



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Dec 10, 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.

- Dec 15** Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir Christmas Concert – Dec10 &15.
- Dec 11** Last lunch of 2019
- Dec 15** 15 Fd CO's Christmas Tea
- Jan 01** New Years Day Levee
- Jan 08** First lunch of 2020
- 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 11th: There are major 8th Air Force raids on Frankfurt and other command centers.

Dec 12th: 1st US Army captures the much-battered town of Duren (whose remaining civilian population had been evacuated a month ago). XV Corps of 14th Army begin a new Arakan offensive with three divisions in Burma. After being thumped by the British for several days, Greek communists in Athens ask for a ceasefire.

Dec 13th: A Kamikaze attack kills a number of senior US officers on USS Nashville off Leyte. Haldivar Umrao Singh of the 33rd Mountain Battery, Indian Army is ferocious in the defence of his mountain guns against two companies of Japanese infantry in the Kaladan Valley in Burma. He fought with a Bren gun, grenades and finally with the gun spike as a club when the Japanese came back for the third time and overran his gun. He was found unconscious after the fighting ended with seven severe wounds and ten dead opponents in his gun pit. He dies in 2005, the last of the valiant fighting men of India who earned the Victoria Cross.

Essential Reading: The soldiers of India who fought for the British have an extraordinary and fascinating history, with the second last (and largest) chapter of the tale incorporating the Second World War. One useful reference that should find its way into any book collection on the Second World War would be the one written by Alan J Guy and Peter B. Boyden for the British Army Museum; Soldiers of the Raj, 1860-1947.

Dec 14th: Admiral McCain has 13 carriers and starts attacking Japanese airfields throughout Luzon. On the Philippine Island of Palawan, 150 Allied prisoners are told by their Japanese captors to take cover from an air-raid – then the covered trenches are doused in gasoline and set ablaze as machineguns rake everyone who tries to climb out (although 11 survivors are found and hidden by the Filipinos).

Dec 15th: US forces land on Mindoro and make excellent progress (penetrating 13km inland), 24th Division does especially well. As US Navy aircraft hit Japanese shipping in Subic Bay, they sink a vessel carrying 1,800 Allied POWs; only 900 survive. The popular American bandleader Glenn Miller is killed when his Norseman aircraft vanishes over the English Channel, possibly on straying into a dumping area used by returning bombers. On Leyte, PFC Dirk J Vlug of the 32nd Infantry Division is one of the men on a roadblock when a group of Japanese tanks clatter into view. He takes a bazooka, goes forward alone and knocks out one tank. The crew of the second tank dismounts to attack him, but he drives them back into their tank with pistol fire, and then destroys their vehicle with another bazooka round. As three more tanks move up to attack the roadblock, he flanks them and destroys all three of them. His solo destruction of five enemy tanks results in an award of the Medal of Honor.

Dec 16th: McCain's carrier raid ends, and the Americans on Mindoro pause to consolidate and hurriedly build an airfield. The Germans begin a major offensive in the Ardennes – later to be known as the Battle of the Bulge. They have four armies – 15th, 6th SS, 5th Panzer, and 7th – made up of 24 Divisions, including 10 Panzer/SS-Panzer divisions. The intention is to recapture Antwerp and fatally divide the Americans and the British (Hitler's idea, this). Six American divisions from V and VII Corps are caught by the surprise and the fog, German artillery and English-speaking commandos in US uniform aren't helping either. Even so, the offensive is thrown off its timetable on the first day by the resistance of the 2nd and 99th US Divisions. A V2 missile lands on a cinema in Antwerp, killing some 560 people. The Allied restriction on using proximity radar fuzes over land (lest a dud give the secret away) is lifted. Technical Sergeant Vernon McGarity of the 99th US Division is wounded near Krinkelt, Germany in the German's opening barrage of the Ardennes Offensive. T/Sgt McGarity refuses evacuation and rejoins his

squad. Over the next several hours he will twice rescue wounded men trapped in the open, disable a German tank with a bazooka; knock out a light gun and a machinegun, and otherwise fight on until surrounded and literally out of ammunition. Thereupon, the Germans take him and his squad prisoner. His brave stand earns him the Medal of Honor.

