



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News – 26 Mar 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 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 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

80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour

- Mar 27 Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs
- Mar 30 Air Force Officers' Association RCAF Birthday Mess Dinner
- Apr 03 Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs
- Apr 06 The Vancouver Vimy Day 2024 Remembrance Service
- Apr 20 The 2024 BC Military Gala
15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA Open House

15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA Open House - April 20, 2024

2025 W 11th Ave, Vancouver, BC, Canada, British Columbia V6J2C7

On April 20, 2024, 15th Field Regiment, RCA will be hosting an open house at Bessborough Armoury! Armoury will be open to the public from **1000 - 1400 hrs. Everyone welcome.** Displays of all things Arty - Command Post, FOO operations, etc. The Museum will be open for touring and will display their vehicle and weapons collection on the parade square and outside.

AUKUS Nations Name British-Australian Vendor Team to Build Submarines

Andrew Chuter Defense News Mar 21, 2024

LONDON — The AUKUS trilateral program to equip Australia with nuclear submarines moved ahead on March 21 with an announcement that BAE Systems and ASC Pty will lead the industrial team being formed to build the boats. The mega deal involving the two companies is slated to produce a BAE-designed fleet of nuclear attack submarines for Australia by the early 2040s under

the Australian-British-U.S. initiative. Per the AUKUS agreement, Australia and the U.K. will eventually operate a common class of nuclear submarines, incorporating technology from all three nations. The boats will be based on Britain's next-generation design, now in its early stages at BAE. The U.S. Navy will supply Australia with three Virginia-class submarines, maybe more, as an interim measure ahead of delivery of any Anglo-Australian boats. The announcement of the industrial tie-up was made by Richard Marles, Australian deputy prime minister and defense minister, during a visit by British Defence Secretary Grant Shapps. The two ministers signed a new defense and security pact on the previous day, which among other things will make it easier to facilitate U.K. submarine crews visiting Australia as part of the AUKUS partnership.



US President Joe Biden (2nd L), British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (R) and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (L) hold a press conference during the AUKUS summit on March 13, 2023, at Naval Base Point Loma in San Diego California.

(Photo by Jim Watson/AFP via Getty Images)

BAE Systems and ASC, Canberra's builder and maintainer of conventional submarines, will initially work together under a collaborative arrangement in Australia before formalizing to a more long-term joint venture. BAE Systems chief executive Charles Woodburn said work on delivering the new class of submarine, known as the SSN-AUKUS, was already well underway in the UK. "We're already making good progress on the design and development of the next-generation submarine in the UK where we have more than 1,000 people working on the SSN-AUKUS program and major infrastructure investment underway," said Woodburn. The British shipbuilder already has experience working with the Australian maritime industry and navy. The company is currently building a fleet of anti-submarine frigates for the Australian sea service based on its Type 26 design.

SSN-AUKUS will start to replace the Astute class, which BAE is currently building at its site in Barrow-in-Furness in the northwest of England, from the late 2030s. The industrial tie-up announcement follows a nearly £4 billion (\$5 billion) contract award to BAE by the British government for the next phase of the joint submarine program last October. The funding covers development work through to 2028, enabling BAE to progress the detailed design phase of the program and procure long-lead items. The award also funds significant infrastructure investment in Barrow, which will see the site's facilities double in size from 80,000 to 160,000 square meters by the late 2030s. The MoD termed the arrangement a "monumental success" for British industry. BAE has already increased its U.K. submarines workforce to 13,500, and there are plans to grow to that number to around 17,000 at its peak to support SSN-AUKUS and other nuclear vessels.

The CAF's Inability to Replace Equipment Leaves Canada Vulnerable

Training planes for fighter pilots are the latest piece of equipment that has the military scratching its head and leaning on allies. *Jamie Sarkonak National Post Mar 18, 2024*



The Royal Canadian Air Force's CF-188 Hornets and CT-155 Hawks fly over the city of Cold Lake on April 1, 2021.

Photo By Cpl Curtis/4 Wing Imaging

The life cycle of military planes can be estimated from Day 1. So, it's a head-scratcher that the training aircraft for Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) fighter pilots have reached the end of their useful lives, with no replacement on the way. If you're even remotely familiar with the Canadian Armed Forces, this failure to prepare is exactly what should be expected. The RCAF communications department will assure you that this is all a good thing. "The Royal Canadian Air Force is reaffirming its presence at a major multinational jet pilot training school and placing its fighter lead-in training squadron on hiatus," reads the first line of a recent CAF newsletter.

