



## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Feb 7, 2017

Apologies to all my loyal readers. Had some serious computer software problems over the last few days and was unable to set up a newsletter for this week. I am almost back to normal and should be able to publish next week. In the meantime, I publish this abbreviated edition.

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a 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 serve a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies

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

Mar 3 **Scotch Tasting Fundraiser** - details at the end of the newsletter.

### World War 2 - 1942

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

**Feb 8<sup>th</sup>:** General Homma calls for more reinforcements in the Philippines, American resistance thus far has been more formidable than was planned on. The 5<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and Imperial Guard Divisions stage a successful crossing onto Singapore Island.

**Feb 10<sup>th</sup>:** The Pacific War Council (UK, Australia, Netherlands, and New Zealand) meets in London. The British defence on Singapore falters, partly because of confused communications – again. Japanese forces cross the Salween in Burma.

**Feb 11<sup>th</sup>:** The Japanese on the northern edge of Singapore Island easily fend off a counterattack; the defenders retire to the City of Singapore itself. Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Prinz Eugen start their run up the English Channel – en route to home ports that aren't in easy range of British bombers.

**Feb 12<sup>th</sup>:** Japanese soldiers on Banka Island in Indonesia murder a number of survivors from a vessel that sank after it fled Singapore: Among those dead are several dozen wounded and 21 Australian nurses who were deliberately machine gunned by Japanese infantrymen. Inattentiveness has its price, Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Prinz Eugen and their escorts brush off minor British attacks in their ‘Channel Dash’ and make it into the North Sea en route to Norway. One attack brings much German admiration for the naked courage of six Swordfish torpedo bombers which flew into a storm of flak in a failed attempt to hit Scharnhorst, with only five of the 18 crewmen surviving the complete destruction of their squadron. Lt Cdr Eugene Esmonde, an Irishman in the Royal Navy’s Fleet Air Arm, led the attack and receives a posthumous Victoria Cross.

**Feb 13<sup>th</sup>:** German Resistance has firmed up since December, but Soviet raiding detachments have now reached as far as Belarus. Britain can rest easy; the German plans for Operation Sealion are finally and officially shelved. Matvey Kuzmitch Kuzmin is an 83 year old man, and no friend of the Communist Party; but when he is paid to guide German troops along a back route to the Soviet defences on the Malkino Heights, the elderly poacher sees to it they walk into a pre-arranged ambush. During the fight, the German officer who engaged Kuzmin as a guide kills him; but Kuzmin posthumously becomes the oldest man ever inducted into the ranks of Hero of the Soviet Union as a warrior.

**Feb 14<sup>th</sup>:** Faced with the chronic inaccuracy of night bombing, the RAF decides to start deliberately “wide bombing” in industrial cities and attack civilians. Japanese paratroopers descend on Palembang on Sumatra. In a time of despair and defeat, the brave resolve to go down fighting... One such is a 43 year old temporary Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve aboard a beat up passenger steamer converted into a gun boat. But when Thomas Wilkinson sights two Japanese convoys and their escorts in the Java Sea off Malaya, he tells the crew of HMS Li Wo that he will engage the foe to the end. His men snarl their agreement and bring their tramp steamer to battle – they set a Japanese transport on fire and duel a cruiser for an hour before their vessel is sunk by gunfire. Lt Wilkinson is posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross to recognize a valiant ship and crew

## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

We’ve been working on some material in the recent past. There’s an Annual report on the 2016 yearbook page as well as some updates on our fundraising efforts

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2016.html>

Added 100 new names to the on-line nominal roll for a total of 2500 members that have served with 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA at some time in their career. We’ve added a new page, the 2017 Yearbook, and have already added pictures there from the party. Check it out and send me any of the pictures that you took. <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2017.html>

There's new pictures from a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Dinner in 2006.

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2006.html>

You can also go back thirty years ago for a photo of the Soldiers' Christmas Dinner. Were you there? <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1987.html>

Have you got a story that you might wish to share? Some additional photographs? Contact Leon Jensen at [LeonJ1@hotmail.com](mailto:LeonJ1@hotmail.com)

### **Regimental Birthday Party/Reunion**

Wasn't that a party? The snowstorm made for a few cancellations but we still had 44 for dinner! Speaking of which, Mrs Lum did a fantastic job on the hors d'oeuvres and the roast beef.

The Regiment provided an opportunity to talk to the Artillery Technicians in the Command Post. There were some odd looks when the topic of Arty Boards or Milipacs came up but that just shows the amazing changes in the Gunner world over the last forty years. Former Regimental Sergeant Major Chief Warrant Officer Vic Yano presented the Vancouver Artillery Association with his pace stick for the use of the "Old Guard" the next time that they're on parade. Sergeant Darwin Harmon donated his Patrols to the Association for our use. Unfortunately, most of the Association physiques do not quite match the youthful figure of Sergeant Darwin. We were also pleased to receive new photographs for the website from another former Regimental Sergeant Major Dave Levien and one of our former Battery Commanders Ian Newby. They are being scanned and will be placed on the website as they become available. Any assistance you can provide in identifying the thousands of photographs that are now on-line would be greatly appreciated. [www.vancouvergunners.ca](http://www.vancouvergunners.ca)

The fundraising venture for the 25 Pounder Uniform project has now moved ahead by another \$600.00 and the door prizes of the Regimental Bear, Bessborough history books and stable belt appeared to have been warmly received by all. The Bear was won by one of our former Commanding Officers, Lieutenant-Colonel Kent Wickens, who chose the CADPAT TW version while the stable belt was won by Mrs Archie Pell. The Armoury history books were won by Clay Harmon and Lisa Abbott.

The big comment for the evening was, "Looking forward to the 2018 birthday party!"

# **15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA & The 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser's Highlanders Fund Raiser and Scotch Tasting Night**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser's Highlanders invite you, and any like-minded guests of your acquaintance, to attend our annual fund raising and whiskey tasting event at the historic Bessborough Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music. Did we say whisky?

Tickets are **\$55.00** per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by our famous whisky elves, Chuck & John, or a meager **\$25.00** if you are only having beer, wine, or soft drinks from our No-Host Bar.

**Only 50 tickets will be sold for the full whisky fleet!**

Dress is business casual. kilts, and highland dress, of course, are welcome.

**DATE:** Friday – March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

**TIME:** 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA

**LOCATION:** 2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Van, BC V6J  
2C7

**DO NOT MISS OUT!**

**TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:**

Major James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: [barrettjd007@gmail.com](mailto:barrettjd007@gmail.com)

All profits will go to support the activities of the 15th Field Regimental Society and the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations upon request.



# VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR



ONE OF CANADA'S LARGEST MALE VOICE CHOIRS

## STOUT HEARTED MEN

**Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm**

**HIGHLANDS UNITED CHURCH**

**3255 Edgemont Blvd, North Vancouver**

**\$29 adult • \$27 senior • \$12 student**

**Tickets Available:**

**ONLINE from [vwmc.ca](http://vwmc.ca) or call 604-878-1190.**

Tickets are also available from Highlands United Church office and choir members.

**VWMC Concert is jointly sponsored by:**



**Highlands United Church**  
Phone: (604) 980-6071

**and**



**St. Catherine's Anglican Church**  
Phone: (604) 985-0666