

## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News – 16 Jan 2024

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 your copy.

**Newsletter online.** 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>

## Upcoming events – Mark your calendars– see poster section for details.

### Commemoration Cyprus 2024

### 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour

- Jan 17** Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs  
BCR Concert for the Padre – with 15 Fd and BCR Irish Pipes and Drums Bands
- Jan 24** Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs  
RCA Assoc - Discussion with LGen Lise Bourgon 1700hrs
- Jan 27** Ft Fraser Garrison, 78 Fraser Highlanders, Annual Burns Dinner  
**Change of Venue and price see poster**
- Jan 31** Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs

## The Cult of Diversity is Becoming Dangerous

Those best able to do a job should be appointed to it – but from the Royal Navy to the Post Office this is not happening! *Allison Pearson The Telegraph 11 January 2024*



*Who will protect us? If boys grow up being taught masculinity is toxic, no wonder the Royal Navy is having problems recruiting - Chris Sellars/Royal Navy*

I'm curious. What was your first thought when you read that the Royal Navy has so few sailors that it has to decommission two warships to staff its new class of frigates? (Intake for both the Navy and Royal Marines dropped by a shocking 22.1 per cent compared with the previous

year.) Mine was that if you repeatedly tell your young people that their country is hateful, its history despicable, its beautiful flag a symbol of oppression, its global legacy odious, then don't be surprised when there is a lack of volunteers to defend that country or dedicate their lives to its betterment. Additionally, if boys are brought up thinking masculinity is "toxic" rather than strong, occasionally noble, and really rather useful for opening stubborn jars and protecting women and children, likely lads may not exactly sprint to the nearest careers office which, in any case, is no longer manned by a mutton-chopped Captain Poldark to paint them an exciting picture of life on the ocean waves. If, that is, we are allowed any longer to say anything is "manned". Today's would-be marines are, presumably, required by HR to tick one of the 56 available gender boxes.

The sense that our once-mighty Royal Navy may be at a dangerous tipping point was reinforced last week when it was revealed that it had been reduced to advertising on LinkedIn for a new Rear Admiral – Director of Submarines. "Experience of commanding a submarine or, you know, living underwater in some capacity, an advantage. Please bring own flippers." Not long now before search parties are despatched to the nation's pleasure boating lakes in the hope of recruiting anyone who can steer a midway course between a mother and her ducklings. Sorry, I shouldn't joke. Veterans are warning that a rapid loss of skills and institutional knowledge means the situation may soon become irrecoverable. Politicians starve the Armed Forces of funds, which would boost morale and resources (and hence recruitment), while puffing out their puny chests and boasting about sending "British warships" to the Red Sea to repel Houthi attacks. Such delusions of grandeur are embarrassingly outdated. Make that one warship and a pedalo.

Women are the solution to this Armed Forces recruitment crisis, according to Grant Shapps, who succeeded the admirable Ben Wallace as Secretary of State for Defence. "Something which I'm extremely passionate about is actually having a military which should represent our country as it is today," said Shapps. "It can't be right that our military still only has 11 or 12 per cent women, for example, when they make up half the population." How entirely predictable, yet how deeply depressing, that diversity is trotted out as the answer to a problem which urgently requires a lot of good men. Diversity hires are not exactly looking that clever at the moment, are they? The unremarkable Paula Vennells, drab spouter of dehumanised management clichés – "accurate and reliable" was her mantra about the wretched Horizon IT system – can surely only have secured the top job at the Post Office because she ticked a box. (A former PO employee who heard Vennells talk about management said she was "incomprehensible but everyone was very respectful to her".) Like all over-promoted people, this lacklustre graduate of the University of Bradford stuck arrogantly to her script, unable to improvise sufficiently to take onboard minor considerations like the unspeakable anguish of hundreds of innocent sub-postmasters. As the Government makes an initial offer of just £75,000 compensation to those who were hounded by the Post Office – and had to pay back cash – but who were never convicted of any offence, let us remember that, at the height of her reign, Paula Vennells was paid tens of thousands of pounds a month. Masculinity is an amazing strength, not a liability.

Meanwhile, Dame Sharon White has been such a terrible occupant of the chair of the John Lewis Partnership (her tenure which ends next year will be the shortest in the history of JLP) that the

group posted a loss of £234 million in 2022-23. Women can, of course, be superb leaders, and there is ample evidence that mixed teams yield the best results. Still, the modern fetish for parachuting unqualified drones into a senior role seemingly on the basis of their skin colour or uterus too often ends in failure. The *reductio ad absurdum* of diversity came when the Royal Air Force unlawfully discriminated against white men. Fast tracking ethnic minority and female recruits into training slots at the expense of boys who had yearned to be fighter pilots since the age of six when they first fired a rubber band plane across the back garden was not going to make our country better defended. On the contrary, it was plain stupid. RAF chiefs admitted women cannot currently fly the advanced F-35 Lightning fighter jet because they are not heavy enough to wear the pilots' £325,000 high-tech helmets.

