

## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Dec 3, 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](mailto: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](http://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.

- Dec 06** Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir Christmas Concert – Dec 6, 7, 10, 15.
- 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"*

**Dec 4<sup>th</sup>:** US Carrier raids in the Marshal Islands: 55 Japanese aircraft and six supply ships are lost for five American aircraft. The IJN escort carrier Chuyo is torpedoed and sunk inside Japanese waters by the USS Sailfish. XX Corps of 3<sup>rd</sup> Army rushes over an intact bridge at Saarlautern, while British 2<sup>nd</sup> Army clears the last German pocket west of the Maas and 9<sup>th</sup> Army brings its drive on the Roer to an end being now in control of the river's western bank.

*Essential Reading: The soldier of 1914 was invariably trained on the rifle and bayonet alone; the soldier in 1944 was a specialist who also – at least – knew how to use a light machinegun and a submachine gun, several varieties of grenade, light mortars and a number of other weapons. Ian V Hogg, the great 20<sup>th</sup> Century expert on so many weapons, also produced a short*

*study of infantry grenades, mortars and anti-tank rockets for the Ballantine series. 'Grenades and Mortars' is a very useful reference, not being so much a listing of meaningless statistics about these weapons, but a thoughtful exploration of them.*

**Dec 5<sup>th</sup>:** It is Liberation Day for Vukovar on the Danube as Soviet troops arrive. I Canadian Corps liberates Ravenna in the Po Valley. PFC William A McWhorter of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division is manning a machinegun with one assistant on Leyte when they find themselves the subject of interest for a Japanese attack. McWhorter guns down most of the Japanese sapper squad rushing for his foxhole, but one gets close enough to pitch in a demolition charge. McWhorter immediately grabs the charge and hugs it to his chest, which kills him and leaves his assistant unhurt. He receives a posthumous Medal of Honor.

**Dec 6<sup>th</sup>:** XX US Corps makes another lodgment over the Saar with an assault river crossing. The He-162 Jet Fighter makes its maiden flight 69 days after going on the drawing board. It was intended as a cheap "People's Fighter" and a, ahem, crash training program for Hitlerjugend pilot candidates is envisioned.

**Dec 7<sup>th</sup>:** The 77<sup>th</sup> Division makes an amphibious flanking attack near Oromoc on Leyte which unhinges the Japanese defence on the Island. A US destroyer is sunk by a Kamikaze during the landings. The Soviets reach Lake Balaton in Hungary. A new government forms in Romania under General Badescu which promptly pledges to help the Allies.

**Dec 8<sup>th</sup>:** US heavy cruisers bombard Iwo Jima. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ukrainian Front starts a new attack 60km southwest of Budapest. 77<sup>th</sup> Division lunges to within 2km of Oromoc on Leyte.

**Dec 9<sup>th</sup>:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Army still tries to expand bridgeheads over the Saar while 7<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> French Armies keep pushing to close up to the Rhine. Other American, British and Canadian armies remain quiet. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ukrainian Fronts continue to close in on Budapest. Britain relaxes its blackout regulations although streetlights remain off.

**Dec 10<sup>th</sup>:** The liberation of Oromoc on Leyte also means that the Japanese have just lost their main supply base on the island. VII Corps of 1<sup>st</sup> Army launches an attack west of Aachen to take Duren. Senior French officials travel to Moscow to sign a treaty of Alliance with the USSR. Mars is fickle and will let one man brave a torrent of fire one day and casually claim him the next. Yesterday, Captain John HC Brunt's platoon was in the thick of things as German Panzergrenadiers supported by tanks hit his company of Sherwood Foresters near Ravenna, Italy. Once their anti-tank guns and two Sherman tanks had been knocked out, Brunt acted as the rear guard using a Bren and then a PIAT while his men retired. Brunt's actions checked the German assault, so he went out and retrieved his wounded while still under fire. Then as the Germans advanced once more, Brunt leapt on top of a Sherman tank and directed its fire while using its anti-aircraft machinegun with considerable effect on the Panzergrenadiers. As the Germans sent anti-tank teams forward to knock out this Sherman, Brunt took a Bren and destroyed them. Yesterday, Brunt was the epitome of coolness under fire and devotion to duty; today a stray mortar bomb kills him as he relaxes – making his award of the Victoria Cross a posthumous one.