The retiring plane is the CT-155 Hawk, which is what pilots fly before they graduate to the CF-18. It has been in use for 24 years. Since Canada is, eventually, upgrading its fighter fleet to F-35s, the older-style Hawk has become outdated. But Canada is not ready for the switch. So, it is halting its domestic fighter training program until a suitable plane is secured, and will conduct this work in the United States, Finland and Italy in the meantime. It took many, many years for Canada to finally pull the trigger on upgrading to the F-35. There was an attempt under former prime minister Stephen Harper, but Prime Minister Justin Trudeau rejected the idea, claiming that Canada did not need the F-35's "stealth first-strike capability." In January 2023, however, he changed his mind and queued up for 88 of the jets, costing \$70 billion in total, which will allow Canada to retire our aging fleet of CF-18s for good in 2032. The road to upgrade the fighters took incredibly long, leading to inflated costs. The benefit of all that time, though, is that it affords room to prepare. One would think that during the decade of F-35 fence-sitting, or even the past year since the purchase was finalized, someone at the Department of National Defence could have figured out the plan to acquire complementary training planes. Alas, no.

This is a symptom of the CAF's deeper problems when it comes to personnel. About 10 per cent of roles in the already-small force are vacant. In the procurement department, 30 per cent of roles aren't filled. As it turns out, lining up replacement equipment becomes kind of difficult when there's not enough people to do the job. "Over the past three years, more people have left than have entered," said Defence Minister Bill Blair last week at a conference in Ottawa. "Frankly, it's a death spiral." All of the CAF's recruiting roles have been filled, Gen. Wayne Eyre told Parliament in 2022, but to little avail. Standards for recruits are being lowered every year, as well. Long nails, hair dye and face tattoos were permitted in 2022. More recently, the CAF has begun excusing some applicants from aptitude tests to cut down on processing time, and is expanding recruiting to those with medical conditions. The lowered standards may not have a negative impact on the CAF in the short term. Then again, there wouldn't be — the Canadian military isn't usually in life-or-death situations where these requirements would matter in the first place.

It's hardly a surprise that people aren't leaping at the chance to work for a military that doesn't have enough equipment to run, that has about 35 per cent of its membership reporting that they have insufficient equipment to properly do their jobs and that insists on promoting divisive identity politics among its ranks. Nor is it surprising that people don't want to enter an emaciated organization that's facing looming budget cuts (which the generals can't call "cuts" — government orders) and has already dealt housing allowance cuts to members (the latter were rolled into smaller housing subsidies for lower-ranking members, leaving older members out to dry). It's a case of system-wide dysfunction. And now, we can't even train our own fighter pilots at home. The CAF's inability to plan for Hawk replacements doesn't bode well for the rest of the equipment that has been shuffled out the door in recent years. The outbreak of war in Ukraine provided an opportunity for the CAF to modernize as old equipment was sent to our ally. But that doesn't seem to have been the case.

MGen Rob Dundon, a higher-up in the Department of National Defence's equipment program, told an industry magazine in December that the equipment needed to replace what was sent to Ukraine was "significant." So far, about \$220 million worth. This includes howitzer artillery ammunition, guns and Leopard tanks. Just buy more, right? But the military can't do that. Dundon said the company that makes Canada's howitzers won't be manufacturing any more until 2028. And as for the Leopard tanks, his department is still "waiting for a CAF strategy decision on which way they want us to execute." The government has sent eight tanks to Ukraine since the start of the war, and still doesn't have a plan to replace them. Canada's ammunition supply would last only three days in the event of war (not 30, as required by NATO), but Blair has "been working on what have been challenges in acquiring" it. Once again, no apparent plan. As for our fighter pilots, who knows when they'll be coming back to train in Canada. The government has sent eight tanks to Ukraine since the start of the war, and still doesn't have a plan to replace them. Canada's ammunition supply would last only three days in the event of war (not 30, as required by NATO), but Blair has "been working on what have been challenges in acquiring" it. Once again, no apparent plan. As for our fighter pilots, who knows when they'll be coming back to train in Canada. If only defence officials didn't take years to solve a problem.

How US Can Adopt Ukraine's Unconventional Multidomain Approach

Benjamín Jensen *Defense News* Mar 22, 2024



A laptop screen features a webpage of the IT Army of Ukraine volunteer hacker group in Kyiv on Feb. 26, 2024.

