



## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Jan 14, 2020

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at [bob.mugford@gmail.com](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. 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.

- Jan 01** Dues for VAA, RUSI and 15 Fd Officers Mess Associates now payable
- Jan 15** RUSI Vancouver - meeting of directors
- Jan 29** Seaforth's Museum tour
- Jan 31** 15 Fd Centennial Reunion & birthday pty – meet & greet
- Feb 01** 15 Fd Centennial Reunion & birthday pty
- Feb 08** BCR Whiskey Tasting
- Mar 6** 78FH & 15 Fd Whiskey Tasting

## World War 2 – 1945

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

**Jan 16<sup>th</sup>:** Two Japanese destroyers are sunk off southern China by TF38. Zhukov's troops take Radom and encircle Warsaw while Konev's reach Czestochowa. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> US Armies link up at Houffalize; UK XIII Corps attacks the German salient on the west bank of the Maas. Chinese troops start clearing sections of the Ledo Road near Myitkyina. Hitler is imagining that he still has intact Panzer formations and a decent rail net: He pulls the Grossdeutschland Panzer Corps out of East Prussia and orders its transfer to southern Poland to launch a counterattack. The Army Group G drive on Strasbourg ends up focused in a three-day fight over the town of Herrlisheim, where 12<sup>th</sup> US Armoured and 10<sup>th</sup> SS Panzer Division both take heavy casualties.

*Essential Reading: Grossdeutschland was the elite unit of the Wehrmacht and has long captured popular admiration among wargamers and those interested in the Eastern Front, particularly after Guy Sajer's account 'The Forgotten Soldier' was published. There are several histories of the division, but perhaps James Lucas' 'Germany's Elite Panzer Force: Grossdeutschland' is one of the more serviceable accounts.*

**Jan 17<sup>th</sup>:** A field of ruins once called Warsaw finally falls into Soviet hands, while Rokossovsky's Front takes Modlin. Elements of 3<sup>rd</sup> Army take Diekirch. Auschwitz is evacuated and 60,000 prisoners are forced out on a death march. The German and Hungarian defenders of Budapest evacuate Pest to concentrate on the defence of Buda, and blow the bridges connecting the two halves of the city. The Soviets arrest Swedish diplomats Raoul Wallenberg and Per Anger when they respond to an invitation to meet with Marshal Malinovsky of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ukrainian Front (little knowing that a Hungarian Communist has denounced them to the NKVD). This ends the life saving work these two have performed for tens of thousands of Jews in the last year. Wallenberg will vanish in Soviet custody and was apparently executed on Stalin's orders in 1947. Anger is released in April 1945. Both are named Righteous Among the Nations.

*Essential Reading: Wallenberg is perhaps the most famous and one of the most effective of those later named 'Righteous Among the Nations' by Israel. The honor is one for non-Jews who worked to save Jews from the genocidal intentions of the Nazis and their supporters. There appear to be no studies of the psychology of these people – while being alike in moral courage they had many different motives – but there are several collections of anecdotes about them. 'When Courage was Stronger than Fear: Remarkable Stories of Christians who Saved Jews from the Holocaust' by Peter Hellman is perhaps one of the more popular volumes.*

**Jan 18<sup>th</sup>:** Private Dennis Donnini of the Royal Scots Fusiliers is knocked unconscious by enemy fire in a platoon attack on the German village of Stein in the Roer Triangle. As he re-awakens, he charges a house held by the enemy and tosses in a grenade. As the enemy flee, he pursues them firing his Bren gun despite being wounded a second time. The third time he is hit, it detonates a grenade that he is carrying. However, his actions enable his comrades to clear a village defended by twice their number. Donnini is posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

**Jan 19<sup>th</sup>:** US Troops on Luzon take Carmen as they drive south towards Manila, while 21<sup>st</sup> US Infantry and Filipino Guerrillas are making good progress in liberating Mindoro. The Polish cities of Krakow, Lodz, Nowy Sacz, Tarnow and Wroklawek are all taken by Soviet troops.

