

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News – 27 Feb 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

- Feb 28 Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs
- Mar 01 ~~15th Feb & 78th Frasers Whisky Fundraiser~~ **CANCELLED**
- Mar 06 Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs
- Mar 13 **No Zoom Meeting – host will be at lunch**
- Mar 20 RUSI(NS) - Distinguished Speaker RAdm Carosielli, Cyber Force
- Mar 21 Left Coast Lancers Moreuil Wood Lunch

Next Wednesday Lunch – 13 March 2024

Dr Andrea Lane: - RCN Strategic Policy - Hybrid Warfare and Information Operations



Please join us on Wednesday, March 13th to welcome our guest speaker, Dr Andrea Lane from Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC). Professor Lane is a Defence Scientist with the Maritime Operational Research Team, providing operations research support to Maritime Forces Pacific in Esquimalt. She is part of a team of defence scientists who do deep dive research into defence topics of interest to commanders. She will talk to us about hybrid warfare and information operations. Thanks to Captain Jamie Blois of the Regional Public Affairs Office for making this possible. Lunch starts at 1200hrs, and the presentation will take

place in the lecture room at 1315hrs. **Bio – see poster section.**

Cost is \$35 per person. Reservations and payment in advance are required. Those wishing to attend must RSVP HLCol Don Foster @ dgfoster60@gmail.com Prepayment for lunch tickets required by 8 March. E-transfer may be made to: 15rca100th@gmail.com

If you cannot make an e-transfer, please make payment arrangements with HLCol Don Foster. There will be no cash or credit card option available at the door. For further information, contact HLCol Don Foster at (604)809-6242 or dgfoster60@gmail.com or Colonel (Retired) Keith Maxwell at (604) 865-0612 or kdm Maxwell@gmail.com

Menu
Greek salad
Chicken souvlaki
lemon potatoes
Greek rice
pita bread & tzatziki
Dessert Squares
Coffee and Tea
Reservations required by 8 March
tofu/veggie skewers available for the vegetarians.

RUSI(NS) - Distinguished Speaker RAdm Carosielli, Cyber Force

Save-the date: 1300-1500 Atlantic Time, Wednesday, 20 March 2024. Rear-Admiral Luciano Carosielli, Chief of Staff Assistant Deputy Minister (Information Management), will present to RUSI(NS) and guests about the Canadian Armed Forces Cyber Force and digital/information management. **Invitations to follow.**

CAH Darlington, Commander, Royal Canadian Navy (retired) Vice-President, RUSI(NS) Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia. Web: <https://rusi-ns.ca>

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 0900.

Russia Grounds Aircraft After Losing Another Advanced A-50 Spy Plane

Putin Caught Off Guard as His 'Mini-NATO' Falls Apart.

Thomas Kika Newsweek Weekend Staff Writer Feb 24, 2024

Russia has reportedly grounded a handful of military aircraft after one of its prized spy planes was shot down on Friday, according to the Ukrainian government. The Beriev A-50 plane, also known by the NATO reporting name "Mainstay," is an airborne early warning and control jet used by Russia to help monitor Ukraine's air defenses. The aircraft typically fly with a crew of up to 15 personnel and are estimated to cost over \$300 million to produce. The Russian military currently deploys a modernized version of the plane, known as the A-50U, which, among other things, replaces the original craft's analog systems with digital ones for faster signal tracking and target detection. On Friday, the Ukrainian Air Force claimed that it had shot down an A-50U craft over the Sea of Azov near the city of Primorsko-Akhtarsk, the second one of the prized spy planes that Kyiv had claimed responsibility for destroying this year. Despite those claims from Ukrainian officials, however, Russian military bloggers later claimed that the craft was

accidentally brought down by "friendly fire." Russian government officials have not yet commented on the matter. *Newsweek* reached out to the Russian Ministry of Defense via email for comment on Saturday morning. Any responses received will be added to this story in an update.