(Genya Savilov/AFP via Getty Images)

For all the reports of battlefield setbacks along the front line, Ukraine is conducting a novel hybrid campaign combining long-range drone strikes and unconventional warfare. The question is: Could the United States similarly integrate conventional and unconventional operations in future campaigns? Despite renewed interest in the 2020 National Defense Strategy, irregular warfare often remains focused on ideas linked to legacy Cold War constructs focused on overthrowing regimes using guerilla forces. Too often, analysts make a sharp distinction between conventional and unconventional conflict when in fact all war involves both forms working in tandem. For Sun Tzu, it was the balance of the orthodox and unorthodox that kept an adversary off balance. Even Hannibal — the archetype at Cannae for conventional maneuver — actually used a mix of sabotage and political intrigue to set conditions for his seminal campaign. French support to the American revolution involved both front companies supporting pirates attacking British shipping lanes as well as foreign material support. During the Second World War, the British integrated the Special Operations Executive with its military campaigns while the Office of Strategic Services supported US campaigns with morale operations designed to undermine enemy cohesion. Faced with resource shortages and the brutal reality of 21st century trench warfare, Ukraine has found new asymmetries by combining elements of conventional and unconventional warfare.

First, Ukraine is pioneering long-range, low-cost, one-way attack drones to strike strategic economic targets throughout the depth of Russia. The targets increasingly appear to be linked to critical infrastructure connected to Moscow's oil and gas transit and processing facilities — a critical requirement for generating revenue for Russian President Vladimir Putin's war. Over the month of March — and coinciding with the Russian presidential election — the Security Service of Ukraine has reportedly successfully attacked over 10 oil refineries, disrupting as much as 12% of Russia's oil processing capacity, often using salvos of 35 drones each costing less than

\$100,000. In other words, Ukraine likely spent only \$40 million to damage up to \$40 billion worth of Russian critical infrastructure. These conventional strikes focused on economic centers of gravity most likely to hold the regime at risk. The attacks also forced Russia to pull additional air defenses back to protect its critical infrastructure, setting conditions for front-line air operations by Ukraine as new equipment, like F-16 fighter jets, starts to arrive this summer. Of note, the activities coincide with increased targeting of Russian air defenses since the summer along the front. In other words, attacking Russian critical infrastructure achieves multiple objectives at low costs to Ukraine and sets conditions for future operations.

Second, Ukraine is combining unconventional warfare with these long-range precision strikes. In the lead-up to the election, there has been an increase in proxy raids into Russian border areas, cyberattacks and ballot sabotage, alongside calls for a wider symbolic uprising. The surge of activity surrounding the election fits with broader trends in the conflict. Over the last two years these measures have included running deepfakes and disrupting Putin's speeches. This approach reflects time-tested unconventional warfare campaigns that create conditions likely to foster local acts of sabotage, work stoppages and protests. Ukraine isn't just attacking the Kremlin's wallet by hitting its economic center of gravity; Kyiv is attacking the mind of the Russian population and amplifying the stark contrasts between regime rhetoric and reality lived by ordinary people.

This approach stands in contrast to US joint and service concepts that preface converging multidomain effects and downplay the role of people and perception. While space and cyber domains play critical roles, there is no discussion about a human domain or the contest of wills at the heart of every conflict. The focus instead is on disrupting enemy battle networks and destroying high-value targets at range, not on how to leverage discontent, compound morale issues or undermine cohesion. As a result, special forces tend to overemphasize direct action and special reconnaissance. These conventional approaches tend to discount the utility of information warfare and cyber operations capable of setting conditions for protests and social unrest — which are more likely to threaten autocratic regimes than long-range precision strikes. It is also unclear whether the United States has the necessary capabilities and concepts to defeat a hybrid campaign attacking its critical infrastructure and social cohesion. China has already demonstrated an interest in holding American critical infrastructure at risk through cyber operations.

Furthermore, most US critical infrastructure nodes — from key telecommunications relays connecting sea cables and satellites to oil and gas — are not protected by air defenses capable of defeating a complex drone attack. Lastly, Russia has shown the world a playbook for how to create discord online through a mix of computational propaganda and cyber operations. The United States still hasn't found a sufficient defense against these influence operations. As a result, the United States needs to revisit key military concepts — including future iterations of the joint warfighting concept — with an eye toward combining conventional and unconventional approaches to competitive strategy. The concepts should provide a blueprint for future campaigns, including defense operations, defending US critical infrastructure and countering foreign influence operations. These concepts should think as much about will and perception as they do exquisite battle networks while keeping an eye on cost curves. The next war will not be won by a salvo of hypersonic missiles alone.