## CWGC Launches Virtual Tours of Remote Sites

November 20, 2019 by Stephen J Thorne



*George Carlson, of Kramer, Sask., now owns the land on which twin brothers Donald Pollack and Alexander Pollack are buried. CWGC Four Corners*

Private Donald Alexander Pollock never made it overseas after the 24-year-old farm boy from Kramer, Sask., signed up with the Saskatchewan Regiment, on July 5, 1918. “Canada Only” is written in red ink on his brief service record, which states the five-foot, six-and-a-half-inch, 127-pound soldier was discharged in December 1918 “in consequence of having died.” Pollock, a chronic asthmatic, had contracted Spanish flu, brought it home to his remote Saskatchewan homestead, and passed it on to his twin brother Alexander. The two died the same day—Nov. 15, 1918. They are buried side-by-side in a secluded spot on the old family homestead, Pollock under the familiar grey headstone administered by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; his brother memorialized by a private marker. Finding the Pollock brothers’ final resting place is best achieved with the help of the current landowner, George Carlson says a profile written as part of the commission’s new “To the Four Corners” program, an interactive website that tells stories like the Pollocks’ and takes viewers on virtual tours of its memorials and war graves around the world.

Dominique Boulais, who recently inspected the Pollock site on behalf of the commission’s Canada and Americas Area, said an ATV ride with Carlson saved him “hours of traipsing about with a GPS.” “There was only one padded seat and it was for the driver,” Boulais said. “I sat on the steel grill facing the back receiving all the mud flying from the rear wheels and breathing the fumes from the exhaust pipe.” Eventually, they reached the gravesite, located in a dip between folds in the land. “There wasn’t a single sound except the wind.” The story highlights not just the plight of a single soldier but demonstrates the lengths and distances commission personnel go to preserve the memory and dignity of Commonwealth soldiers.

*Canadian war graves near Ypres, Belgium. The crosses identify the graves as those of soldiers of the 14th Canadian Battalion who were killed over several days in May 1916.*

*LAC/PA-000176*

For more than a century, the commission has tended war graves the world over, beginning with the First World War and, since 1945, the Second, as well. That’s some 1.7 million war dead in 150 countries. There are 110,000 Canadians among them—the vast majority buried close to where they fell. It wasn’t



until the 1960s—and notably, during the Afghanistan war—that Canada started bringing its war dead home. Many others, however, died as the result of war wounds, illnesses and other war-related causes and are thus buried in Canada—almost 19,000 commission-administered graves, in fact, located in nearly 3,000 cemeteries across the country. About 1,900 of those cemeteries have just a single war grave. Veterans Affairs Canada administers another 228,000 gravesites within the country’s borders, many of them soldiers, sailors or air crew who died outside the time period for which they would fall under the commission’s responsibility. “It’s pretty mind-boggling when you actually think about it,” says David Loveridge, a former Canadian military helicopter pilot who is the commission’s director for Canada and the Americas. “If you go to your local cemetery, there’s probably a war veteran buried there. When you look at the geographic spread, not only of our entire area, but also within Canada, it’s a large task.”



*The grave of Private Andrew Hagerman of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada. He is buried at the Bergen-Op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands.*  
Adam Tindal / Legion Magazine

Following the year-long commemorations marking the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War the 75th of the Second, Loveridge says the commission noted that a disproportionate amount of attention had been focused on the war dead of Western

Europe, largely overlooking significant sacrifices of combatants and the commission’s work in other theatres. The commission’s new Four Corners website features stories, videos and pictures of some of its most remote sites located on every continent except Antarctica. “From jungle to desert; from isolated islands to hundreds of miles inside the Arctic Circle, the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission stretches to the four corners of the world, far beyond the former battlefields of Europe,” says a news release announcing the program. “With the help of these virtual tours, the commission invites Canadians to experience the hard-to-reach places it still goes to remember the war dead. Fallen Canadian servicemen and women are scattered across the globe, from the Netherlands to Japan, from Turkey to Hong Kong, from Russia to Italy.”