**Jan 20<sup>th</sup>:** Hungary signs an Armistice with the Allies and agrees to attack Germany; nonetheless, Hungarian troops are still holding out in Buda. Roosevelt begins his fourth term with Truman as his VP. Chinese troops have also cleared most of the Ledo Road. French 1<sup>st</sup> Army stages an attack in the Vosges under miserable conditions to start the reduction of the Colmar Pocket. 3<sup>rd</sup> US Army takes Brandenburg at the base of the Ardennes bulge. Hitler orders the transfer of 6<sup>th</sup> SS Panzer Corps from the Ardennes to the relief of Budapest. The Soviets are steadily pacing forward in Poland and have just punched into East Prussia near Tilsit. On the

night of 19/20 January at Kyeyebyin in Burma, a Japanese night attack was launched on a position held by the 16<sup>th</sup> Punjab Regiment. Lance Naik Sher Shah crawled out among the Japanese and engaged them at point blank range, breaking up two attacks but sustaining a gunshot wound that shattered his leg. Assuring his men he was fine, he repeated this performance for the third attack, during which he was killed. Sher Shan was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

**Jan 21<sup>st</sup>:** A day of all take and no give: Tarlac is taken on Luzon as 40<sup>th</sup> US Division pushes towards Clark Field. US III Corps takes Wiltz in the Ardennes. The Soviets take Gumbinnen in East Prussia. Monywa is taken on the Chindwin by 20<sup>th</sup> Indian Division and elements of two Brigades stage an amphibious landing and take parts of Ramree Island off Burma. TF38 launches over a thousand sorties over Formosa, destroying 104 Japanese aircraft and sinking 10 ships, but three carriers are damaged in return.

## **CP Honours Canadian, US Military with Special Locomotives**

*Canadian Pacific* Nov 12, 2019

CALGARY/PRNewswire/ - Canadian Pacific (CP) unveiled five specially painted locomotives on Remembrance Day in Canada and Veterans Day in the U.S. honouring the culture and history of the armed forces. The five Electro-Motive Diesel SD70ACUs will take the message of military pride across the CP system. "As a leading employer of veterans, CP is proud to commemorate military machines and the brave men and women who've operated them in conflicts around the world," said CP President, CEO and veteran Keith Creel. "As these locomotives pass through communities across the CP system, I hope those who see them will reflect on the sacrifices made by so many of their countrymen to protect and defend their freedom." CP personnel carefully studied the paint colours and patterns that branches of the Canadian and US militaries applied to tanks, planes and warships. Based on their research, they devised five liveries for these locomotives:



*CP 7020 wears NATO green, which the Canadian and US armies apply to fighting vehicles and equipment serving in temperate climates.*

CP SD70ACu No. 7020 at unveiling at Ogden Yard on Remembrance Day 2019. Image: C. van Steenis

*CP 7021 wears the sand colour that the Canadian and US armies apply to fighting vehicles and equipment serving in arid climates.*



*CP 7022 wears the grey, red and black colour pattern of modern Canadian and American warships.*

*CP 7023 wears a two-tone gray paint scheme designed after the livery applied to Canadian and American fighter jets.*





*CP 6644 wears the camouflage colours applied to Royal Canadian Air Force "Spitfire" fighter planes flown at the Allied invasion of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.*

Four of the five locomotives bear a Canadian flag on one side and American on the other. CP operates in both countries and employs veterans of both countries' military services. "We are proud to support our veterans and the invaluable skill and experience that they have gained serving their country," said CP Senior Vice-President Engineering, Mechanical and Procurement Scott MacDonald, a veteran. "These locomotives are a symbol of our support. They will operate in regular service and further support our commitment as a proud employer of veterans in Canada and the United States." CP was recently awarded a Gold Top 10 Military Friendly® Employer designation by Victory Media. In October, CP joined Homes for Heroes and other stakeholders for the grand opening of the ATCO Veterans Village in Calgary, a community of tiny homes aimed at getting homeless veterans off the street. Through its Spin for a Veteran program, CP has helped raise more than \$800,000 for the cause.

**About Canadian Pacific:** - Canadian Pacific is a transcontinental railway in Canada and the United States with direct links to major ports on the west and east coasts. CP provides North American customers a competitive rail service with access to key markets in every corner of the globe. CP is growing with its customers, offering a suite of freight transportation services, logistics solutions and supply chain expertise. Visit [cpr.ca](http://cpr.ca) to see the rail advantages of CP.