*An A-50 spy plane is seen over Moscow on June 24, 2020.
The destruction of an A-50U craft has reportedly led
Russian military officials to pull five other crafts from
planned deployments.
Evgeny Biyatov/Host Photo Agency Via Getty Images*



In a Saturday update posted to its official Facebook, the Main Directorate of Intelligence for the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense further claimed that the Russian military had recalled five other aircraft off their assigned missions and kept them grounded in the wake of the most recent A-50U loss. "An additional sign of the success of the joint operation of the GUR of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine and the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine is the order to stop the missions for two Su-35 aircraft, as well as three Su-34 planes of the Russian Federation, which were performing tasks near the N.P. Millerovo - some of them planned to carry out airstrikes near Avdiivka," the directorate wrote in its post. *Newsweek* could not independently verify the claims contained in the post. Each side of the conflict is known to claim greater losses for the other, and lesser losses for themselves. The Su-34 planes mentioned in the post are Russia's premiere supersonic bomber crafts, of which its military is estimated to have lost roughly 25 since the start of the conflict in Ukraine in February 2022. The Su-35 planes are fighter jets used to escort Su-34s during missions.

Russia's Maxed Out Arms Makers Face Labor, Tech Shortages

Maxim Starchak Defense News Feb 22, 2024



In this pool photograph distributed by Russian state agency Sputnik, Russia's President Vladimir Putin visits the Gorbunov Kazan Aviation Plant in Kazan on Feb. 21, 2024. Photo by Kristina Kormilitsyna/POOL/AFP via Getty Images

MOSCOW — As Russian arms makers fulfill government orders at a record rate, they are bracing for a shortage in skilled labor and high-tech manufacturing components that belie the image of a [defense-industrial](#) juggernaut, according to analysts. The projection comes amid a demographic crisis of an aging population, factors that run counter to the government's trumpeting of expanded weapons production and construction of new plants while the war against Ukraine enters its third year. According to the former deputy prime minister and head of Roscosmos, Yuri Borisov, the entire Russian defense industry will lack 400,000 workers in the near future. Irina Sokolova, a specialist at a Moscow recruitment agency who asked that her employer not be revealed, said

there are fewer incentives available to fill the ranks. “In 2022-23, the Russian defense industry attracted almost the entire possible personnel reserve by increasing salaries,” she told Defense News. “It is becoming more difficult to recruit specialists; unemployment in Russia is only about 3%. Defense companies are already enticing personnel from each other.” Firms have tried to increase cooperation with universities and technical schools to prime the personnel pump, according to aerospace industry analyst Vasily Brevnov.

But finding management staff adept at navigating the pressure of the Ukraine war is another story. “With the beginning of a special military operation, many heads of defense industry enterprises were not ready to work in the new realities,” Brevnov told Defense News, using the government-prescribed parlance for the war. “In some cases, drastic personnel decisions were needed.” For example, business leaders were unfamiliar with available subsidies and credit opportunities or were unable to find alternative suppliers in the wake of Western sanctions, he said. Managers were also used to running their businesses without paying attention to the needs of their engineers, according to Sergey Smyslov, an independent defense industry analyst. In addition, according to Russian media, the courts are considering the cases of former heads of various defense companies who are accused of fraud, embezzlement and abuse of authority. Finally, the government’s legislative and regulatory framework is slowing down many production processes, increasing time, costs and hindering technological solutions, analysts interviewed for this article said. The sanctions squeeze has especially hit those industries in which Russia has long relied on Ukrainian products or established channels for obtaining Western components, according to Brevnov and Pavel Luzin of the Center for European Policy Analysis think tank. Affected industries include aviation, space, shipbuilding and machine tool construction.

While high-end radar components may now be hard to source for Russian arms makers, there is a large market of old but hardy parts that is nearly impossible to regulate, according to Michael Jerdev, a Russian aviation expert. “If you look at the database of electronic components found in Russian weapons by Ukrainians, you can see a great conservatism in the use of electronic components in military equipment,” he said. “The mass of electronic component samples is literally 25 years old, massive and saturated in the secondary market, which is almost impossible to control with sanctions.” Crucial equipment has continued to make its way to Russia since the beginning of the war — or has been there all along. Kirill Sypalo, general director of the Central Aerohydrodynamic Institute, said in November 2022 imported machine tools made up the vast majority of equipment in his organization, with producers hailing from Germany, Sweden and Israel. In total, foreign manufacturers accounted for up to 50% of the electronic components used in rocket and space technology systems and up to 70% in satellite production, an engineer at the state-owned enterprise Russian Space Systems told Defense News, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal planning assumptions.