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

Quartermaster Stores

We've got a wooden 105mm HE round replica available for purchase. Actual dimensions. The base has been shortened from the original in order to allow it to be pinned into the wooden casing. No brasso polishing ever! It's a little pricey at \$270.00. Made to order.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/wooden-105mm-he-projectile>

Yearbook Update – 2023 Soldier's Appreciation Dinner

Additional photos have been added to the 2023 yearbook page. There were several promotions and awards presented after the dinner.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/soldiers-appreciation-dinner>

Yearbook Update – 2005 Smokey Smith State Funeral

Linke to a video of the 2005 Smokey Smith State Funeral filmed by Harry Moon.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/2005-yearbook-update>

Yearbook Update - 2023 Yorke Island video.

Greg and Marilyn Pyke from Graham, WA USA visited Yorke Island in August 2023 and took a great video as they wandered throughout the island.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yorke-island-august-2023>

Yorke Island Excursion

The 85Vics are planning their annual weekend cleanup visit to Yorke Island on the first weekend of May 2024. Interested in joining them? Send me an email. president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

68 Battery 30'ish Year Campout Reunion

May 24 at 4 PM – May 26 at 12 PM - Harrison West - Camp Cove Campground

Anne Nikodem (former Bombardier Anne Edwards) and Terry Stratton (former Bombardier Terry Stratton) are organizing another 68 Battery camping reunion.

Same as last year, its a 10 vehicle allowance (50 person max) with the booking (additional fees for extra vehicles and day guests

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2024.html>

OP Take Post 2025

Check out The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery website for the latest update on OP Take Post 2025 - an 80th Anniversary Liberation of Holland Commemorative Battlefield Tour from 2 to 11 May 2025.

<https://rca-arc.org/the-rca-association/op-take-post/>

Photos

Have you got any photos of past regimental activities? Send them to president.vcrgunners@gmail.com and we'll post them to the website.

Wednesday Lunch Zoom Meeting

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

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72758359360?pwd=XE0y7bIBCNvTYsIFcFlZ6g1e1pfzMP.1>

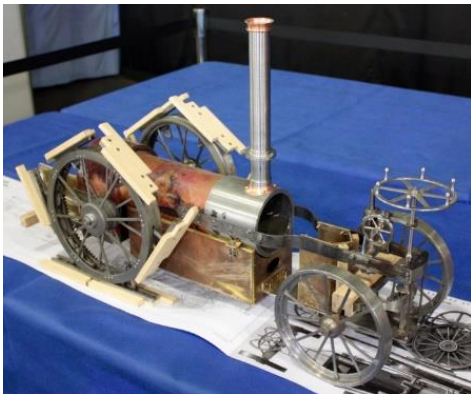
or use Meeting ID: 727 5835 9360 Passcode: pFPey6

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

Who (or What) Is It?

Ooops. No, you weren't experiencing 'déjà vu' nor was I checking to see who is reading the whole newsletter or giving readers an extra week to figure out the 'what is it' quiz. I accidentally left the 'what is it' items from the previous week in last week's edition. In my own defence I was in the middle of a move from the Island to the mainland and at the same time setting up last week's newsletter.

Last Week: The Boydell Steam Tractor. *This is a model of course.* **Charles Burrell & Sons** were builders of steam traction engines, agricultural machinery, steam lorries and steam



tram engines. The company was based in Thetford, Norfolk and operated from the St Nicholas works on Minstergate and St Nicholas Street, some of which survives today. At their height they employed over 350 people and were the largest employer within the town. The company became known for producing reliable and good-looking traction engines which were always built to customers' requirements. The company declined after the First World War, when internal combustion engines started to become a cheaper alternative to steam power. The company finally closed in 1928, with the final engines being built

by Richard Garrett & Sons at Leiston, Suffolk. Boydell invented a system where flat boards were attached to a wheel loosely at their centres, as the wheels revolved, they spread the weight of an engine over the surface of the board, versions of these became known as Dreadnaught Wheels. The wheels were not unlike the continuous track used in tanks today.

In 1908 the RAC organised a trial of competing makers' steam tractors to ascertain the best. Charles Burrell & Sons entered engine number 2932, a standard example of their range, but this engine was fitted with special patented wheels constructed of steel but with wooden blocks on the outer rim. After 22 days and 686 miles (1,104 km) Charles Burrell & Sons' entry was declared the winner.