Given a choice, though, between a more diverse and equal workforce and one that can actually do the job, I'm afraid the HR zealots would go for diversity every time. Discrimination against young white men is now ubiquitous. Fretful parents tell me that, while their daughters picked up a graduate position with relative ease, their well educated, bright and ambitious boys can't even get work experience. "It's HR gone mad," says a friend who is a senior manager, "but nobody dares question their objectives which will ultimately ruin the business because so many of their hires aren't up to it. It's shocking". It is shocking, but it's also dangerous. Our young men are not going to apply to the Navy in particular, and the Armed Forces in general, if they think masculinity is treated as a liability instead of the amazing strength that it is. Strength that will keep us safe. All the nice girls love a sailor. Soon, there won't be any sailors unless they're nice girls. Better start learning Russian or Mandarin. When defence of the realm comes a poor second to diversity, you know our country is in big trouble.

## **Taking Back Ukraine's Airspace**

As many anticipated, Russia once again stepped up its missile and drone attacks against Ukraine's civilian infrastructure as winter set in at the end of 2023. *Chuck Pfarrer Kyiv Post Jan 9, 2024*



*Maidan square and the skyline of the Ukrainian capital Kyiv on January 4, 2023.*

*Photo: Sameer Al-Doumy/AFP*

Between Christmas and New Year, the world watched as Ukraine's cities endured a barrage of 300 Russian cruise and ballistic missiles. Added to this blitz were attacks by more than 200 Iranian-made attack drones that rained destruction on Kyiv, Dnipro, Lviv and Odesa. Ukraine's air defense and electronic warfare units downed more than 70% of the incoming barrage. The Russian missiles that reached their targets slammed into shopping centers, apartment buildings and metro stations. More than 130 Ukrainian civilians were killed or wounded. Of nearly 500 precision strike weapons unleashed by Russia, not one was aimed at a Ukrainian military target in spite of

statements from the Kremlin. All were intended to maim and kill Ukrainian civilians. No event in the war has so perfectly demonstrated Putin's murderous hatred of Ukraine. But there is a method to Russia's homicidal madness. As attacks on population centers continue, Kyiv faces a deadly dilemma: shield its civilians or protect its frontline soldiers.

For the most part, Ukraine has chosen to defend its cities. Left without overhead cover, Ukraine's frontline troops remain vulnerable to Russian air strikes and close air support missions. Critics often point to Ukraine's limited gains on the ground. To be blunt, lacking both air superiority or air defense dominance, Ukrainian ground units are operating under conditions that NATO forces, including the United States army, would find impossible. More than 500 kids have died in the war; Umerov and Zaluzhny visit front lines; Khodorkovsky back in Kremlin's crosshairs; Missiles in short supply, US brainstorms; Both sides gain in Donetsk. Lacking adequate air defense resources, Ukrainian ground commanders are forced to disperse troops and materiel, making the concentration of forces, their movement to the front, and even engagement with the enemy difficult – if not, at times, suicidal. Local air defense dominance is one of the acknowledge prerequisites for the conduct of modern offensive operations and the winning back of territory. No air defense means no ability to conduct maneuver warfare. If the United States continues to dither over military assistance to Ukraine, this vicious cycle will continue.

The US, and the west, have supplied more than 25,000 Man Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS). With a range of only two or three kilometers, shoulder-fired heat seeking missiles were never designed to provide protection to wide areas of the front line. Unfortunately, MANPADS are often the only air defense tool available to protect entire sectors of the line of contact, severely limiting Ukrainian maneuver options. Make no mistake, Ukraine has made the very best of what it has been given, spreading its air defenses to cover the maximum possible area, and moving these systems frequently to meet evolving threats and avoid detection. Ever ingenious, Ukrainian engineers have even adapted NATO missiles to be fired from ex-Soviet and captured Russian launch platforms – the so-called FrankenSAMs. But even these engineering marvels have not been sufficient to fill the gaps. What Ukraine needs urgently are not only increased numbers of air defense weapons, but also the ability to link these systems and sensors into a nation-wide, integrated air defense network. The US designed long range Patriot system is the keystone of Ukraine's air defense. As capable as the Patriot is, it not a single solution. It needs the support of other complimentary, mobile, and shorter-range systems.