Vitaly Egorov, an independent expert on the Russian space industry, said “new sanctions in electronics lead to the suspension or significant postponement of the launch dates of various spacecraft.” “Roscosmos itself or the Russian industry is not able to create a full-fledged replacement, and all the hopes of Russian cosmonautics are connected either with China or with parallel imports, that is, essentially gray schemes to circumvent sanctions, but this leads to

significant losses of time and money,” he added. Heavily dependent on foreign parts, Russian naval shipbuilders are now looking to source components from manufacturers in China, India, or Iran through shadow import schemes, a leading researcher at the state-owned enterprise Kant, who asked that their name not be revealed, told Defense News. Alexey Migalin, the chief executive of marine equipment seller NavMarin, said in an interview with Kommersant newspaper that radars, satellite-based navigation receivers and related devices are manufactured in Russia, but based on Chinese technology.

At the Neva 2023 International Exhibition and Conference in St. Petersburg, the head of the Russian Maritime Register of Shipping, Petr Vanyukov, said 60 of his employees are embedded all over China to scout equipment officials hope could replace the entire ecosystem of sanctioned Western technology. In September 2023, at a meeting of the Council of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Konstantin Babkin, president of the Rosspetsmash Association, said there is practically no production of hydraulics components, needed for making tanks, in Russia. Similarly, local makers of bearings and electronic parts can only produce up to 25% of the required volume, he added. At the same time, it is not profitable to produce those parts in Russia, Babkin said, adding that the tax burden in China is lower and loans are cheaper. That explains why many experts interviewed for this article said the scheme of import substitution is still weak. The head of Rostec, Sergey Chemezov, stated in a June 2022 article for RBC “replacing everything is pointless, economically inexpedient and simply impossible.” In a study by the Russian Higher School of Economics, more than 60% of executives polled said they are confident that within two to three years they will only partially be able to forego using foreign equipment, technologies and raw materials.

Machine tools play a crucial role in the production of numerous types of weapons and military equipment. Well before Russia’s invasion in 2022, the country’s machine tool industry had been in crisis. Last year, the government approved a program to provide loans to machine tool builders at an interest rate of 1% per year. The government plans to inject 300 billion rubles (US \$3.2 billion) into the industry by 2030. Rostec aims to reduce the import of machine tools by half. In an effort to obtain foreign components and technologies, Russian metalworking company Stankomashstroy plans to open a machine tool factory in China. But Asian-made machines are considered to be of lesser quality. Mikhail Prokopyev, an expert on robotics at SofPol, speaking at the Russian Industrial Week event held in Moscow in October, said Chinese equipment is usually less durable and less precise than Japanese and European equipment. Parallel imports and smuggling are also used by Russia. According to Russian independent investigative journalists from The Insider, there are examples of a private foreign company purchasing microchips from Analog Devices or Texas Instruments, both US companies, and reselling them to a Russian private importing company. Russian officials are hedging against the semiconductor flow drying out completely. Analysts have observed large-scale import activity of equipment from China, amounting to a future repository that could serve production needs for one to two years, said Luzin, the CEPA analyst. All told, the Russian defense industry, while firing on all cylinders, is behind the technology curve as Chinese substitutions turn out to be lackluster. As a result, it is easier for Russian industry to reproduce old Soviet models of equipment, rather than create technically more complex Armata tanks and Su-57 aircraft, Luzin said.

Canadian Military in Shambles

thanks to Liberals' underfunding and woke policies. *Lorne Gunter Toronto Sun Feb 06, 2024.*



Canadian Forces personnel stand easy during a government event at CFB Kingston in Kingston, Ont., Tuesday, March 7, 2023. Photo By Sean Kilpatrick /The Canadian Press

Over the past decade, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) have lost 10 veterans for every nine new recruits they have added. Over the past three years, the decline has accelerated to 10 lost for every eight added. No wonder our core troop strength should be 72,000, but we are currently limping by with fewer than 62,000, one of the lowest per capita rates in NATO. The recruitment crisis became so dire that in October 2022, Gen. Wayne Eyre, the chief of the defence staff, ordered the Forces to cease all non-essential activities and concentrate on recruiting new soldiers, sailors and air personnel, instead. Around that same time, it is rumoured that the Americans discretely asked us if we could send troops to Haiti to end that country's rule-by-drug-cartels. Such a mission would take about 11,000 personnel for two to three years. We declined. We had neither the manpower nor the budget. Of course, the Liberals' long-term underfunding of the CAF is a major cause. Canada spends less on its military as a percentage of GDP than any other member of NATO – something our allies politely but frequently complain about.