*The Basra Memorial in Iraq commemorates 40,682 Commonwealth forces—99 per cent of them from India—who died in the Mesopotamian Campaign of the First World War.*  
CWGC FOUR CORNERS



The commission administers 19 sites in Iraq, and most have deteriorated or been damaged due to more recent wars. During

the First World War, when it was still Mesopotamia, Iraq was the scene of the British Empire's largest operations outside of Europe. It suffered its worst defeat in the Siege of Kut. The commission's work within Iraq's borders has stopped and started numerous times since it formally withdrew from the country in 1990. Sites have deteriorated as the salty soil has seeped into headstones, making them so brittle they crumble. Iraq's largest memorial, the Basra Memorial, was moved into the desert in the late-1990s from its original site on the banks of the Shatt al-Arab River. Now, after decades without regular maintenance, the memorial is showing signs of age and neglect. The commission site says the memorial is missing 30,000 names. "When [it was] first unveiled in 1929, the names of most of the men of the Indian Army who it commemorates were not accurate," says the commission. "Records at the time hadn't been properly compiled and the commission could only be provided with the names of Indian officers, and British officers and men. "Since then, an accurate list of the names has been compiled and all lie in the CWGC's Iraq Roll of Honour, on display in the UK, waiting for a time when conditions on the ground allow a more permanent solution."



*The war graves commission has installed 300 new headstones at Habbaniya War Cemetery in Iraq. CWGC Four Corners*

The war graves commission has made some progress in Iraq. During a gap in hostilities in 2012, it renovated Kut War Cemetery. In 2019, it renovated the cemetery on the former RAF base in Habbaniya, now occupied by the Iraqi army, and installed nearly 300 new headstones. "The commission

has to play the long game at times," it says. "When your task lasts forever, you never know what progress the future might bring." Visit the 'To The Four Corners' website at <https://fourcorners.cwgc.org/>

## **Free Parking for Veterans in the City of Vancouver**

Recently, F/Lt (ret'd) Eric Mold, a member of RUSI Vancouver and an Associate Member of the 15 Field Officers Mess, wrote letters to all Vancouver City Councillors urging them to extend free parking to Veterans year-round. He also got support from the BC Veterans Commemorative Association (who run the Veterans licence plate program) and its president, LCol (ret'd) Archie Steacy. Councillor De Genova, a great supporter of the military in Vancouver and daughter of 15 Field Regiment HCol Alan De Genova, took up the cause and

presented the motion shown below to the Council meeting of November 26. The motion passed unanimously. Thank you, Eric Mold, Archie Steacy and Councillor De Genova, well done.

## MOTION ON NOTICE

Honouring Our Veterans and Those Who Serve With Free Year-Round Parking in the City of Vancouver

Submitted by: Councillor De Genova.

## WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver issued an Information Bulletin on November 1, 2019, stating that all vehicles with BC veteran license plates will be exempt from parking fees from November 4th to 11th to mark Veterans' Week. The reasons included: "to recognize the service and dedication of Canadian military personnel to our country";

2. For many years the City of Vancouver has offered free parking on Remembrance Day and during Veterans Week for vehicles with valid BC Veteran License Plates parked at City of Vancouver parking meters, Easy Park lots, surface lots, and Park Board operated parking facilities; including Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, and all Vancouver community centres;

3. The City of Surrey carried policy recommendations in a report dated November 3, 2008, to adopt as a policy that vehicles bearing a "veteran" license plate be granted complimentary parking on a year-round basis at all City of Surrey on-street parking meters";

i) The report and recommendations in the report titled Complimentary Parking for Veterans at On-Street Parking Meters in Surrey, states that in analysis of previous data, allowing Veterans to Park for free at on-street parking meters, when comparing to subsequent years "there was no significant impact on parking meter revenues";

4. Examples of other municipalities across Canada and their commitment to providing free parking for veterans include:

i) The City of Red Deer: The City provides a parking pass program for Veterans (plates issued by all provinces). This program is administered by the Canadian Legion and is free of charge to the Veteran unless a replacement hang tag is required and then \$20 is charged by the City. The passes are good for five years and then must be re-applied for. This pass allows the Veteran to park at a street parking meter for the time restriction in that area. With the Legion's administration, they ensure that the person is a Veteran and is responsible for verification of any documentation;

ii) The City of Regina, Saskatchewan allows a veteran to park at a meter if they have a valid, properly displayed Veteran Design License Plate issued by the Saskatchewan Government Insurance or the equivalent in other provinces in Canada;

iii) The City of White Rock offers four hours a day of free parking in pay parking areas for all veteran plates;

iv) The City of London, Ontario: Holders of a veteran's license plate can park at any on-street meter without depositing coins for the limit of the meter;

5. The ICBC website states "In recognition our Canadian veterans, we've created a special plate to honour your service." It lists the following requirements for eligibility for veterans plates in B.C. as follows:

You are eligible to apply for veteran license plates if you own or lease an eligible vehicle, and were honourably discharged from, or are currently serving in one of the following:

i) WWII, Korea, Gulf War, the Balkan Wars, Afghanistan, or other UN Peacekeeping Missions as a member of:

- The Canadian Armed Forces, or
- An Allied Force, or
- The Canadian or Allied War Time Merchant Navy

ii) A member of the Canadian Armed Forces, Regular or Reserves, who successfully completed basic training

iii) UN or NATO Operations as a member of:

- The Canadian Armed Forces, or
- A UN or NATO Alliance Force serving in an Operation with the Canadian Armed Forces

iv) Similarly qualified member of a British Commonwealth of Nations Armed Force who are honourably discharged. Unfortunately, currently serving members are not eligible.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to explore the possibility of a process to allow eligible holders of a BC veterans license plate and current serving members of the Canadian Forces to park their vehicle for free, subject to the time limits already in place, at City of Vancouver parking meters, Easy Park lots, surface lots, and Park Board operated parking facilities; including Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, and all Vancouver Community Centres;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back to Council by October 2020 with

recommendations and plans to deliver a process by November 11, 2020, for year-round free parking for Veterans and current serving members of the Canadian Forces, at all parking locations currently offered by the City of Vancouver during the week of Remembrance Day

## **Five New Inductees for Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame**

Four individuals, including a First and Second World War Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) member, and an RCAF air demonstration team will be recognized by Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame (CAHF) in 2020. *November 18, 2019 Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame Press Release*



*The RCAF Red Knight in all its glory. The Red Knight team will receive the Belt of Orion, the Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame' award of excellence, in 2020.*

*Diecast Aircraft Forum Photo*

“In 2020, Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame will honour four Canadians and one organization for outstanding contributions to aviation,” said Rod Sheridan, chairman of the board for the CAHF. “This year's inductees are Clifford MacKay McEwen, a fighter pilot from the First and Second World Wars; Joseph D. Randell, a leader in Canadian commercial aviation; Shirley Render, author, historian and champion of Canada's aviation heritage; and Canadian astronaut Bjarni Tryggvason. I am also pleased to announce that the Red Knight, the Royal Canadian Air Force's solo demonstration team between 1958 and 1969, will receive the Belt of Orion [Award of Excellence].” The awards will be presented at the Hall of Fame's annual gala induction dinner and ceremony to be held in Calgary, Alta., on June 4, 2020. The 2020 inductions will be the 47<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of aviation accomplishment and will bring to 242 the number of Canadians who have been installed as members of the CAHF. In addition, 24 organizations will have been honored for their contributions by receiving the Belt of Orion Award of Excellence. Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame is located at the Reynolds-Alberta Museum in Wetaskiwin, Alta.

### Hall of Fame inductees



*Clifford MacKay McEwen, MC DFC and Bar who served with the Royal Flying Corps, the Canadian Air Force and the Royal Canadian Air Force during both world wars, will be inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in 2020.*

*CAHF Photo*

Born in Griswold, Man, in 1898, Clifford MacKay McEwen enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1916 before transferring to the Royal Flying Corps. He flew the majority of his war in Italy, distinguishing himself as a scout pilot. McEwen then joined the fledgling Canadian Air Force in England and remained in uniform after war's end, serving as part of the Air Board and the inter-war

Royal Canadian Air Force. Holding the rank of group captain when war again broke out, McEwen was promoted to the rank of air commodore working to establish Canadian authority over aerial operations in the north-west Atlantic while conducting anti-submarine warfare. A



disciplined leader, he was transferred to England and further promoted to air vice-marshal, taking command of 6 (RCAF) Group, part of Bomber Command. Facing low morale and lacklustre performance, McEwen instituted a rigorous training regimen that achieved results; by the end of 1944, 6 Group was considered a premier force, sustaining the fewest losses of the heavy bomber groups. In recognition of his outstanding leadership, McEwen was appointed command of the RCAF's contribution to Tiger Force in preparation for the Pacific theatre. McEwen supported veterans' causes in his postwar career, working with both the Royal Canadian Legion and the Last Post Fund. He died in Montreal in 1967, having made a lasting mark on Canadian aviation.