Essential Reading: The Ardennes offensive was denied a chance at its ultimate objectives right from its first day, particularly as the Germans failed to reach Eisenborn Ridge and the hard fighting soldiers of the 2nd and 99th Divisions rallied upon it and held. The American talents for individual resourcefulness and adaptability in adversity were seldom better displayed than they were here. The American military historian Charles B MacDonald (a company commander here) details the critical early days of the campaign in A Time for Trumpets: The Untold Story of the Battle of the Bulge. He writes with his usual clear pen and the account is well worth adding to any library.

SISIP LTD Allowances Class Action

CLASS ACTION REGARDING THE CALCULATION OF LONG TERM DISABILITY BENEFITS UNDER DIVISION 2, PART III(B) of SISIP POLICY #901102

***Simon Logan v. Her Majesty The Queen* Federal Court of Canada Number T-1358-18**

The Federal Court has certified the above case as a class action.

What is this Class Action About?

The Plaintiff and the Class say that the Defendant breached the terms of Division 2, Part III(B) of SISIP Policy 901102 by improperly calculating the monthly income benefit and monthly income benefit – dismemberment.

Division 2, Part III(B) of SISIP Policy 901102 provides **long term disability and dismemberment insurance to members of the Regular Force and Reserve Force – Class C who were medically released from the Canadian Armed Forces on or after December 1, 1999.**

In particular, the Plaintiff and the Class say the Defendant failed to include monthly allowances as part of the “member’s monthly pay in effect on the date of release from the Canadian Forces” or “*solde mensuelle du membre à la date de libération des Forces canadiennes*” for the purposes of calculating the monthly income benefits of Regular Force Members.

Further, the Plaintiff and the Class say the Defendant failed to include monthly allowances as part of their “monthly pay in effect when the injury was incurred or the illness was contracted” or “*la solde mensuelle en vigueur au moment où la blessure est survenue ou que la maladie a été contractée*” for the purposes of calculating the monthly income benefits in the case of a Reserve Force Class “C” member.

Do you think you are eligible to join this suit? For more information go to:-

<https://www.mcinnescooper.com/services/sisip-ltd-allowances-class-action/>

Veterans Parking

The British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association (BCVCA) is embarking upon an initiative to negotiate free parking for Veterans, Province wide. The BCVCA is leading this initiative because this organization is the sole originator and administrator of the BC Veterans Licence Plate Program, therefore it is a natural evolution for BCVCA to include free Veteran parking in its portfolio.

LCol (Ret'd) Archie Steacy, President BCVCA

Most people know that the City Council recently approved a motion to allow Free Parking for Veterans at city administered meters, parking lots and parks, effective November 2020. Our (BCVCA) aim now is two-fold. First, to see if we can get that waiting period shortened. Second, to create a synchronized plan for everyone. Several jurisdictions in the GVRD already allow Vets to park free. Others only let Vets that live in their area to park free. Others don't allow it at all. We hope to create an 'all embracing' plan. To that end I would like to know what the situation is where you live. So please send me an email (sofsibc@gmail.com) to let me know what happens in your area. Make the Subject heading of your emails 'Vets Parking' to help me sort my incoming mail.

Thanks, Eric Mold

US Army Develops Sound-Deadening Headgear for Their Military Dogs

George Winston War History Online Nov 30, 2019



(US Army via Zeteo Tech)

The US Army takes the protection of all it's members very seriously, and this now extends to their canine members as well. Army researchers have developed a type of headgear designed to protect the dog's sensitive hearing when they are working in noisy conditions or likely to be exposed to explosive blasts or helicopter rides. This new very high-tech cap is the latest in combat armor and is designed to fit any of the breeds of dog used by the armed forces. It will replace the hard helmet that is currently used.