This Week: There was an interesting assessment recently published by a military think-tank regarding the death of the military attack helicopter. The war in Ukraine has shown that they are quite vulnerable to small anti-tank and anti-personnel weapons. Many of you have probably seen

video of the demise of Russian attack helicopters, or of how such now avoid the frontline by popping up and launching rockets at a high angle (with probably low accuracy), then scooting for cover.

At least 325 Russian helicopters have been lost in the war, with Ukraine also suffering with the demise of a lesser number, but, due to the imbalance in strengths of the two forces, likely more keenly felt. What has replaced rotary-winged aircraft is drones, which are much cheaper, stealthier, and whose destruction doesn't result in the death of the crew, because there isn't one. So, the budget-minded leaders of Canada's armed forces can rest easy, as we have no attack helicopters to be rendered obsolete. We do, however, have rotary-winged aircraft for other, less dangerous missions. How can we better protect these valuable assets? Well, believe it or not, in the past there was an innovative design solution to this dilemma.



Our object of the week is a whirly-bird that had something unique to all of that breed of helicopters and gyrocopters. We ask you, what was that solution? If you know, send your answers to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Keep 'em flying, safely.

From the 'Punitary'

What happened when a swarm of flying insects threatened a town? They deployed a swat team.

Murphy's Other Laws

The bursting radius of a hand grenade is always one foot greater than your jumping range.

Quotable Quotes

Don't go through life. Grow through life. *Eric Butterworth*

Wednesday Digital Video Lunch



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.**

NOTE change in sign on address and password

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies. Click on this link:-
(this link will take you **straight to the waiting room** – no password needed)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72758359360?pwd=XE0y7bIBCNvTYsIFcFlZ6g1e1pfzMP.1>

or use Meeting ID 727 5835 9360 **and the secret passcode is pFPey6**

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.

Air Force Officers' Association RCAF Birthday Mess Dinner



AIR FORCE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Since 1920

NOTICE

ANNUAL RCAF ANNIVERSARY MESS DINNER

SATURDAY, 30 Mar 2024,

1700 HOURS for 1800 HOURS

AT

THE POINT GREY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

LOCATED AT 3350 SW MARINE DRIVE, VANCOUVER

**A MESS DINNER IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE**

AND

THE 84th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

- *** Dress: Formal - Mess Kit, Tux or Dark Suit - miniature medals should be worn
Ladies - cocktail dress
- *** Cost: \$ 140.00 (includes wine and port)
- *** Reception: 1700 Hours (no host bar)
- *** Dinner: 1800 Hours - 10 oz Prime of Beef with heirloom carrots, fingerling
potatoes, gremolata, cipollini onion & red wine jus
Caesar Salad and Dessert, Coffee and Teas
- *** Guest of Honour: Our speaker will be AFOA Member Chris Weicht, who will speak on his
latest book "The Defenders", which is the story of the RCAF role in the
defence of the B. C. coast and Alaska in World War II.