NASAMS (Norwegian Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System) is a turnkey solution, as it uses the NATO AMRAAM missile and was purpose designed to network dispersed batteries, as was the German developed IRIS-T. These air defense systems and missiles are available and are in supply. All are desperately needed, but still, Ukraine waits. The west first refused, and then promised to provide F-16 fighters to Ukraine. Though efforts are now, finally, underway to train Ukrainian pilots, mechanics, and aviation ordnance personnel, getting F-16 squadrons into the fight will take months. In the meantime, Ukrainian civilians will continue to perish under Russian missile attacks and Ukraine will face a continuing stalemate along the front. Ukraine desperately needs a fully functioning, multi-platform, nation-wide air defense network. The US needs to step up.

# Putin's £260,000,000 Spy Plane 'Shot Out of the Sky'

Sam Courtney-Guy METRO News 15 Jan 2024



*One of Russia's nine operational A-50 command planes was reportedly destroyed*

*(Picture: E2W)© Provided by Metro*

One of Russia's most valuable military planes has been shot down near Ukraine, according to reports. The £260 million Beriev A-50 was lost over the Sea of Azov to the south of the frontline, reported

Ukrainian military media agencies, citing sources in Ukraine's armed forces. The Soviet-era command and reconnaissance plane uses high-range radar to detect missiles and aircraft on the battlefield while issuing orders to Russian fighter jets. It's thought Vladimir Putin's forces now only have eight operational A-50s left in their entire fleet. Its tactical importance likely means senior officers were on board, although it was not immediately clear whether anyone survived the downing. According to the RBC-Ukraine agency, the A-50 was shot down by the Ukrainian military soon after beginning a patrol near Kyrylivka at around 9:10pm on Sunday. A Russian pilot was reportedly heard in intercepted communications telling commanders he witnessed the plane catch fire and fall from the sky.

*A Russian Il-22 'airborne command post' was also reportedly hit*

*(Picture: E2A)© Provided by Metro*

The Military agency reported that the plane may have instead been downed by friendly fire. 'This is for Dnipro! Burn in hell, you inhumans! PS No details yet,' Ukrainian Air Force Commander General Mykola Oleshchuk wrote on Telegram



shortly after the incident, although he did not refer to it directly. On the same evening, another key Russian command plane was reportedly hit by Ukrainian missiles and forced to return to base. There appeared to have been casualties on board the Ilyushin Il-22 airborne command post, which likely had at least one senior commander among its crew. In intercepted audio from Russian air traffic control, an officer could be heard mentioning the Il-22 and saying: 'It's been hit, landing in Anapa. 'Urgently need an ambulance and fire engine.' A popular pro-Putin Telegram channel which claims to have sources in Russia's intelligence services stated: 'It is finally clear that the Russian Il-22 in the Sea of Azov area was hit by the Russian air defence that defended the Crimean Bridge. 'The pilot was able to land the plane, and at least two people were injured.' The aircraft though, is a write off.

# US Eyes Commercial Software to Coordinate Army Firepower

Colin Demarest C4ISRNET Jan 11, 2024



*Mark Kitz, the program executive officer for command, control and communications-tactical, answers a question Aug. 15, 2023, at the AFCEA TechNet Augusta conference in Georgia.*

*(Colin Demarest/C4ISRNET)*

McLean, Va. — Overhauling aging US Army software that coordinates firepower on the battlefield can be achieved with off-the-shelf products and the system need not be built from ground up, according to Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical boss Mark Kitz. “I do not want a from-scratch software development program,” Kitz said Jan. 11 at the Army IT Day conference in Northern Virginia, hosted by the nonprofit Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association International. “The Army has enough failed software-development programs.” The Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, or AFATDS, has been used by troops for decades to coordinate mortars, guided missiles and close air support. PEO C3T is pursuing a replacement after considering the system’s age and back-end clunkiness.

*US Army soldiers fire mortars from a tube mounted on a M113 armored personnel carrier in the Fort Hood training area.*

*(Staff Sgt. Jennifer Bunn/US Army)*



But rather than rely on a single contractor to create an original, monolithic program, the office is taking a modular, consortium-based approach that plays off the specialties of each prospective vendor and their existing offerings. “We want to adapt things that exist today, and we want to be able to iterate and integrate across multiple commercial technologies and government- and industry-developed technologies,” Kitz said. The service in November posted a request for information for AFATDS and the development of the related Joint Targeting Integrated Command and Coordination Suite, or JTIC2S. The automated AFATDS program is meant to shrink the window between when information is collected and a shot is fired in response. It fuses situational awareness and targeting data in near-real time. It is also considered a digital cornerstone of several ventures tied to the Long Range Precision Fires Cross Functional Team, including the Extended Range Cannon Artillery and the Precision Strike Missile endeavor.