## **The US Army Wants to Stick Cyborg Implants into Soldiers By 2050**

*Haley Britzky Task and Purpose November 27, 2019*

The reality of real cyborg soldiers on the battlefield is closer than you think. A new Pentagon report, "Cyborg Soldier 2050: Human/Machine Fusion and the Implications for the Future of the DoD," goes into detail about four cyborg technologies that are "technically feasible by 2050 or earlier" — including eye enhancements for situational awareness, programmed muscle control, auditory enhancement, and "direct neural enhancement of the human brain for two-way data transfer. "You read that right — the DoD wants to connect your brain to machines. Carried out from September 2018 to August 2019, the study was conducted by a DoD

Biotechnologies for Health and Human Performance Council group and released on Monday by the Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center. The first feasible capability that the study outlines is a cyborg eye, with two technical ways forward. One path would include an "ocular enhancement system" being placed over the existing eyeball, in which a soldier could learn how to interpret the data being collected. In the other, the eyeball would be physically taken out, and replaced with an enhanced eyeball. The data collected by the new system would "pass directly into the optical nerve bundle behind the eye."

The study expects something like this to be doable by 2050. It would probably go to service members who have already lost some or all of their vision; it's not likely that someone with perfect eyes would have tissue removed to get cyborg vision. "In essence, the eye would be completely artificial and capable of pulling in any manner of sensory data and feeding it directly into the brain for interpretation." The next cyborg capability would include inserting sensors beneath the skin that would help control the body's movement by stimulating muscles when they're needed. The study says that something like this would help "decrease injury and mortality rates for soldiers through automated hazard avoidance." This would most likely be used for soldiers who have lost function of a limb, the study explains. For example, the "sensor web" would allow someone who has lost the use of their leg due to nerve or muscle damage to continue treatment, while also restoring function of the limb. The study also says that this might even provide "a long-term replacement treatment" for someone who suffered permanent damage.

On top of improving function, the study says this would eventually allow "warfighters to perform increasingly challenging tasks that often push them to the limits of their physical capability." The idea of combat exoskeletons isn't new, but the study says that's not the move — they "reduce energy" and "often impede operator performance." But an internal system to control the body's functions would help connect the body with an exosystem, leading to "physical behaviors that are more stable and agile." Auditory enhancement for soldiers aims to not only protect their hearing but improve it. The study says because of how invasive current technology would be — physically replacing the middle-ear bones and cochlea — it would only go to service members with significant hearing loss. The enhancement would be irreversible. But, by 2050, new technologies may be much less invasive and more accessible. Capabilities developed down the line could even include real-time language translation.

## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

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

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

WO Tennant in Afghanistan in 2009 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/afghanistan-2009.html>  
Band Fundraising in 2009 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2009.html>

The Band was part of the Olympic story as early as 2008

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2008.html>

Additional photos added <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/yakima-live-fire-ex-2008.html>

OP Peregrine 2003 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/op-peregrine.html>

St Barbara's Day 1999 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2-146th-st-barbaras.html>

New photos from the Yeltsin/Clinton summit salute 1997

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1997.html>

Bdr Meszaros in Yugoslavia 1992 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/unprofor-1992.html>

New photos from Christmas 1987 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/christmas-1987.html>

More photos Freedom of the City 1977

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/freedom-of-the-city-1977.html>

Olympics in 1976 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1976.html>

Change of Command 1942

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1942---15th-vcr-coast-bde-rca-af.html>

Future CO sails away to Europe in 1941

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1941---15th-vcr-coast-bde-rca-casf.html>

Newspaper stories from 1939

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1939---15th-vcr-coast-bde-rca-casf.html>

Coast Defence Preparations in 1938 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1938.html>

Band Performance 1935 <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1935.html>

Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! [president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)