*Joseph D. Randell, president and chief executive officer of Chorus Aviation Inc., will be inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in 2020.*

*CAHF Photo*

President and chief executive officer of Chorus Aviation Inc., Joseph Randell was born in Curling, NL, in 1954. He has been devoted to Canadian aviation, and the regional airline market especially, for more than three decades. In 1984, Randell pursued an MBA that examined the airline industry—work that led to the founding of Air Nova two years later. Recognizing that Canada's vast geography was ideally suited to regional carriers, his company, which had previously relied on a fleet of turboprop aircraft, pioneered the use of regional jets. Success with Air Nova led to its eventual purchase by Air Canada, after which he oversaw a series of regional carrier mergers. In 2002, having overcome significant regulatory challenges, Air Canada Jazz was launched. A successful re-organization stemming from Air Canada's filing for bankruptcy protection soon followed and, in 2006, Jazz was brought public. Re-negotiation of its relationship with Air Canada has continued apace, as has the airline's profitability. Chorus Aviation, Randell's next venture, which acquired the regional operation Voyageur Airways in 2015, has become a global player in aircraft leasing. A widely respected leader in Canadian aviation, Randell is a strong supporter of his alma mater, Dalhousie University, and his professional and philanthropic support for the aviation and broader community more generally has earned him well deserved awards of recognition.



*Shirley Linda Render, one of Canada's foremost aviation historians, will be inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in 2020.*

*CAHF Photo*

One of Canada's foremost aviation historians and a leader in the stewardship of this country's aviation heritage, Shirley Render, born 1943 in Winnipeg, Man, earned her wings in 1973 and shortly after began volunteering at the Western Canada Aviation Museum. Soon, Render was sitting on the museum's board, writing for and editing its quarterly magazine, and curating its exhibits. After earning an MA in history, she undertook two influential books: *No Place for a Lady*, the first on Canada's women pilots, and *Double Cross*, about James A Richardson and his

importance to Canadian aviation. Render held multiple positions of leadership at the museum and was critical to its growth. In 1990, she entered politics, being elected as the member of the Legislative Assembly for St Vital. She served as legislative assistant to Premier Gary Filmon and as minister of consumer and corporate affairs. With the museum in difficulty, Render, no longer in government, was asked to return as executive director and curator in 2002. Her leadership, which has been recognized with her appointment as executive director emeritus, helped revitalize the museum, a process that culminated in its re-designation as the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada. A recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, a YM-YW Women of Distinction Award, and a University of Winnipeg Distinguished Alumni Award, among many others, Render is a role model for young people across Canada.



*Bjarni Valdimar Tryggvason, one of Canada's first astronauts, will be inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in 2020.*  
CAHF Photo

Bjarni Tryggvason was born in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1945. Captivated by aviation at a young age, in Richmond, BC, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Cadets and earned his commercial pilot wings by age 20. He has been involved in Canadian aviation ever since. Tryggvason completed a degree in engineering physics and, despite his goal to become a commercial airline pilot, he accepted a position with the Atmospheric Environmental Service. His work as a researcher then took him to the University of Western Ontario, at the Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel, and to Kyoto, Japan, and North Queensland, Australia. Keen to add to his piloting skills, he earned his instructor rating. In 1982, Tryggvason joined the National Research Council's Low Speed Aerodynamics Laboratory. A year later he applied for and was accepted to Canada's first astronaut corps. With the NRC and the Canadian Space Agency, he helped design and develop satellites and fluid dynamics projects, but his primary focus was vibration isolation systems. In 1997, as part of STS-85, Tryggvason served as payload specialist aboard the shuttle Discovery. Since returning to earth, he has remained active in Canadian aviation. But, having been at the forefront of Canada's aerospace program, this more recent work involves Canada's aviation heritage and the flying of vintage aircraft, notably his 2009 flight of the replica Silver Dart — the first powered, heavier-than-air aircraft to fly in Canadian skies.

Belt of Orion inductee-

### ***The Red Knight***

The RCAF Training Command's solo performer between 1958 and 1969, the Red Knight flew more than 600 air show appearances — making it second only to the Snowbirds for the number of performances flown by a military aerobatic display team. During its 12-year run, seventeen different pilots flew as the Red Knight, beginning with Roy Windover, an RCAF Central Flying School instructor. Equipped with their venerable Canadair CT-133 Silver Star (T-33 T-Bird), and later with Canadair CT-114 Tutors, decked out in Day-Glo red, various Knights flew alongside the Golden Hawks and the Golden Centennaires. But the solo display is best remembered for performing in smaller communities with venues unable to accommodate larger

established teams. Notably, all the Red Knight's manoeuvres were performed within the airfield's boundaries. All told, the team performed in each of Canada's 10 provinces and in the Yukon. It also made appearances in the Bahamas and in the United States, flying in Alaska, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington. The Red Knight was awarded the Centennial Medal in 1967. As a testament to its lasting impact, and as a tribute to the influence of the Red Knight's displays, the team's distinctive paint scheme has been revived by civilian operations across North America.