(US Army via Zeteo Tech)

The new soft sound-deadening cap will be simple to fit as the hard headgear presently in use is difficult to put onto the dog. It is called CAPS, which stands for Canine Auditory Protection System, and it is aimed at stopping the short-term hearing loss that



many dogs experience when they work in the vicinity of loud machinery or vehicles. The cap is approximately an inch thick and is made from a soft, very flexible material that absorbs sound and filters out loud noises that can impair or permanently damage a dog's hearing. As the military use a variety of breeds of dog, the cap had to be made in such a manner as to stretch or shrink to fit the head of any of the breeds. It is designed to seal properly around the animal's head to ensure maximum sound reduction. Working dogs in the military are already equipped with goggles, helmets, and other types of protective headgear, and this new cap will work with all of the existing protective gear.



(US Army via Zeteo Tech)

An Army research technical expert, Stephen Lee, said, *“Even a short helicopter flight can affect a dog’s hearing, resulting in impaired performance and inability to hear the handler’s commands, which can hinder the mission. This new technology protects the canine while on missions and can extend the dog’s working life.”* This protective headgear has been developed under a Small Business Innovation Research Grant given by the Army to a collaboration between a biodefense and medical technology company, ZeteoTech, Lieutenant Commander Pete ‘Skip’ Scheifele MD, PhD (Ret), and

the University of Cincinnati. This cap has been subjected to strenuous testing by both the military and law enforcement agencies to ensure that it adequately protected those sensitive ears and ensured that the dogs could always hear commands given, irrespective of the noise around them. The use of this new CAPS system will, in the future, allow military working dogs to be used in a broader range of operations. It has the potential to extend the dog's ability to work in a more extensive range of environments, both with humans or with automated systems. Researchers paid particular attention to dogs that regularly traveled in helicopters. The noise of helicopter engines typically goes above 90db, which is particularly damaging to dogs' hearing ability. Dogs' ears have three times as many muscles as human ears, and they hear up to 50Hz while humans cannot hear sounds above 20Hz. Military dogs came to the attention of the public when a Belgian Malinois, Conan, was decorated for his role in a recent military operation in which Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed.

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.

18 Pounder restoration. Great news from the 78th Fraser Highlanders! Thanks for the donation.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/18-pounder-restoration>

St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/st-barbaras-day-special-guest-night>

Sponsorship for the Regimental Sergeants Major Photo Wall are starting to heat. Only another six to go. Have you sponsored an RSM today? \$40.00

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/regimental-sergeants-major-project.html>

Commanding Officer's Christmas Tea. Have you sent in your RSVP? Members of the Association and their significant others are certainly welcome to attend.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/commanding-officers-christmas-tea>

Yearbook update with photos from the Regimental Quarter Guard Competition Team in 1956.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1956---15th-fd-regt-rca.html>

The Santa Claus Parade 2019 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1956---15th-fd-regt-rca.html>

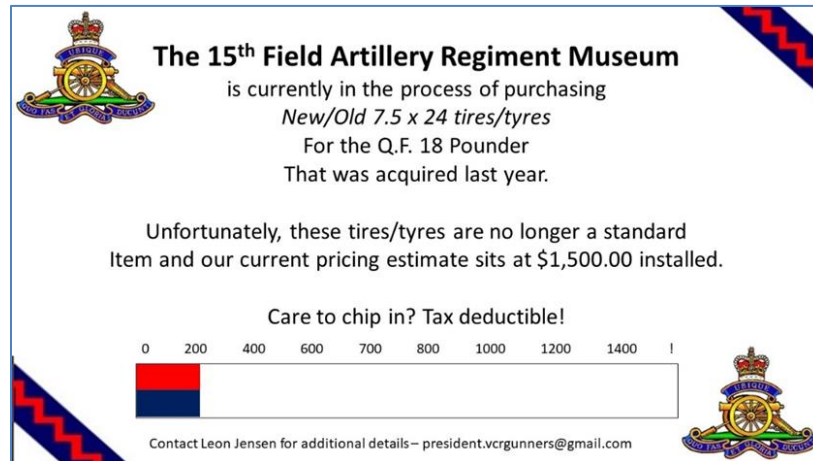
Check out who was quick to send in their RSVP as soon as the birthday sales went on-line.