We have few up-to-date tanks, our officers' pistols predate the last world war, our submarines are unseaworthy most of the time, our fighters were last current when Justin Trudeau's father was PM and we can't get a frigate build to save our lives. Literally. Our armed forces are among the best qualified and trained in the world, but the current Liberal government gives them no respect or support. When we sent a unit to Poland last year to help train Ukrainians to fight Russians, we sent no cook. Soldiers were told to buy their own meals at local restaurants and they would be reimbursed. But per diems were months late. Members of a unit sent to Latvia were forced to buy their own helmets. The fact our forces are inadequately equipped and given no meaningful missions discourages new recruits. We've been on a grand total of one, six-month peacekeeping mission since the Liberals took over in 2015. And we didn't even send our two, first-class field hospitals to assist after the major Turkey-Syria earthquakes last February.

But I think there is another equally off-putting reason for our dwindling armed forces: The Liberals have been determined to turn our army, navy and air force into a giant social experiment based on the notion that what attracts people to a military career is not service to their country, but an official drive for diversity, inclusion and equity. Under the Liberals (and with a disturbing amount of agreement from CAF brass), the idea that learning a trade or technical skill while defending our borders and our values has become less of a goal than eradicating white privilege,

settler mentality and systemic racism. Two years ago, the Minister’s Advisory Panel on Systemic Racism and Discrimination reported that the biggest impediments to recruitment were “the policies, processes and practices that enable systemic racism and discrimination in the Department of National Defence (DND) and CAF.”

This past fall, the *Canadian Military Journal*, the official peer-reviewed academic journal of our forces, devoted its entire quarterly issue to describing how “the Canadian military is a racist, patriarchal den of colonialist oppression that needs to be torn down and remade from scratch.” That edition was filled (all 13 articles) with such topics as “a feminist intersectional trauma-informed approach to reimagine and transform CAF culture” and “Interrogating Whiteness and Power in the Canadian Armed Forces”. The journal’s authors – and many of the commanders and policymakers at DND, seem to believe our military is rife with “patriarchy, colonialism, white supremacy, heteronormativity, ableism, and classism.” Oh, yeah. If I were a young person looking for a challenging career, that attitude would really make me want to sign up.

Russia Investigates Disappearance of More Than 50 Missing Aircraft

as Allegations of Move to “Unfriendly Countries” Such as Ukraine Emerge.

Ace Vincent The Stock Dork Feb 25, 2024



mid escalating tensions in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, investigations have been launched into the disappearance of multiple Russian aircraft. Suspicions abound that some of these aircraft may have ended up in the possession of Ukrainian forces,

intensifying geopolitical concerns and prompting official inquiries into alleged unauthorized transfers. Numerous reports suggest that several Russian aircraft, including Mi-8 helicopters and an Il-76 strategic airlifter, have disappeared under suspicious circumstances, coinciding with heightened military activities in Ukraine. Ministry of Transport audits conducted in July 2023 uncovered inconsistencies in Rosaviatsiya’s records, leading to suspicions of improper removal of aircraft from the civil aviation register without adequate documentation. The Federal Security Service has initiated criminal investigations, citing negligence and abuse of power, targeting individuals associated with the suspected unauthorized transfer of aircraft. Allegations have surfaced regarding the unlawful removal of 59 planes and helicopters from Russian jurisdiction, raising questions about the circumstances surrounding their disappearance.

Officials from the Federal Air Transport Agency are under scrutiny for alleged deficiencies in documenting the removal of aircraft, contributing to uncertainties regarding their current whereabouts. Rosaviatsiya, responsible for overseeing Russia’s civil aviation sector, faces scrutiny over its handling of aircraft ownership rights and transactions, amid allegations of irregularities. The Mi-8 helicopter, extensively utilized by Russian forces, has emerged as a key

point of interest, with Ukrainian claims of downing these helicopters further exacerbating tensions. Reports of aircraft incidents, including crashes and disappearances, have heightened concerns about the safety and security of aerial operations amidst the ongoing conflict. Ukraine has repeatedly claimed the shooting down of Russian aircraft and has reportedly seized at least one Russian helicopter, adding another dimension to the complex dynamics of the conflict. In a significant development, Ukraine reported the capture of a Russian Mi-8 pilot, underscoring the intensifying nature of the conflict and its broader implications for regional stability.