The Army chief of staff said “Soldiers need to shoot, move and communicate,”. “Technology should facilitate those fundamentals, not encumber them.” “Today, we have a really robust capability to do fires, but it was not built for how we have to share data in the future,” Col Matt Paul, a project manager at PEO C3T, said in November. “We want to work with industry to modernize our fires capability so that we can robustly share data, enable sensor-to-shooter

architectures, and be able to iterate the program over time.” Leidos in 2017 won a contract worth ten of millions of dollars to work on AFATDS. The Virginia based company at the time promised to improve functionality, update user interfaces and simplifying training models. The company is the 16<sup>th</sup> largest contractor in the world when ranked by defense revenue, according to Defense News Top 100 analysis.

## **Upgrade Networks or Suffer on the Battlefield, US Generals Warn**

*Colin Demarest C4ISRNET Oct 20, 2023*



*US Army Sgt James Hyman collects information from two sensors — on a drone and on a robotic dog — in order to conduct cyber operations at an operational readiness assessment in March 2023.*

*(Steven Stover/US Army)*

WASHINGTON — Maj Gen Paul Stanton leafed through his notebook. He was sitting alone on stage during the last day of the Association of the US Army’s annual conference, held in early October in Washington. The Army officer had just been asked about remarks made by the service’s newly sworn-in chief of staff, Gen Randy George. “Under continuous transformation, he did say the No 1 priority and focus area is the network,” Stanton said, looking up from his notes and smiling. “Our Army senior leadership understands the significance of being able to move the right data to the right place at the right time.” Stanton serves as both the commander of Fort Gordon and its Cyber Center of Excellence, a Georgia schoolhouse where troops are drilled on everything from electronic warfare to communications capabilities to cyberspace operations. The teachings there are increasingly important — especially so, after George named networking upgrades the Army’s most pressing modernization endeavor, citing lessons plucked from the battlefields of Eastern Europe. While sophisticated, secure connectivity has for years been a focal point for the service, alongside other priorities such as long-range precision fires, air and missile defense, and aviation, it was not necessarily as high profile. Artillery, missile interceptors and helicopters have a splashy presence; the invisible tubes and tethers that enable military information sharing don’t.

But that does not minimize their importance. “They’re providing the right prioritization, they’re providing the right guidance,” Stanton said. “They’re providing the right degree of resourcing in ways that we haven’t seen historically.” As the US Defense Department reshapes itself following decades spent in the Greater Middle East, it is assuming a new posture molded by Russia, China and the dangers posed by their digital-savvy forces. Both powers, much like the US, wield influential cyber weaponry and pour money into military-related science and technology efforts. As a result, networks that are insulated from hackers and capable of reliably connecting front lines to headquarters, wherever they may be, are of utmost importance, according to US military leaders. The Army in fiscal 2023 sought \$16.6 billion to fund cyber and information technology projects, about 10% of its total budget blueprint. About \$9.8 billion was set aside for the network. Another \$2 billion was earmarked for offensive and defensive cyber operations as well as

cybersecurity maturation. “The character of war is changing,” George said at the outset of his AUSA address. “It’s changing rapidly because disruptive technology is fundamentally altering how humans interact.” “Soldiers need to shoot, move and communicate,” he added. “Technology should facilitate those fundamentals, not encumber them.”

One doesn’t have to look further than the Russia-Ukraine war for evidence, according to George, who said Moscow’s forces face the consequences of compromised networks and clunky command centers multiple times a day. In other words, aging connectivity and outdated outposts make for easy targeting. American troops are now learning those lessons — just not “the hard way,” George said earlier at the conference. “Antenna farms and endless server stacks are conspicuous and generate too much electromagnetic signature,” the chief of staff said. “If we slog around the battlefield with massive operation centers, which are difficult to set up, and often contractor-supported, we will get pounded.” George’s preference to the network and its facets — security, reliability and flexibility — feels more like an evolution of previous thinking than an entirely new paradigm, both Lt Gen Maria Barrett, the head of Army Cyber Command, and Lt Gen John Morrison, a top uniformed IT official, told C4ISRNET. George served as the Army vice chief of staff before assuming his current role. “As the vice, the chief was really driving us in a direction to really get after how we simplify the network at the edge, make it resilient against a near peer and make something that can actually move,” Morrison said on the sidelines of AUSA. “All of our modernization,” he added, “hinges on a network that is secure, defendable and maneuverable.” The demand for network innovation comes as the Army focuses on the division, not the brigade, as the unit of action. The larger formation, made up of about 15,000 soldiers plus firepower, is thought more suited for war against Russia or China, where fighting will likely be scattered across vast distances and require a level of self-sufficiency. Such expectations will put significant strain on networks.