## **15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Centennial Celebration – Feb 1**

Come celebrate the Centennial of the 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:15rca100th@gmail.com)

## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

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

Check out who was quick to send in their RSVP as soon as the birthday sales went on-line. Have you ordered yours? Have you talked to your buddies about the event? Check out the details here.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/regimental-centennial9922586>

2018 Group photo update

Additional presentations

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-20195924899>

The Band at the BC Lions Salute to Veterans <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/bc-lions.html>

The Vancouver Sun reported on the opening of the Bessborough Armoury on 28 March 1934

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/bessborough-opening-1934.html>

Sad news <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/wo-joe-p-shortt-cd>

Don't forget to 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](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)



**The 15<sup>th</sup> 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	!
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Contact Leon Jensen for additional details – [president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)



## New CF Blue Berets

The manufacturer of the new Blue Berets is having trouble keeping up with demand. Most of the current production is going to the CF supply system and local kit shops have none in stock. If you are not in a hurry you can support your kit shop and wait for them to receive their shipments. If you are in a hurry, CANEX stores carry them.

CANEX blue beret - \$25.99 - <https://www.canex.ca/army-beret-11.html#>

## Who (or What) Is It?

**Last Week:** The BL 18-inch railway howitzer (formally Ordnance BL 18-inch Mk I howitzer on truck, railway) was a British railway gun developed during World War I. It was part of the progression of ever-larger howitzers on the Western Front, but it did not enter service until 1920. Five guns and two complete equipments on railway wagons were produced. The 18-inch Barrel No L1 was 1 of 5 (Serial numbers L1-L5) manufactured by the Elswick Ordnance Company as a replacement for the obsolete 14 inch barrels mounted on Railway Truck Mountings (RTMs). Following the war,



all the barrels were put into storage except No L1 which, in 1921, was mounted on an RTM to test the accuracy of the 18-inch howitzer in Shoeburyness, on the Essex coast.