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

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/>

Concert for the Padre - The 15th Field Artillery Regiment Band performed at the Christ Church Cathedral on 17 February 2024. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/concert-for-the-padre>

Instituto de Historia Y Cultura Militar, Valencia, Spain - Visited the [Military Museum](#) in Valencia Spain. Great exhibits. Some familiar items.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/instituto-de-historia-y-cultura-militar-valencia-spain-part-1>

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/instituto-de-historia-y-cultura-militar-valencia-spain-part-2>

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/instituto-de-historia-y-cultura-militar-valencia-spain-part-3>

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/instituto-de-historia-y-cultura-militar-valencia-spain-part-4>

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/instituto-de-historia-y-cultura-militar-valencia-spain-part-5>

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/instituto-de-historia-y-cultura-militar-valencia-spain-part-6>

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/instituto-de-historia-y-cultura-militar-valencia-spain-part-7>

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

68 Bty 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 a 10 vehicle allowance (50 person max) with the booking (additional fees for extra vehicles and day guests. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2024.html>

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=XE0y7bIBCNvTYsIFcFIZ6g1e1pfzMP.1> or use Meeting ID: 727 5835 9360 Passcode: pFPey6.

No Zoom Meeting on March 13 – host will be at lunch in Mess.

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: The Birch Gun's inception began in 1923 when Sir James Frederick Noel Birch was appointed to the office of Master General of the Ordnance. Sir James was a former cavalryman but was also heavily involved with issues with artillery that had been experienced



during the First World War, resulting in him being well-versed in the issues that had come with mechanization. This would make him a competent person to head a self-propelled artillery project, which is exactly the specification Vickers had received in 1921 for a tracked self-propelled gun. Work began on this project in 1923, just as Birch assumed his

position, and in order to save costs, they decided to utilize the hull of the Medium Mark II tank, which was in development at the time. For more details, go to:- <https://forum.warthunder.com/t/birch-gun-mk-i/31784>

This Week: Our southern neighbours have recently seen a certain orange chap make a statement about NATO that raised some hackles. Whether or not his statement will be tested by a Russian invasion of Spain remains to be seen, but there was both truth and untruth in what was said. As for the untruth, there is no great pot of cash into which member nations throw coins annually. Consequently, membership cannot be counted as anything requiring dues. However, it is true that some nations do better at living up to the 2% defence investment guideline (as calculated by GDP). In 2014, only two nations spent more than that percentage, rising to eighteen as of this year, with Poland recently going above and beyond that goal to an impressive 3.9%. Our Dominion is a bit lagging, with only 1.38%, ahead, however, of Luxembourg's 0.72%. But, given that their total number of personnel is about 900, that's probably quite sufficient. Mind you, one can spend a zillion dollars on something that doesn't work, such as an anti-hypersonic death ray, or invest everything in training the trainers. Some nations put most of their money into having a well-educated officer and NCO force, ready to expand quickly when the need comes about. Our nation did so during the two world wars.

Nonetheless, regardless of what various ministries of defence do, criticism will come from some quarters. In our little Dominion, there are some who say we have not enough modern artillery. Our reserves are equipped with guns of a calibre (105mm) that has not proven effective in the current war in Ukraine. Additionally, our regular regiments use towed artillery, the M777, a gun

which, while excellent in design (its origins are British, Huzzah!), is reliant on wheeled tractors, and is vulnerable to little, tiny drones.



To solve this problem, or challenge, some have proposed innovative designs that can be used easily, quickly, and effectively on the modern battlefield. Such is this week's centrefold. We ask two things of you regarding it. First, what is it? Secondly, what is the association between this device, and a recently deceased, much-loved British television actor? Send those hundreds of answers to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitary'

A great concert was held in Hawaii recently. People were dancing in the isles.

Murphy's Other Laws

If enough data is collected, a board of inquiry can prove anything.

Quotable Quotes

The only courage that matters is the kind that gets you from one moment to the next.
- Mignon McLaughlin

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.

Dr Andrea Lane

Defence Scientist at Defence Research and Development Canada



Andrea is a Defence Scientist and strategic analyst with DND. Her personal research focusses on the intersection of national defence, politics, and society, examining the military as an institution, civil-military relations, personnel policy, and procurement. Her dissertation project investigated the role of gender in Canadian civil-military relations. Her work has been published in *International Journal*, *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, and the *Canadian Naval Review*, as chapters in several books, and in popular venues such as *Policy Options*. She is the co-editor, with Brian Bow, of *Canadian Foreign*

Policy: Reflections on a Field in Transition, published by UBC Press (2020). As a strategic analyst with DND, Andrea's work has been published in *International Journal*, *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, and the *Canadian Naval Review*, as chapters in several books, and in popular venues such as *Policy Options*. She is the co-editor, with Brian Bow, of *Canadian Foreign Policy: Reflections on a Field in Transition*, published by UBC Press (2020).