## **Garden Ornament Turns Out to Be Live Projectile**

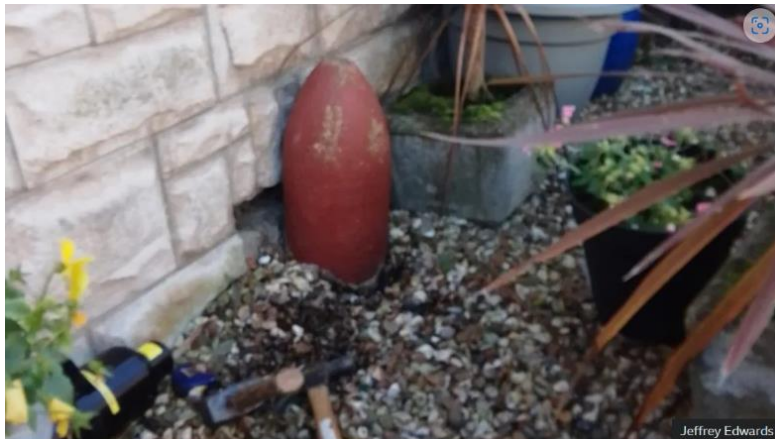
In Milford Haven, UK. *Catherine Evans BBC News December 2, 2023*

A couple who kept an old naval shell as a garden ornament said "it was like the passing of an old friend" when it was detonated by a bomb disposal team. It had been outside the home of Sian and Jeffrey Edwards in Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, and is thought to date from the late 19th Century. The couple had thought it was a "dummy" with no charge. The Ministry of Defence said it removed a 64lb (29kg) "naval projectile". Mrs Edwards said she used to bang it with her trowel to remove earth after gardening. But on Wednesday evening, a police officer knocked on the door to tell the couple he had spotted it and would need to alert the Ministry of Defence. An hour later, he told the shocked couple the bomb squad would arrive the next day. The bomb disposal unit was called to the scene. It was a sleepless night for Mr and Mrs Edwards, who had been told the whole street might need to be evacuated. "We didn't sleep a wink all night. It knocked us for six," said Mr Edwards. "I told the bomb disposal unit 'we're not leaving the house, we're staying here. If it goes up, we're going to go up with it'."

Tests proved it was live, but with only a tiny amount of charge. It was taken to a disused quarry in Walwyn's Castle, covered with five tonnes of sand and detonated. After living in the street



since he was three years old, 77-year-old Mr Edwards was sad to see it go. "It was an old friend. I'm so sorry that the poor old thing was blown to pieces." Mr Edwards said he had been told its history by the Morris family, whose relative used to own the house. They said he had found it more than 100 years ago. The street did not need to be evacuated, as the shell had such little charge, said Mr Edwards. "Warships for the Royal Navy used to drop anchor in St Brides Bay and point their guns towards Broad Haven and open fire," he claimed. "They used to use the sands for target practice. They'd make sure there was no one on the sands, mind! "Well Pop Morris, who went around delivering lemonade, was going down to Broad Haven with his horse and cart and found the shell. "He struggled back up the beach with it, put it on the back of his cart and had a very bouncy seven-mile ride back home. "He plonked it upright in the front courtyard and that's where it remained."



*The shell was thought to have been in the couple's garden for more than 100 years.*

It was later sunk into concrete and painted red to match the window ledges when Mr and Mrs Edwards bought the house in 1982. "It stood there during two world wars," said Mr Edwards. The Ministry of Defence said: "We can confirm that on 30 Nov 23, Ashchurch Troop, 721 EOD Sqn, 11 EOD&S Regt RLC, responded at the request of Dyfed-Powys Police to a suspect item of ordnance. "The EOD team assessed the item and determined it to be a 64lb naval projectile which was removed from the scene for subsequent explosive demolition."

## **Parks Canada Offers Free Visits to Military and Veterans**

Parks Canada administered places will waive daily admission fees when you present your CF One card with CF, CF-F, V or V-F designation at the entry gate, visitor centre, or reception desk upon arrival. Don't have your CF One Card? Sign up today – go to:-

[https://cf1fc.cfmws.com/Join/Register?utm\\_source=CFMWS+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=a112fc37f9-](https://cf1fc.cfmws.com/Join/Register?utm_source=CFMWS+Newsletter&utm_campaign=a112fc37f9-)

[MAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2022\\_08\\_25\\_12\\_38\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_7d1b5308c4-a112fc37f9-269544421&mc\\_cid=a112fc37f9&mc\\_eid=2a2a5bc992](https://cf1fc.cfmws.com/Join/Register?utm_source=CFMWS+Newsletter&utm_campaign=a112fc37f9-MAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_08_25_12_38_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7d1b5308c4-a112fc37f9-269544421&mc_cid=a112fc37f9&mc_eid=2a2a5bc992)

For more information from Parks Canada, visit <https://parks.canada.ca/voyage-travel/reserve>

## **Vancouver Gunners Website Update**

Leon and Catherine are now around Tucson and still not able to access a good Wi-Fi signal so there will be no website updates until they get home.