## **Who (or What) Is It?**

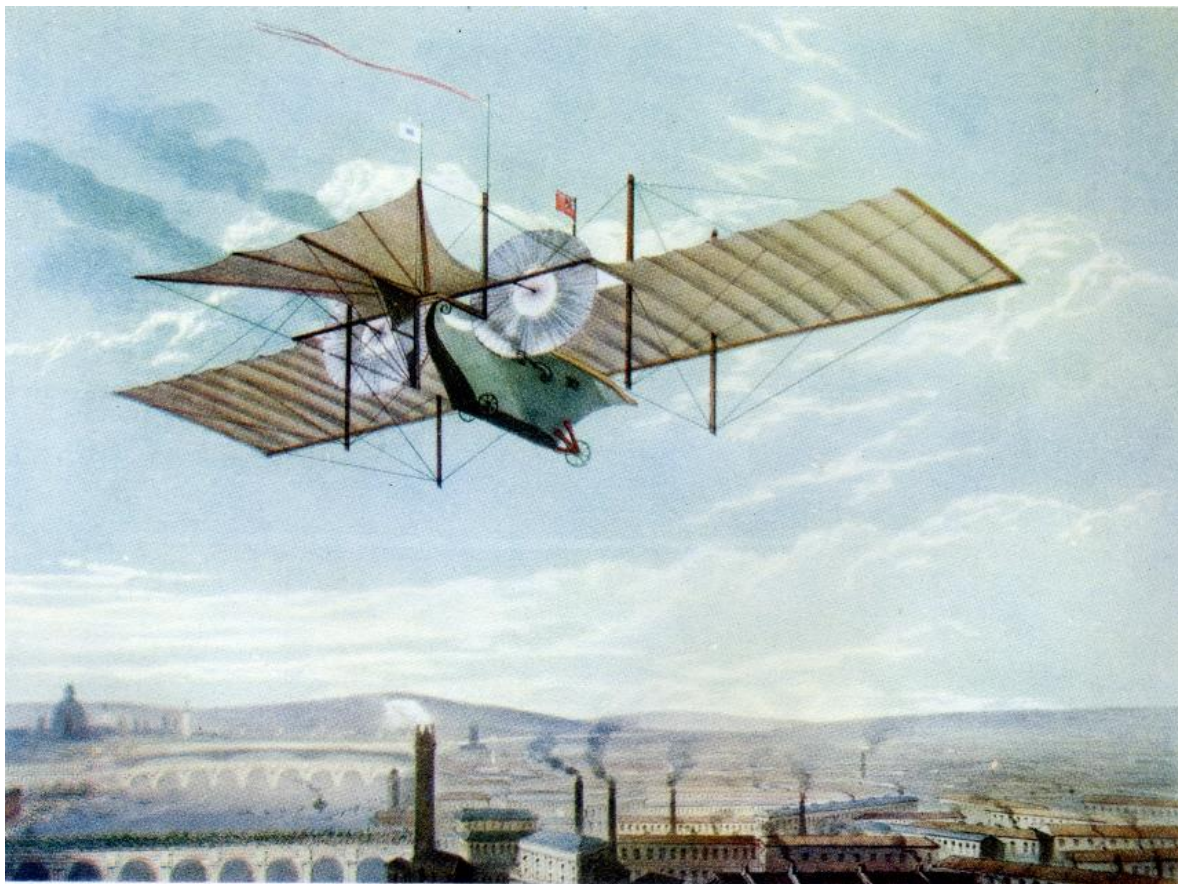
**Last Week:** This SP gun is a 10.5cm leFH 18/40 auf Geschützwagen Lorraine Schlepper. The chassis was a German modification of the French-made Lorraine 37L chassis from all those captured during the 1940 campaign. This is a very rare vehicle as most of the Lorraine Schlepper modifications used the WW1 15cm How or the 7.5 cm PAK 40 as an anti-tank weapon. Only very few were fitted with the 10.5 cm leFH 18/40 Howitzer.



For the last pre-holiday quiz, we received several answers and I copied the wrong answer to post to the newsletter. The auto in the photo is not a Mercedes; it is an ex-French or Polish army Packard. Note the height, grill sides, lamps, and split screen.

**This Week:** We begin our new series, “Great Flying Machines of the Distant Past” with a depiction of this graceful man-made contraption (women were at home in those stirring days, save for those outside of “society”). Its ingenious design shows how advanced the British Empire was in terms of technology, amongst a host of other areas of expertise, such as railways, cricket, and colonization. Unusually for this series, this is not a photo; it is a lithograph (another triumph of imperial advances). There are two possibilities why this is so. Firstly, photographic technique (invented, alas, by the French, but perfected by Mr. Fox Talbot) had not reached a level wherein film emulsion was capable of capturing speed. Secondly, there might not actually have been a flight as successful as the one immortalized by this picture. Your research will possibly answer this.

