such cuts to shipbuilding programs have even already become normalized: The order for Halifax-class frigates were trimmed to 12 from 18 in 1983 and the Iroquois-class destroyers to four from six in 1964, to name just two.

The political leaders weren’t wrong when they said the military procurement system is broken. But regardless of which party had won this past election, and no matter what tweaks at the edges that the Liberal minority government and its potential supporters pursue, the reality is that the core issue remains unaddressed: Treasury Board’s bulk approach to purchasing the country’s military kit. Treasury Board policy states that bulk buys are how military procurement should be done, to ensure the lowest per-unit cost. But this forces tough decisions about what to buy, since the larger the order, the longer it will take to produce them all – not to mention the problems involved with trying to predict the future of warfare. Information systems become outdated in five years; weapons and sensors in 10. With a planned operating

life of 25 years, any ships ordered today will be out-of-date by the time the first are delivered, and fully obsolete by the time the last one arrives. Block purchasing leads to block obsolescence. Traditionally, when technological change threatens to render military systems obsolete, the best way to hedge was to order in batches of the smallest number acceptable. In the years before the world wars, for instance, countries working to build competent naval forces put less emphasis on fleet numbers and more on technology and industrial capacity until the last moments before conflict. Technological competence was as important as numbers for fleet commanders.

Another outcome of bulk buys is that the volume means that they happen only every two to three decades (or longer, in the worst cases). With such lengthy dry spells between purchases, it is impossible to retain corporate knowledge in either the defence or civilian branches of government. More frequent purchasing keeps the process alive in both practice and concept, with lessons learned that can be implemented by the same people who made the mistakes in the first place. Such irregularly timed purchases have created desperation among defence planners whose vision of the future consists of short golden days of competence and pride, followed by long years of rust-out and irrelevance. Unwittingly, the dark decades were in large part of the military's own making because of its desperate desire to acquire the absolute best model available – a practice known as “gold-plating” – instead of working steadily to build capacity and skill that would address long-range fleet needs.

This is a collision of interests. The Treasury Board looks only at capital-acquisition decisions from the perspective of the buyer. It's left to the military to worry about how long they may have to operate obsolescent or obsolete equipment and systems, and to do the necessary mid-life upgrading, which is partly why costs balloon spectacularly. Life-cycle cost data is actually far more important than the initial sticker shock of the newest and shiniest model advocated by the military's leadership. The mindset needs to change. Politicians who implement bureaucratic change will probably see some improvements in decision-making. But the biggest obstacle to defence procurement is that bulk purchasing is our lone approach, and that it happens only every few decades. Regular, planned capital acquisition is the best path forward, but all paths to the future must first run through the Treasury Board. No amount of political policy adjustment can change that.

Ken Hansen is an independent defence and security analyst and owner of Hansen Maritime Horizons. Retired from the Royal Canadian Navy in 2009 in the rank of commander, he is also a contributor to the security affairs committee for the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia.

Letter to Vancouver Council and Park Board members

I am writing to all Council and Park Board members to enlist their support to obtain free parking for Canadian Forces veterans in Vancouver and in parks administered by the board. I believe the public at large would support such a gesture as an act of magnanimity. It would also bring Vancouver in line with other municipalities in BC that already allow free public parking for their Veterans. It is hard not to agree that we owe a debt of gratitude to our Veterans. Since WWII ended, several hundred Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen have made the supreme sacrifice whilst standing in harms way for our wonderful county. Over 250 airmen have died since WWII ended, 158 soldiers lost their lives in Afghanistan and many more have died or suffered life altering injuries in Peace Keeping operations and routine training exercises. Many suffer bitterly from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; some have found life itself unbearable with that burden.

Our service women and men are often called upon to serve for months away from their homes and families; frequently in isolated, inhospitable and often dangerous places. A simple but meaningful way of showing our gratitude for our Veterans would be to grant their vehicles, which bear Veteran's licence plates, the permanent privilege of free parking in our city and parks. Such vehicles only represent one half of one percent (.5%) of all of the vehicles registered in BC so the financial implications of this measure would be negligible.