Employment

Defence Research and Development Canada Ottawa Research Centre (DRDC Ottawa)
Defence Scientist, Maritime Operational Research Team. Jul 2021 - Present
Esquimalt, British Columbia, Canada. Strategic analyst supporting the RCN

Assistant Professor Canadian Forces College Canadian Forces College
Aug 2020 - Jul 2021 Lecturer

Deputy Director, Centre for the Study of Security. Jul 2019 - Aug 2020

Lecturer - Dalhousie University. Jan 2017 - Apr 2017

78th FRASER & 15th FD REGT RCA WHISKY TASTING



78TH FRASER HIGHLANDERS & 15TH FIELD REGIMENT RCA ANNUAL WHISKY TASTING FUNDRAISER FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2024 BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY – OFFICERS' MESS

Back after a four year absence, our annual whiskey tasting, and fundraiser is scheduled to take place starting at 1800 hrs in the Bessborough Armoury's Officers' Mess.

**1830 to 2200 hrs
(6:30 to 10 PM)**

The aim of the event is to raise funds to support the programmes and charities of the 78th Frasers Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison, as well as the activities of the 15 Field Regimental Society which also includes providing scholarships to serving members of the Regiment to pursue post-secondary education.

Light refreshment s will be provided, and up to six samples of whisky's will be served. The Bar will be open for those who may prefer other beverages.

The tariff for the full whisky fleet tasting is \$65, and for those who wish to attend to support the event but prefer other beverages is \$30.00

Prior proceeds for this event have supported the 15 FD Centennial Activities, and scholarships including one to the Scottish Studies Programme at SFU.

Dress is Business Casual or Highland Dress

This event is open to guests from any of our 39 CBG military units and families, including members of the Royal Canadian Legion or Army, Navy, & Airforce Associations.

Please RVSP prior to Tuesday 27 February to LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett at barrettjd007@gmail.com to support both units.

Left Coast Lancers Moreuil Wood Lunch



Left Coast Lancers HQ

Warning Order

Situation

The Battle of Moreuil Wood Luncheon is booked for 21 March 2024, 1130-1400 at the Sidney North Sannich Yacht Club.

This lunch is also the Spring Gathering of ALL members of the LCL. We are inclusive and do not wish to offend the sensitivities of other fine regiments such as Garry's, Hussars and Dragoons various. We could go with St Georges Day on 23 April, Saint George is the Patron Saint of the RCAC and he is all about chivalry, charity and courage. We are supposed to give flowers out that day. Very popular amongst the more dashing Hussars so I am told. I will leave the Dragoons out of this for the moment as they are in Petawawa and would possibly be snow bound handing out pine cones and black flies.

The weather here is damp and on the Island we have survived plunging tempters in the minus 5 area which caused the earth to briefly cease rotation on it's axis, but we have Endured as is the wont of all Left Coast Lancers who are loath to having their golf and fishing activities interfered with.



Global events continue and we of the LCL are on standby to conduct additional lunches if ordered by the HRH King Charles III or members of the LCL.

Command and Signals

Please ack, menu and pricing to follow. Estimate \$40.00 per person.
If you know of others in the area please pass on.

Endurance

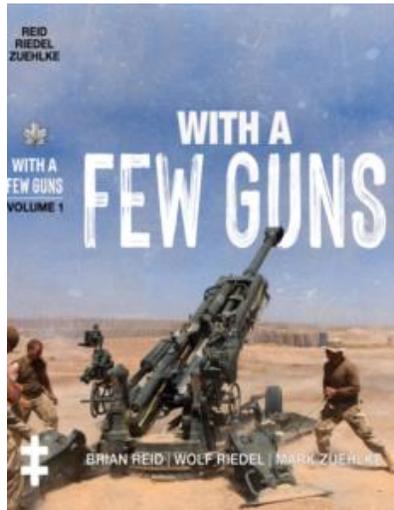
David Scandrett

Left Coast Lancers Ops O and Maître de

tango14@outlook.com

778-245-2800

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 in the 'Victory' town of 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

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Commemoration Cyprus 2024



Commemoration 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](#)