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>

2017 Group photo update <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2017.html>

Don't forget to order your tickets on 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: Canada's first submarines. CC-1 with CC-2 in background. CC-1, constructed by the Seattle Construction and Drydock Company, was launched on 3 March 1913 at Seattle, Washington as the submarine Iquique for Chile. This deal fell through and the boat, along with CC-2, was offered to British Columbia's premier Sir Richard McBride, just nine days before the declaration of war in 1914. On 4 August 1914, the day the United Kingdom declared war on Germany, the boat departed at night (to maintain secrecy from the Chilean, German, and US governments) for handover to British Columbian authorities near Victoria. The Dominion Government of Canada later ratified the sale although there was a Parliamentary investigation of the cost of both boats. The submarine entered into service for the Royal Canadian Navy as CC-1 on 6 August 1914.



CC-1, differing from her sister boat, CC-2, was built to the design 19E. The layout of the torpedo tubes within the boats led to different hull forms. CC-1 was armed with five 18 in (460 mm) torpedo tubes, four forward and one astern. This gave the submarine a bluff bow shape. The submarine used Whitehead Mk IV 18-inch (460 mm) torpedoes that had a range of 1,000 yd (910 m) at 25 knots (46 km/h; 29 mph). CC-1 displaced 313 long tons (318 t) surfaced and 373 long tons (379 t) submerged and had a length of 144.5 ft (44.0 m), a beam of 15 ft (4.6 m) and a draught of 11 ft (3.4 m). The boats could dive 200 ft (61 m) and unlike modern submarines, the main ballast and trim tanks were located internally. The boats were powered by MAN 6-cylinder diesel engines constructed in the United States under licence. The CC class could carry 5,356 US gal (20,270 l) of diesel fuel. The two submarines were designed to make 13 knots (24 km/h; 15 mph) surfaced and 10 knots (19 km/h; 12 mph) submerged, however *CC-1* made 15 knots (28 km/h; 17 mph) in sea trials in November 1917. The submarine had a complement of 2 officers and 16 enlisted.

This Week: This week's photo returns to the land, and to something many of you love, automobiles. Our love of motor vehicles has possibly had a bit of an effect on the planet's ecosystem but being able to drive two blocks to the local grocery store for a pack of Mr. Fruity Juicy is certainly worth the trade-offs. After all, who doesn't love a hot, smoky summer? This photo, which is courtesy of friend of the regiment whose father commanded 12 Field Regiment in the last big conflict, looks at first to be a standard staff car used by the Allies. It sports the requisite large white stars, so beloved of trigger-happy pilots. Around it are smiling Canadian soldiers, all enjoying the fact that Fritz has just given up, and they will soon be free to return to the land of the maple leaf and contribute to the anticipated baby boom. It also looks as if the car has come into sudden contact with the only lamp post within miles.



However, not all is as it seems. An eagle-eyed museum curator pointed out that the automobile is possibly “borrowed” from a previous owner. The caption on the original photo confirms this. So, dear reader, how did the erudite curator come to this conclusion? Who might have previously owned this fine limo, and, pray tell, what make is it? All good motor heads may send their answers to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@outlook.com), or to the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Happy motoring!

From the ‘Punitary’

Where will you end up if you get run down? The hospital!

Murphy’s Other Laws

Always make sure someone has a can opener.

Quotable Quotes

The great advantage about telling the truth is that nobody ever believes it. - *Dorothy L Sayers*

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

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 1st, 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 29th 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 1st) and Surrey Arts Centre (Dec 10th).

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

Visit our website at 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,
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 *](#)