He wants to remind all gunners to join the web event with LGen Lise Bourgon on Jan 24, on Zoom at 4 pm PT.

## Who (or What) Is It?

### **Last Week:**



The **SNCASO SO.8000 Narval** (English: Narwhal) was a French carrier-based strike fighter designed by Sud-Ouest in the late 1940s. The French Navy (Marine nationale) ordered two prototypes in 1946 and they made their maiden flights three years later. They were plagued by aerodynamic problems and unreliability issues with their piston engines. The aircraft proved to be slow, lacking in lateral and longitudinal stability and unsuitable for carrier operations; it did not enter production.

**This Week:** One of the joys of the recent Holiday/Christmas/Etc. season is the acquisition of more plastic model kits, courtesy of jolly old Saint Nicholas, or his designates. Imagine the joy of young Tommy when he opens a Xmas gift package and discovers a 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale kit of a 15cm Schwere Infanteriegeschuetze 33 mit Stielgranate 42. What could say Christmas more than that!

Well, sadly, there is no plastic model kit of that particular artillery piece, nor do little Tommys make such models, being now glued to the screen of their tablet or smartphone, leaving the making of plastic models to middle-aged men of some means (and girth, as it isn't the most



physical of hobbies). In fact, kits of artillery pieces are also rather thin on the ground compared to the umpteen zillion kits of obscure German tanks that never saw action, or the gazillion (a zillion to the power of 10) kits of aircraft, such as the Zero, Mustang, and Spitfire.

Thus, a kit of this week's subject might be unlikely. However, it's up to you to tell us that, but, first, you have to identify both the gun, and its ethnically diverse detachment. Where do you think the photo was taken, and why is the chap on the left about to lose his

lunch? If you know, please contact the editor, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com)), or the author, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)), and don't inhale the glue!

### From the 'Punitary'

Why was the baby ant confused? Because all his uncles were ants!

### Murphy's Other Laws

A victorious but expensive battle can cost you the war.

### Quotable Quotes

You can't expect to hit the jackpot if you don't put a few nickels in the machine. - Flip Wilson

## Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

The Zoom logo is displayed in white lowercase letters on a solid blue rectangular background.

No need to worry about COVID-19 when you go digital. Pop into our video lunch **at noon** on Wednesdays and say hi. All you need is a laptop, tablet or smartphone. These sessions are being hosted by the Vancouver Artillery Association and are **open to all – especially those who attended our Wednesday lunches.**

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies. Click on this link:-

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71810323784?pwd=ehLJDhj9zIqI0HvnBlMCYmw0p6ZDwe.1>

or use <https://zoom.us/j/71810323784>

or use Meeting ID 718 1032 3784 **and the secret passcode is 6L6qz0**  
(fourth digit is a lower case Q and the last digit is a Zero)

Invite some friends! We have room for 100! See you on Wednesdays at noon. Bring your own lunch and beverage of choice.

Attendance at this meeting is falling off. If you haven't been on for a while, we miss you so come back and join us.

# RCA Association - Discussion with LGen Lise Bourgon



**Register now!**

The **RCA Association** invites all members to register for our next Web event to be held on **24 January 2024 at 7pm ET.**

In discussion with  
**Lieutenant General M.H.L. (Lise) Bourgon, CMM,  
MSC, CD  
Acting Commander, Military Personnel  
Command**

Our special guest will speak on recruitment and retention in the Canadian Armed Forces.

[Lieutenant General M.H.L. Bourgon, CMM, MSC, CD Biography](#)

► Stay with us after the main event for some time to reconnect with old friends.

**Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant!**

**L'Association de l'ARC** invite tous ses membres à s'inscrire à notre prochain événement Web qui se tiendra le **24 janvier 2024 à 19 h HE.**

En discussion avec  
**la lieutenant-générale M.H.L. (Lise) Bourgon, CMM, CSM, CD  
Commandante par intérim du  
Commandement du personnel militaire et  
chef du personnel militaire**

Notre conférencière parlera du recrutement et maintien des effectifs (rétention) dans les Forces armées canadiennes.

[Biographie de la lieutenant-générale M.H.L. \(Lise\) Bourgon, CMM, CSM, CD](#)

► Restez avec nous après l'événement principal pour renouer avec de vieux amis.