Your support of this proposal, particularly at this time of the year, will certainly be considered 'most commendable' by the citizens at large. Please carry the idea forward in the most vigorous way possible...you can help to make it succeed.

If by meeting with you I can further the matter I would be happy to do so.

Thank you.
Eric Mold

Eric's initiative to obtain free parking for vets in the city of Vancouver and our Parks has gathered a little traction. A motion to the effect has been tabled for 26th Nov at City Hall. Eric plans to be there, hopefully to give it a little impetus. Anyone else that might add support would be very welcome. He reckons that if we had about 75 vets there in their blazers and medals it would be a done deal. So please try and make it.

15th Field Artillery Regiment Centennial Celebration – Feb 1

Come celebrate the Centennial of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment at Bessborough Armoury.

The invitation to our Centennial Celebration is open and inclusive to all of our extended Regimental Family, friends, and comrades.

What you can expect:

- Live bands and dancing
- Favourite local food trucks will cater, included with your ticket
- Messes will be open for beverages
- Centennial Souvenir Coins, glassware, mugs, t-shirts will be available for purchase

Saturday February 1, 2020 6:00PM – 11:30PM

Dress is casual.

Tickets \$30 - can be purchased through EventBrite at:

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

Make sure you come early as parking is limited.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Support our Regimental Centennial by buying into our 50/50 fundraiser!

BC Gaming Event Licence# 119430

1 Ticket costs \$5.00

5 Tickets cost \$20.00

30 Tickets cost \$100.00

Draw takes place at the Regimental Centennial Celebration

Find a ticket seller at Bessborough Armoury or email your name and address with an interac e-transfer to 15rca100th@gmail.com

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

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

Remembrance Day 2019 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/remembrance-day-2019.html>

Summer Artilleryman Course <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/dp1---2019.html>

Province newspaper article on WOII George Chow

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2015.html>

Honour Ranch opening <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/honour-ranch.html>

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Major Hugh Moore Kelly DCM

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/dcm.html>

Newsletter archives have been updated

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/newsletters---2019.html>

Regimental Centennial Birthday Party

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/regimental-centennial-birthday-party>

Check out the Regimental Centennial page

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/centennial-page.html>

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



The 15th Field Artillery Regiment Museum

is currently in the process of purchasing
New/Old 7.5 x 24 tires/tyres
For the Q.F. 18 Pounder
That was acquired last year.

Unfortunately, these tires/tyres are no longer a standard
item and our current pricing estimate sits at \$1,500.00 installed.

Care to chip in? Tax deductible!

0 200 400 600 700 800 1000 1200 1400 |



Contact Leon Jensen for additional details – president.vcrgunners@gmail.com



Who (or What) Is It?



Last Week: This is a variant of the 'Constellation' called a Lockheed EC121M Willys Victor Warning Star belonging to the US Navy. Behind is a Bell 47G 'Sioux'. They are both parked on an apron at Fort Churchill, Man. The Warning Star was conducting Secret missions, probably patrolling the Arctic area. The picture was taken in 1961.

This Week: And now, for something completely different (at least from our recent fare), we bring you the Senior Service. No, it's not a cigarette; it's another term for the navy. However, given that the Canadian Army is older than the Royal Canadian Navy, it might not be a term that resonates in this mighty dominion. Nonetheless, that does not take away from the might of that floating arm of democracy throughout the Commonwealth. And, float is what this week's subject does so well. As you can see, it is an aircraft carrier, something this country once had, but, alas, no more. However, if you are driving an elderly Toyota, Honda, or Nissan, there is a slight chance that you are driving part of our last carrier, HMCS Bonaventure. She was sold to scrap merchants in Taiwan, who in turn, sold the bits and bobs to Japan, where it is rumoured the material was used in the automobile industry. Nonetheless, given that most Japanese cars of the 1970s turned to rust as you looked at them, the probability that your 1972 Datsun 510 was part of the armoured deck of our greatest warship is rather low.



All of which leads us to the questions for this week.

First, what mighty ship is this? What aeroplanes did she carry? And, at what naval base of a former enemy might this behemoth of a vessel be moored? The super salty amongst you might even be able to identify the ship next to her, although I can't.

Send your musings to the editor, Admiral of the Fleet Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@outlook.com), or the author, Ordinary Seaman John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Sail on!