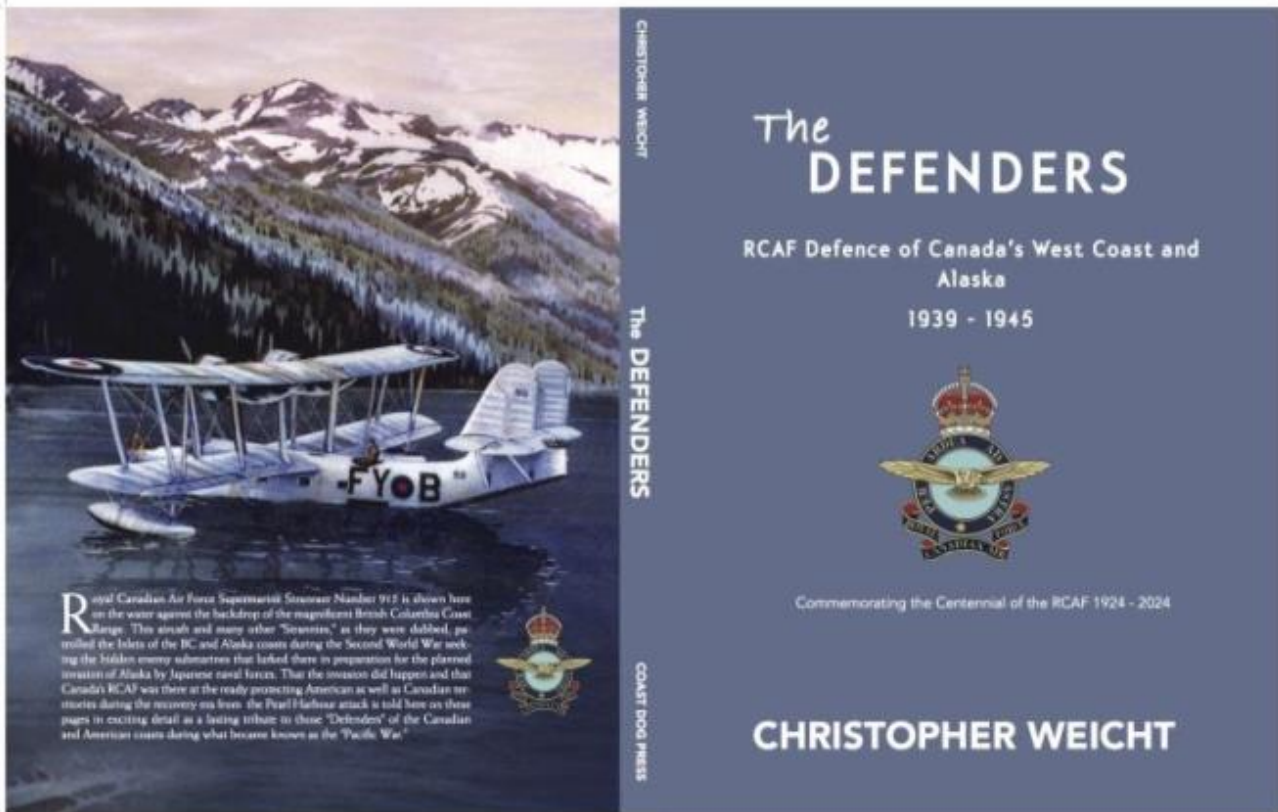
Chris' latest book is a companion book to his first book "Jericho Beach and the West Coast Flying Boat Stations". Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing after he has spoken. The cover price of "The Defenders" is \$ 45.00 or \$ 65 if ordered from Chris by mail,

Please bring your spouse and guests to this event. Names are needed please for the seating plan.

We must firm up our attendance for the club a week in advance so we will need to hear from you no later than Noon on Friday, 22 Mar 24. Please advise the Secretary, Jerry Vernon, at jevernon@telus.net or phone him at (604) 420-6065. If your plans change later, also please advise us of this, for catering purposes. No shows are no-nos!!

Also please advise the Secretary of any special dietary needs, as we will be asking the caterer if they can provide an alternate to roast beef.

Note that we will be starting the event at 5 PM for 6 PM again this year.



ABOUT AVIATION HISTORIAN CHRISTOPHER WEICHT

Chris Weicht, the son of a Royal Air Force officer and former London Journalist, was born in London, England, in 1935.

In 1939, Chris along with tens of thousands of children was evacuated to the supposedly safe haven of Coventry, where a short time later his boarding house suffered a direct hit from a Luftwaffe bomber and 5 of the 12 children were killed. Firemen found Chris the next day in the rubble.

Subsequently, Chris's father was able to enroll him in a Boarding School at Monmouth, Wales, for sons of Military Officers. Chris in the future would become the Weicht family's third generation Air Force Officer.

In 1948, on return of his father's RAF tour of duty in South East Asia, the family immigrated to Vancouver, B.C.

In 1949 Chris joined the Royal Canadian Air Cadets at New Westminster where he rose through the ranks to Warrant Officer. In 1952 he was presented with his wings on completion of a flight scholarship. In 1953 he enlisted in the RCAF at the Jericho Beach Air Station and served at RCAF Stations at Comox and Penhold, Alberta.

Chris would later join Pacific Western Airlines serving on the DEW line contract in the North West Territories, where he gained considerable experience in aviation flying Junkers W34 and Curtiss C-46E aircraft under the tutelage of Chief Pilot Sheldon Luck and American 'Flying Tigers' Contract Pilot Bert Sechrist.

A vision problem caused Chris to leave aviation in 1960, but he used this time to continue his education and was hired in a management position by an oil company. Chris was advised to apply in the USA for an FAA Commercial Pilot Licence which was successful and, on obtaining a US Immigration 'Green Card' and registering for the Vietnam Draft, he was hired as a pilot on U.S. Forest Service Operations.

At one point Chris flew a Vickers Viscount during a North American tour of Stevie Wonder and his troupe.