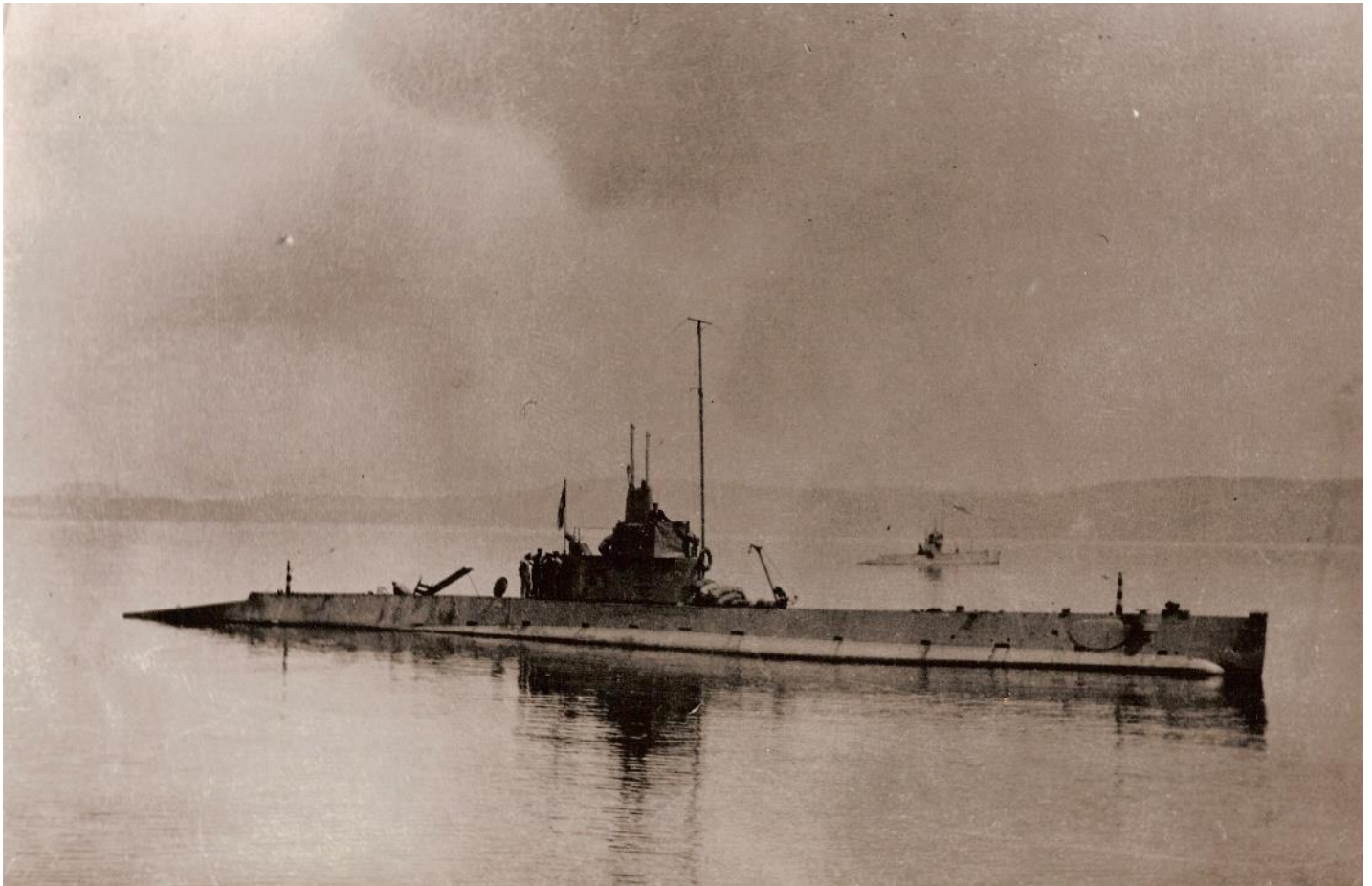
The outbreak of the Second World War saw one of the guns being rolled out again. With the fear of invasion from France it was deployed to the Kent coast, where it stayed until 1943 as a deterrent but was never used. With the threat of invasion over, the guns were dispersed. All were scrapped in the early 1960's except this one remaining piece which, still on its proofing sleigh, was sent back to Shoeburyness to test fire power efficiency of 1,000-pound bunker bombs.

After decades in storage, the barrel was put on public display at Larkhill, when the Royal Artillery relocated there in 2008 with the closure of its Woolwich Barracks. In March 2013 it was loaned to the Spoorwegmuseum, the Dutch national rail museum (See VAA & RUSI Newsletter of 2 April 2013). In September 2013 it was moved back to the Royal Armouries artillery museum at Fort Nelson, Hampshire. It is mounted on a proofing carriage, a gun carriage with very limited elevation and traverse intended only for test firing.

**This Week:** We return to a salty theme this week with a photo borrowed from the website of a friendly government. In the history of naval warfare, few inventions have had such an immense effect on shipping as that of the submersible boat. The very first one was built in 1604 by Magnus Pegelius, a German polymath, for peaceful purposes (although the idea seems to have been held in the national memory for future use of a less benign nature). The naval history of these effective (but ungentlemanly) weapons goes back to the American War of Independence (or “rebellious secession” to our UEL compatriots). The “Turtle”, a rebel vessel, attempted, unsuccessfully, to sink one of our fine ships, HMS Eagle. Given that most gentlemen were on the side of the Crown, this nefarious attack is not surprising. However, over the course of time, standards of behaviour shifted, and technology advanced, resulting in the birth of the modern

submarine. Various boats are mentioned as the first modern one, but those developed by the Irish inventor, John Holland, are generally seen as the ancestors of all current ones.

That brings us to this week's photo of some of these nefarious devices, sinisterly manoeuvring through some murky waters, ready at the drop of a Popeye hat to torpedo a ship full of toddlers and puppy dogs....or are they? Do you know to which navy these boats belonged? What might be their history? Were you a member of the Silent Service (I guess if you were, you won't be



able to communicate)? Let us know by contacting our editor, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com)), or the author, Unterzeeboot Kapitan Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Run silent; run deep.

### **From the 'Punitary'**

Why did the turkey cross the road twice? To prove he wasn't a chicken.

### **Murphy's Other Laws**

All bleeding stops... eventually.