# 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders Garrison Burns Supper



Fort Fraser Garrison



I request the company of our Officers, Miladies and Guests at our annual

## Garrison Burns Supper

to be held at

The Upstairs Lounge, Royal City Curling Club,  
75 East Sixth Ave. East,  
New Westminster, BC , V3L 4G6

Saturday, 27 January 2024  
1800hrs for 1900hrs

Dress: Scarlets, Highland Evening wear, Black Tie or Business Attire  
Tariff: \$120.00 per Person

**RSVP to [jobarb100@gmail.com](mailto:jobarb100@gmail.com) or 604-522-5766**  
**ASAP! (before 24 January)**

Places will be allocated on the sequence (date & time) of RSVP emails received at  
[jobarb100@gmail.com](mailto:jobarb100@gmail.com)

Members have priority, but please RSVP soonest as this event is  
usually oversubscribed.

Looking forward to seeing you there

*James Barrett, Maj.* Officer Commanding

# BCR Concert for the Padre

15th Field Artillery  
Regiment Band

BC Regiment  
Irish Pipes & Drums

## Concert for the Padre

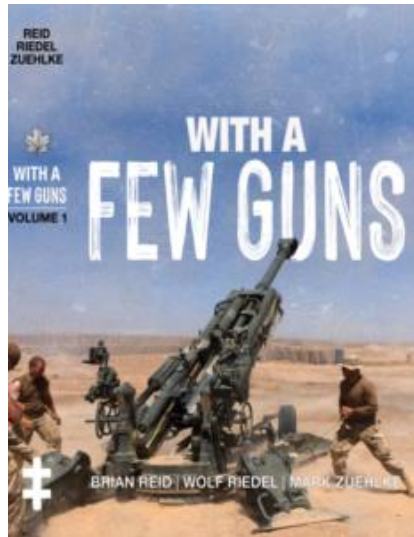
Net proceeds to support the Dean's pastoral  
work with the men and women of the military

February 17, 2024  
Christ Church Cathedral  
7:30 pm  
690 Burrard Street

Tickets by donation  
[thecathedral.ca](http://thecathedral.ca)

Select Regimental Ministries  
on the donations page





## **With A Few Guns – The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery in Afghanistan Volume I 2002-2006**

Authored by Col (Retd) Wolf Riedel and Mark Zuehlke,  
building on the work of LCol (Retd) Brian Reid

This two-volume set captures the experiences of Canadian Gunners and the Regimental family during the Afghanistan era.

- Volume 1 – 2002-2006, publication date **4 December 2023!**  
The translation “Avec quelques canons” is expected for autumn 2024.
- Volume 2 – 2007 to 2014, targeted publication date 2024/2025

[READ SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM VOLUME 1](#)

<https://rca-arc.org/excerpts-from-with-a-few-guns/>

*We can't complete Volume 2 without your help. Be part of this significant undertaking – tell your story, submit your photos. Even the smallest detail touches someone!*

Contact [mrgnrsmith@gmail.com](mailto:mrgnrsmith@gmail.com) and make sure *our* story is recorded for generations to come!

“With A Few Guns” is dedicated to the greater family of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery—from those who served with distinction in the face of danger in Afghanistan, to those who trained and supported them to become mission-ready, and especially to those who kept the rest of the family together at home. In memory of “Reid B.A of the RCA” (1939-2023) and his dedicated service to the Guns, his sage advice and his literary prowess in recording parts of the Canadian Army’s rich history.

# 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour

*The  
Royal Canadian Artillery  
Association*



*L'Association de  
l'Artillerie royale  
canadienne*

13 October 2023

## **RE: 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Liberation of Holland Commemorative Battlefield Tour, May 2025**

Dear Sirs, Commanding Officers, et al

I am writing this letter to solicit your interest in participating in a May 2025 Battlefield tour to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Holland. The organisation of a trip of this magnitude involves a lot of time and resources and we, at the RCAA, would like to ensure that we have sufficient interest from all the units across the country before we start planning. For those of you that participated in the last significant commemoration, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day in 2019, we would like to build on it's success and use the lessons learned to make this trip better.

### **Why**

- The 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland will be a major event – the very last major event while veterans of the Second World War are still with us. These commemorative events in Holland every fifth year are always a big deal – but this one will be special.
- The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery played a major role in the Second World War, especially in the Liberation of Holland.
- Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) will be the lead Department for Canada in official ceremonies, and the Department of National Defence (DND) will support the VAC efforts (typically a multi-service Guard, Band, Logistics support, Security, VIPs, airlift, etc.). Elements of the Gunner community will most certainly be involved in the VAC-led events, but so will all elements of the CAF be represented.
- Separate from the "official" GOC activities, many Branches/Corps, Regiments, Associations, and travel companies will be organizing commemorative trips to participate in the 80th Anniversary of Liberation of Holland.

### **Mission**

- To enhance cohesion, morale, and esprit de corps of the Royal Regiment by commemorating and celebrating the accomplishments of our predecessors during the Liberation of Holland 1945.