In 1967, on re-instatement of his Canadian Commercial Pilot licence, he was hired as Chief Pilot on a contract with the British Columbia Forest Service at Dawson Creek, B.C. Chris would later serve with several aviation companies in Canada and in 1977, became Corporate Pilot for International Operations with entrepreneur Peter Pocklington flying an Israeli Westwind II jet aircraft.

With the economic slowdown of the early 1980's the Corporate aviation department closed and he was subsequently offered the position of Chief Pilot and Operations Manager for a British Columbia First Nations Airline which grew from a single aircraft to over ten including two Douglas DC-3's.

At the same time, he returned to an RCAF Reserve Officer position as Commanding Officer of 861 Air Cadet Squadron at Abbotsford, B.C. During this time Chris founded and funded a scholarship program for young men and women for flight training outside of Air Cadets and, during its ten years of existence, graduated 65 young people as pilots, many of whom are now employed in both military and civil aviation.

Chris joined Airlift Canada in 1988 as Chief Pilot on VIP operations throughout North America flying Notables and Royal Personages largely on government business. He also became an RCAF Reservist attached to Land Forces Western Region, Chilliwack Vancouver Detachment (VAN DET) at Jericho Beach where he was appointed Special Projects Officer under Colonel F P. Crober and directed to Ottawa to research and write the story of the Jericho Beach Air Station. This resulted in the publication of his first book "Jericho Beach and the West Coast Flying Boat Stations."

Chris has researched, written and published 11 books on the history of both military and civil aviation of British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon and southeast Alaska, and he has given over 250 presentations on the subject in the area of interest. He was also the guest speaker in Ottawa at Library and Archives Canada at the 80th anniversary of the founding of the RCAF in 1924 that was sponsored by the Office of RCAF History and Heritage and the Canadian Aviation Historical Society.

In 2017 Chris was inducted into The British Columbia Aviation Hall of Fame "for over 50 years of Exceptional Service in Aviation" to the Province.

See images on next page....



The Vancouver Vimy Day 2024 Remembrance Service



The Vancouver Vimy Day Committee invites you to attend our remembrance service to be held on 6 April 2024. The Vancouver Vimy Day Remembrance Service will be held at the main veteran's burial site located at Vancouver's Mountainview Cemetery located on the South-West area by the Commonwealth Cenotaph

Arrive between 1020 – 1040 hrs – Parking available free on site.

Service starts at 1045 hrs.

Light refreshments for official attendees will be served following the service at the Mountainview Cemetery Hall of Remembrance where washrooms are also available. If your organisation wishes to place an order for an official wreath, please contact the vancouverpoppyfund@telus.net to place your order no later than 25 March 2024.

RVSP: LCol (Ret'd) James D Barrett, CD
Chair Vancouver Vimy Day Committee
barrettjd007@gmail.com
604-916-1766

Mountainview Cemetery
5455 Fraser Street
Vancouver, BC V5W 2Z3
Entrances off Fraser Street & 41st Avenue.

The 2024 BC Military Gala - 20 April 2024



The Annual BC Military Gala is sponsored by the Commander of 39 Canadian Brigade Group and will be on **20 April 2024**. The Ball is open to all current and former members of the Canadian Armed Forces and their guests, both Regular and Reserve. In addition, the BC Military Ball welcomes the attendance of Officers and Senior NCM's from foreign armed forces, the diplomatic corps, the

police services and civilian ladies and gentlemen.

The Military Ball originated in 1946 as a victory celebration to mark the end of World War II and has continued, uninterrupted, since. It began as a brainchild of the officers of the Vancouver Garrison to relive the euphoria of the time and to celebrate the return to families and friends. Much had changed during the six year period that Canada had been to war and many returning military personnel had not seen their spouses and children during that time. Some discovered, much to their amazement, that their daughters, who were ten years old in September 1939, didn't resemble the young ladies who answered the door in 1945. The experience was profound, so much so that it was decided to include the daughters in the Military Ball as debutantes, not for the purpose of introducing them society as in the 19th century Victorian custom but actually to introduce them to their fathers. The presentation of debutantes ended with the 2006 Ball.