So, dear reader, can you tell us what this mighty triumph of technology might have been? Who was the inventor, and where did it (possibly) fly? Finally, did passengers ever lose their luggage back then? Send your thoughts by electronic post to the editor, Robert



Mugford, Esq ([bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com)), or to the author, John Redmond, Esq ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). One hopes that our readers have access to computing engines in order to do so.

### **From the ‘Punitary’**

What do you do when your socks get really holy? You only wear them to church.

### **Murphy’s Other Laws**

New systems generate new problems

### **Quotable Quotes**

It's always too early to quit. - *Norman Vincent Peale*



## **Dues 2020**

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

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

Treasurer, Vancouver Artillery Association  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

VAA dues can also be paid by etransfer by sending payments to:-  
[president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)

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

Treasurer, RUSI Vancouver  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

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

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

# SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS' OF CANADA MUSEUM TOUR 29 JAN 2020



## MUSEUM TOURS DAY PLANNED FOR: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

HERE'S THE PLAN: PLEASE SIGN UP YOUR NAME & NUMBERS.

1. DROP BY AND BRING GUESTS TO THE ARTILLERY LUNCH, IF POSSIBLE..

**ADDRESS-** 2025 W 11th Ave, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

LET ME KNOW HOW MANY SO I CAN ADVISE MRS LUM, BY JAN 22. [\* ]

2. COME EARLY AND **TOUR THE ARTILLERY MUSEUM AFTER 10:00 AM**

PARKING ON 12<sup>TH</sup> IS GOOD SOMETIMES.

3. ENJOY A 5 COURSE, MRS LUM LUNCH FOR A REASONABLE PRICE

&&&&&&&&&&&

4. **1:00 PM** ISH **DRIVE FOLKS** DOWN TO THE SEAFORTH ARMOURY.

**ADDRESS-** 1650 Burrard St, Vancouver, BC V6J 3G4

5. PARKING IS BEHIND - THRU THE GATES & UP THE RAMP & FREE.

I WILL LET SEAFORTH SECURITY KNOW [\* ]

6. BE CAREFUL ENTERING THE ARMOURY THRU A SMALL DOOR ON THE

N. EASTERN SIDE OF THE ARMOURY.

[THERE IS A BAD LEDGE ONTO THE FLOOR OF THE ARMOURY.]

**ELEVATOR IS IN THE HALLWAY [NR. WASHROOMS] PRESS FLOOR #3**

**PUSH THRU DOORS AHEAD AND GO LEFT**

**TO THE OFFICERS' MESS TO MEET: TO CHAT, AND TO GREET:**

**JAMES CALHOUN FULL TIME- CURATOR.**

WHEN ALL ARE GATHERED, WE HEAD OFF FOR A VERY SURPRISE FILLED TOUR.

IT WILL BE CASUAL, INFORMATIVE AND QUITE AMAZING I'M SURE.

YOU MAY BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT-

THE ELEVATOR IS VERY HANDY, AND QUICKER THAN SOME.

[WHEN I WAS THERE RECENTLY WITH JOHN REDMOND,

WE SPENT WELL OVER AN HOUR.]

Bob Chown - 604-564-7117 [robertsdchown@gmail.com](mailto:robertsdchown@gmail.com)

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 \\*](#)

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

# Regimental Whiskey Tasting

*Hosted by:*



*The British Columbia  
Regiment  
Officers' Mess &  
Sgts' & WOs' Mess*



**Date:** Saturday, February 8, 2020

**Time:** Bar Open from 6:30pm - Late.  
Whiskies presented 7:30-10pm.

**Location:** Upstairs Messes of the British Columbia Regiment  
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC

**Dress:** Casual Dress/Kilt Encouraged (No Jeans Please)

**Price:** \$60/person (Includes 5x Full Measures of Whiskey)

**\*\*For those not partaking in the Whiskey Tasting, the option of a \$20/person donation to the Unit Fund is available.**

**RSVP:** Tickets are available by presale only  
on a first-come-first-served basis!

For more information or to purchase tickets, email:  
Maj Adam McLeod, at "adamcleod@gmail.com"

Payment via e-transfer, no cash sales at the door.  
No cancellations after January 24, 2019