### **Rationale**

- Remember and commemorate those Gunners who served in WWII, and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.
- Build cohesion and morale amongst serving members, Regular Force and Reserve.
- Connect the serving generation of the RCA with retired members
- Support and reinforce the goals and objectives of the RCA Association.
- Supplement the professional development of serving members.
- Re-learn lessons of the Artillery at war in a theatre of operations in North-West Europe.

*Administration  
27048 35B Avenue  
Langley, B.C. V4W 0C3*

*Au service des artilleurs canadiens depuis 1876  
Serving Canadian Gunners Since 1876*

*Finance  
10 Lancewood Crescent  
Brampton, Ont. L6S 5Y6*





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### **Concept and Scope**

- Conduct a ten-day battlefield study immediately prior to and during the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands.
- Aim for 30 to 40 deserving Non-Commissioned Members and Junior Officers representing every Regular Force and Reserve Artillery unit, who will be sponsored through raised donations.
- Invite other serving, retired Gunners and their families, Association members and others, who will pay their own way.
- Aim for two bus loads of participants (80-90 pax).
- Engage a professional company that specializes in battlefield studies, with professional historians.
- Arrange all travel activities (flights, land travel, hotels, meals, insurance, etc.) through a professional travel agency.
- Conduct with the assistance of the RCAA, a major Non-Public fundraising campaign at national, local, and unit level to raise approximately \$6,000-6,500 per person. Ideally each participating member should contribute \$500 towards the trip.
- Identify a point of Contact per unit that will engage with the national organising committee.

### **Conclusion**

The RCAA want to ensure the participation of serving gunners and we are willing to put the time and resources however, this trip cannot happen without your support and commitment. Please advise us of your interest in supporting and participating in this trip by the 31<sup>st</sup> of October by notifying Major (R) Richard Gratton at [rgratton1534@gmail.com](mailto:rgratton1534@gmail.com).

Following the returns, timelines and more information will be coming your way. If you have any questions, please also contact Maj (Ret'd) Richard Gratton at [rgratton1534@gmail.com](mailto:rgratton1534@gmail.com).

Ubique!

*Bill Kalogerakis*

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# Commemoration Cyprus 2024



**Commmémoration Chypre 2024**



**Commemoration Cyprus 2024**



## Mission

*...commémorer la contribution du Canada à la mission de l'ONU à Chypre à l'occasion du 50e anniversaire de la guerre de 1974.*

*...commemorate Canada's contribution to the UN mission in Cyprus on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1974 war.*



**WHAT** - Cyprus 2024 Pilgrimage.

**GOAL** - to capture the history and stories from those who served in Cyprus with emphasis on the actions that took place during the 1974 war, **A FORGOTTEN WAR.**

**WHEN** - November 2024.

**WHO** - All Cyprus and Canadian Airborne Regiment Veterans and family members.

**WHERE** - Nicosia Cyprus, lodged at the Hilton Hotel.

**COST** - Pay as you go trip with individual costs in the \$5000 to 6000 range. Costs covered will include airfare, hotel with breakfast and expenses such as transportation.

**TRAVEL** - Will be arranged by professional travel agents, with pre and post tour travel options available.

**PROGRAM** - Seven days: three days of battlefield tours, three days of excursions, and one day of Remembrance.

**FURTHER INFORMATION AND UPDATES ARE AVAILABLE BY JOINING THE CYPRUS 2024 FACEBOOK GROUP** [Cyprus2024 | Facebook](#)

**QUOI** - Pèlerinage à Chypre 2024.

**OBJECTIF** - capturer l'histoire et les récits de ceux qui ont servi à Chypre en mettant l'accent sur les actions qui ont eu lieu là pendant la guerre de 1974, **UNE GUERRE OUBLIÉE.**

**QUAND** - Novembre 2024.

**QUI** - Tous les vétérans de Chypre, du Régiment aéroporté canadien et les membres de leurs familles.

**OÙ** - Nicosie Chypre, logés à l'hôtel Hilton.

**COÛT** - Voyage à la carte avec des coûts individuels inclus, environ \$5000 et 6000. Les coûts comprendront le billet d'avion, l'hôtel avec petit-déjeuner et les dépenses telles que le transport.

**VOYAGE** - Sera organisé par des agents de voyage professionnels, avec options de voyage avant et après la réunion.

**PROGRAMME** - Sept jours: trois jours de visites du champ de bataille, trois jours d'excursions et une journée du Souvenir.

**PLUS D'INFORMATIONS ET MISES À JOUR SONT DISPONIBLES EN REJOIGNANT LE GROUPE FACEBOOK CYPRUS 2024** [Cyprus2024 | Facebook](#)