From the 'Punitary'

Why do elephants eat raw food? Because they can't cook.

Murphy's Other Laws

The race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong – but that's they way to bet.

Quotable Quotes

A life spent making mistakes is not only more honourable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing. - *George Bernard Shaw*



Fort Fraser Garrison

Please join us as we celebrate the Patron Saint of Scotland at our annual

Feast of St. Andrew

Mess Dinner

Saturday, 23 November 2019

**in the Officers' Mess, 15th Field Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC
1800hrs for 1900**

RSVP by 19 November to jobarb@shaw.ca

In the spirit of the season the garrison collects donations of gift cards and cash for those less fortunate than we; please help out. Donations of monies to the UGM and Angel Tree will happily be accepted and tax receipts for donations in excess of \$100 will be available.

Proceeds of our Christmas Bottle Raffle will go to support the Union Gospel Mission's food program.

Tariff: \$65.00 per person. *RSVP requested [<jobarb@shaw.ca>](mailto:jobarb@shaw.ca) or 604-522-5766

Dress: Highland Evening Dress, Mess Kit or Business Attire.
Ladies equivalent.

yours aye,

James Barrett CD, Major
Officer Commanding



NOABC Luncheon Speaker



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia
Founded 1919

Luncheon Speaker's Series organized by NOABC

Wednesday, November 27, 2019
Officers' Mess, 15th RCA Bessborough Armoury

The Liberation of Holland celebrations in Canada and Metro Vancouver in 2020



The Liberation of Holland in 1945 was brought about primarily by the Canadians, a monumental struggle of service and sacrifice in the pursuit of democracy & freedom. Canadians signed up from across our country, joining forces to sail across the Atlantic Ocean to liberate a people they did not know. As many Dutch people of that generation will say, "thank God they came." Meanwhile, back in Canada, the Dutch royal family found refuge in Ottawa, where Princess Margriet was born in 1943.

The Dutch people have never forgotten the Canadian liberators. Each spring the Dutch government sends 100,000 tulips to Ottawa, a heartfelt gesture gesturing an unbroken friendship. Now, 75 years later, there will be a number of celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Holland, and this enduring connection between our two nations. Consul-General Henk Snoeken in Vancouver will share with us the activities that will take place in Metro Vancouver to mark this special anniversary.

Speaker's biography



Henk Snoeken is Consul-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Vancouver. He had various positions in Dutch ministries, from which the latest were: Deputy Director for National Spatial Planning (2010-2014) and Deputy Director for International Relations (2014-2018) at the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment. As a policymaker he has been working in the field of spatial planning, water management, logistics and sustainability. In the field of international relations his focus was on climate policy, public-private cooperation and economic diplomacy.

CV

2014-2018 Deputy Director International Affairs, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
2012-2013 Acting Director for National Spatial Planning, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
2011-2013 Deputy Director for National Spatial Planning, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
2002-2011 Program Director Civic Integration Policy Ministry of Justice
1998-2002 Head Integration Policy Ministry of the Interior
1992-2002 Various positions at University of Amsterdam and University of Tilburg

**If you plan to attend the lunch and presentation please respond to David Reece
by Sunday, November 24, 2019**

At either dreece@telus.net or call/text at 778-227-8203 so that he can advise the caterer.

15 Fd Regt Officers Mess St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night



The Commanding Officer
Lieutenant Colonel J.P.P. Lajoie, 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 7th of December, 2019
at
six o'clock in the evening

Dress. Mess Kit, DEU, or Formal attire, with decorations.

Tariff. \$120 – Seats will be reserved when payment is received. There will be no tickets available the night of the event.

If paying in person, please notify VPMC, Lieutenant Chris Purdon at mess15rca@gmail.com and payment to be paid at the door on the night of the event.

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

*RSVP by 20 November 2019 to
mess15rca@gmail.com*

CO's Annual Christmas Tea



The Commanding Officer

LCol Pierre Lajoie CD

invites you to his

Annual Christmas Tea

to be held on

Sunday December 15th 2019

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 or

RSVP Lt Chris Purdon, mess15rca@gmail.com



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 *](#)