



## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Dec 18, 2018

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.

**I am now in holiday mode. I will continue to publish a limited edition, mainly to keep advertising upcoming events and to keep the WW2 daily diary up to date. Next full edition on Jan 8.**

**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 -**

**First lunch of 2019 – Jan 9<sup>th</sup>**

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

- Jan 01** New Years Levée – 1100hrs in the Officers and WO & Sgts Mess
- Jan 09** First lunch of 2019
- Jan 26** 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders - Burns Dinner
- Feb 02** 15 Fd 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday Social

The **Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir** is holding a series of Christmas Concerts throughout the lower mainland over the next few weeks. See posters at the end of the newsletter.

**Holiday Stand down** - The Unit is one stand-down from Dec 9 - Jan 7.

### **World War 2 – 1943**

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

**Dec 20<sup>th</sup>:** 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division starts to near Ortona, and 1<sup>st</sup> Fallschirmjager is continuing to fight tooth and nail to defend it. A radio operator in a B-17 on a raid over Bremen, Technical Sergeant Forrest L Vosler is injured in the legs by a 20mm cannon shell from a German fighter

plane. He understands that the tail gunner is worse injured and crawls back to relieve him and take over the guns. At this new post, he is again struck and injured in the eyes, face and chest; but he continues to fire. The pilot determines that the bomber will have to ditch in the sea. T/Sgt Vosler, by now effectively blind, returns to his radio set and repairs it by touch, getting off several distress calls. Once the plane ditches, he crawls out on the wing with the wounded tail gunner, holding on to him until other crewmen can get them both into a dinghy. His coolness and skill are inspirational to the rest of the crew, and result in the award of the Medal of Honor.

**Dec 21<sup>st</sup>:** The Soviets eradicate the last German pocket east of the Dnieper. Bomber Command hits sites for V-1s in the Pas de Calais region.

**Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>:** 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division seizes most of Ortona, but the German Fallschirmjager are proving especially tenacious and houses are contested room by room – this is a hard school for fighting in urban areas and both the Germans and Canadians will cite the lessons learned here in training for decades to come.

**Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Fighting continues in Ortona, other elements of 8<sup>th</sup> Army liberate Arielli further inland.

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup>:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ukrainian Front goes after 4<sup>th</sup> Panzer Army in a series of attacks to re-establish control of the territory west of Kiev. US Cruisers bombard parts of Bougainville as a diversion from a planned US landing on New Britain. Eisenhower is named as the Supreme Allied Commander for Overlord. Over the next five days, most of the other main Allied command appointments will be named for Europe, the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

*Essential Reading: Among the many recollections of the war, there are a few that are written from the point of view of someone who became a stress casualty. One of them is from the famous Canadian “writer Farley Mowat, who was a junior officer in a Canadian infantry battalion in Italy in 1943. The maelstrom around the crossing of the Moro River and the drive on Ortona figure heavily in his memoir And No Birds Sang and it is a candid self-portrait by somebody whose reserves of mental strength were drained flat.*

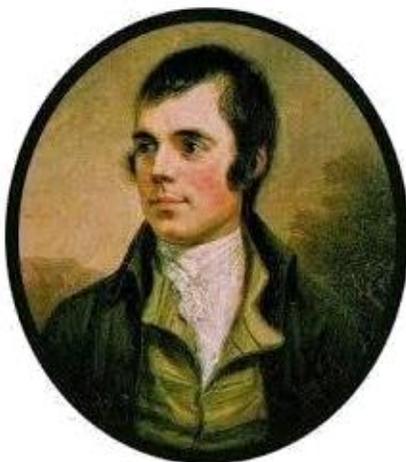
**Dec 25<sup>th</sup>:** Scharnhorst sails north to intercept Convoy JW-55B. A US carrier raid on New Ireland succeeds in sinking one transport ship. The Soviet advance near Nevel cuts the Vitebsk –Polotsk railway. USS Skate puts a torpedo into the Yamato.

## **Who Is It**

Returns in the new year



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, 26 January 2019

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 19 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<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment,  
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery***

*Cordially invite you  
to their*

***99<sup>th</sup> Birthday***

***&  
ALL RANKS FUND RAISING SOCIAL***

***(ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS "BATTLE FIELD TOUR 2020")***

**Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019**

**Cocktails: 18:30 for 19:00 hrs**

**LIVE MUSIC and DJ**

***To be held at***

**Bessborough Armoury**

**2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**Vancouver, BC**

**RSVP required by 3 Jan 19  
Capt Dempsey GM,  
Email: [george.dempsey@forces.gc.ca](mailto:george.dempsey@forces.gc.ca)  
Telephone: 604-666-4370**

**Dress: Casual  
Tickets: \$10 single  
\$15 couple**