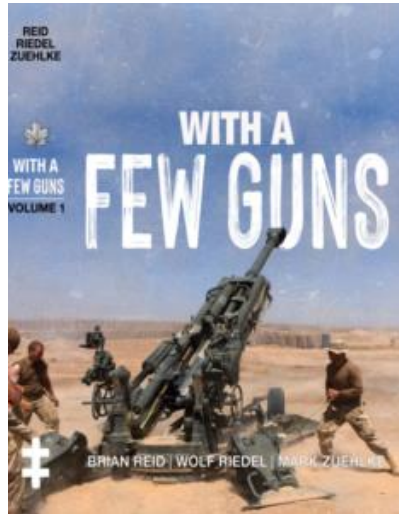
Entertainment ranges in style from light dinner music to a musical show featuring Regimental marches, the highland bagpipes and dancing into the wee hours. The history and traditions of the Military Gala exemplifies our allegiance to His Majesty and to Canada. We know you will enjoy the evening and leave with new friends and warm memories. See you at 6pm!

ORDER YOUR TICKETS:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2024-bc-military-gala-tickets-723109729667>

LOCATION : Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, 1088 Burrard Street Vancouver, BC V6Z 2R9

With a Few Guns



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 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.

80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour



OP TAKE POST To Gunners and friends



**Fields of Fire Tours
and Merit Travel Canada**
presents

80th Anniversary of Victory Tour 2-11 May 2025 Gunners in the Liberation of the Netherlands



An American in the back of a tank of the 101st Airborne Division after the victory in the Netherlands.



- Attend the Canadian ceremony at Wageningen on Liberation Day.
- Visit important Canadian battlefields in the Netherlands
- Pay tribute to Canada's war dead of the Victory Campaign
- Visit the Dutch Army Artillery Museum
- Visit monuments, museums, and Commonwealth War Cemeteries
- Led by experienced military historians and veterans.

For more information contact Merit Travel
TZajkovski@MeritTravel.com or BTrudeauSt.Onge@MeritTravel.com, or
call 866-341-1777 | Trina #6214 or Brianne #6902

80th Anniversary of Victory Tour

Day 1 – 2 May ... Depart Canada for Amsterdam.

Day 2 – 3 May ... We arrive in Amsterdam, meet our bus and then drive to our hotel. In the afternoon we will visit the Airborne Museum in Arnhem to examine this epic battle. We will check into our hotel for the next eight nights:

Mercure Hotel Nijmegen

Day 3 – 4 May ... Today is the Dutch Remembrance Day and we will attend the Canadian memorial ceremony at Holten Canadian War Cemetery and the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery.

Day 4 – 5 May ... This is the big day for ceremonies: Liberation Day. We will join the crowds of people in Wageningen for the Canadian commemoration and parade. Some of our group will march in the parade.

Day 5 – 6 May ... We will hit the battlefields today when we look at the largest Canadian directed operation of the war: Op Veritable. We will end the day with a visit to Groesbeek Cemetery and the nearby Liberation Museum

Day 6 – 7 May ... Today we will visit the Dutch Artillery Museum in t'Harde. The day will wrap up with the Heroes March across the Oversteek Bridge in Nijmegen.

Day 7 – 8 May ... Today we will be back on the battlefields as we tour the sites of Operation Blockbuster, the Hochwald, and the capture of Xanten.

Day 8 – 9 May ... Our last day on the battlefield will see us visiting the crossing of the Rhine in Op Plunder and the battles for Emmerich. We will also see where the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion landed on Op Varsity.

Day 9 – 10 May ... Several options today, including a free day in the Nijmegen area, or a daytrip to Amsterdam by train or bus, where the resistance museum and the art galleries are highly recommended. Our last night in Nijmegen.

Day 10 – 11 May ... We will depart early to get our flights back to Canada from Amsterdam airport. Anyone staying on in Europe can make easy connections from the airport.

Tour Price (Land Only)

CAD \$3700 – (per person, Double occupancy)
(single supplement: **\$1150** – limited availability)

Airfare can be added, see with travel agent and will vary according to point of departure.

\$600 per person non-refundable deposit required by the 1st of April 2024
Balance of payment required 29 January 2025

Price includes:

- * all breakfasts and a bagged lunch daily
- * all travel by coach bus
- * accommodation as shown in the itinerary
- * opening reception and final dinner
- * services of historian/guides

Not Included:

- * return airfare from Canada to Amsterdam
- * travel insurance
- * train trip to Amsterdam on free day
- * Lunch & dinner on 11 May
- * items of a personal nature such as beverages

Note: limited single room availability – “first come, first served”

All terms and conditions available at www.foftours.com

For more information contact Merit Travel
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Commemoration Cyprus 2024



Commémoration 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 50th 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](#)