### **Quotable Quotes**

Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow, it only saps today of its joy. - Leo Buscaglia

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 2019***

*in the*

***15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mess15rca@gmail.com)

# Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir Christmas Concert

## Christmas Traditions Around the World



The 90+ member Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir, under the direction of Music Director Jonathan Quick, with piano accompanist Karen Lee-Morlang, and guest soprano and violin soloists, presents *Christmas Traditions Around the World*. With seven concerts this season, there's a venue near you! Join us for a repertoire of traditional carols, new arrangements, a bit of gospel, and of course a taste of Welsh.

We are again delighted to share the stage with the magical strings, voices and medieval instruments of the [Winter Harp](#) ensemble in New Westminster on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and with some exceptional secondary school choirs who will present a portion of the programme on their own, and join us for a few combined songs, on three other occasions.

This year we are also partnering with the [St. James Music Academy](#), "inspiring Vancouver's inner city youth to bring social transformation through the power and joy of music". Proceeds from our November 29<sup>th</sup> concert at Christ Church Cathedral will go to support music education programs for children and youth in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside community. Youth members from the St. James orchestra program will perform a selected set of works during the concert.

Concert details, prices and ticketing arrangements vary by location and date. Some service charges apply. Go to our new website <https://vancouverchoir.ca/tickets-events/> or select the direct online and other options below. Advance purchase highly recommended, especially for Massey Theatre (Dec 1<sup>st</sup>) and Surrey Arts Centre (Dec 10<sup>th</sup>).

Date and Time	Location and collaboration	Ticket purchase
<b>Fri Nov 29<sup>th</sup></b> 7:30pm to 9:30pm	<b>Christ Church Cathedral</b> , Georgia & Burrard Streets, downtown Vancouver. Close to SkyTrain Burrard Station, and Canada Line Vancouver City Centre Station; fundraiser for St. James Music Academy.	Brown Paper Tickets <a href="#">online</a> , or phone <b>1-800-838-3006</b>
<b>Sat Nov 30<sup>th</sup></b> 2:30pm to 4:30pm	<b>White Rock Baptist Church</b> , 1657 140 <sup>th</sup> Street, Surrey; with North Surrey Secondary School choir.	Brown Paper Tickets <a href="#">online</a> , or phone <b>1-800-838-3006</b> ; or at Tapestry Music, 1335 Johnston Rd, White Rock.
<b>Sun Dec 1<sup>st</sup></b> 2:30pm to 4:30pm	<b>Massey Theatre</b> , 735 Eighth Avenue, New Westminster; with Winter Harp.	Tickets Tonight <a href="#">online</a> , or phone the Massey Theatre box office <b>604-521-5050</b> (Tues-Sat, 12pm-6pm).
<b>Fri Dec 6<sup>th</sup></b> 7:30pm to 9:30pm	<b>Centennial Theatre</b> , 2300 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver with Argyle Secondary School Concert Choir	Centennial Theatre <a href="#">online</a> , or phone the box office <b>604-984-4484</b> (Tues-Sat, 1pm-6pm).
<b>Sat Dec 7<sup>th</sup></b> 7:30pm to 9:30pm	<b>Shaughnessy Heights United Church</b> , 1550 West 33 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver; with Magee Secondary School choir.	Brown Paper Tickets, <a href="#">online</a> , or phone <b>1-800-838-3006</b> .
<b>Tue Dec 10<sup>th</sup></b> 7:30pm to 9:30pm	<b>Surrey Arts Centre</b> , 13750 88 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Surrey	Surrey Civic Theatres <a href="#">online</a> , or phone the box office <b>604-501-5566</b> .
<b>Sun Dec 15<sup>th</sup></b> 7:30pm to 9:30pm	<b>Chilliwack Cultural Centre</b> , HUB International Theatre, 9201 Corbould St, Chilliwack	Chilliwack Cultural Centre <a href="#">online</a> , or phone the box office <b>604-391-7469</b> .

Visit our website at [www.vancouverchoir.ca](http://www.vancouverchoir.ca) to learn more about the choir, our CDs, and opportunities to audition for the choir.

## Heads up for Celtic Fest 2020

The VWMC will be performing two concerts during Celtic Fest:

- **Sat Mar 14 2020**, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Christ Church Cathedral, Georgia & Burrard Streets, Vancouver.
- **Sun Mar 15 2020**, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, ACT Theatre, Maple Ridge.

Online tickets now available at <https://vancouverchoir.ca/tickets-events/>.





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,  
15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RCA  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment's**

*Open Messes*

*Live Music and Dancing*

**100<sup>th</sup> 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 \\*](#)