Vancouver Artillery Association News
'The Vancouver Gunners'
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7 www.vancouvergunners.ca

RUSI News Vancouver
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7
www.rusivancouver.ca

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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

Commemoration Cyprus 2024 – see poster section

Oct 11	Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting.
Oct 12-14	RCA Association Annual General Meeting
Oct 18	Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting.
Nov 11	Remembrance Day
	AFOA Dawn Patrol (details TBA)
Nov 16	Left Coast Lancers - Battle of Leliefontein Luncheon
Nov 25	Fraser Highlanders, Fort Fraser Garrison, Feast of St Andrews
Dec 02	**Save the date! 15 Fd Offrs Mess St Barbaras's Day Dinner**

Soldiers and Commanders to Assess FIRESTORM AI Technology

The system will face tougher challenges in Project Convergence 2021.
George I Seffers Signal Jun 08, 2021

Both soldiers and combat commanders likely will get hands-on experience in the coming months with one of the Army's hottest new artificial intelligence systems known as FIRESTORM. The artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled system, formally named FIRES Synchronization to Optimize Responses in Multi-Domain Operations, still is in the science and technology phase and is not yet a formal program of record. It ingests data from sensors and other systems, uses One World Terrain to map the battlefield and recommends the best weapon system to engage specific targets, saving commanders precious time for making decisions. Prior technologies took almost 20 minutes to relay data back to warfighters. FIRESTORM takes 32 seconds. FIRESTORM was the megastar of last year's Project Convergence and has been highly praised by Army officials

helping determine the service's future, including Gen John Murray, USA, commanding general, Army Futures Command, and Brig Gen Ross Coffman, USA, director of the Next Generation Combat Vehicle Cross Functional Team. Gen Coffman has suggested the system could fundamentally change the way the Army fights in the future. The technology will face more of a challenge at this year's Project Convergence, which will be conducted at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, and Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona from October 12 to November 9, than last year's. For example, soldiers will get their hands on the system and provide feedback for the first time. Also, the system will consider more factors before making decisions.

Soldiers test M1A2 Abrams tanks during a live-fire accuracy screening test at Fort Bliss, Texas, in October. U.S. Army researchers intend to integrate the FIRESTORM artificial intelligence system with the Abrams for Project Convergence 2021 to be held in October and November. Credit: Army Staff Sgt Kris Bonet

Last year, FIRESTORM had only one so-called decision node. "This year, we're going to have a lot more decision-aid nodes … to validate the decision tree and whether it is making the decision based on a decision tree, which has many, many factors. You need to look at all of those factors to see if it provided the right recommendation," says Ketula Patel, FIRESTORM program manager and Intelligence Systems branch chief with the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Armament Center, Picatinny Arsenal. Beyond Project Convergence, the Picatinny researchers intend to improve FIRESTORM in other ways as well. Future enhancements likely will include even more advanced AI and automation algorithms. Some eventual enhancements also will be tailored to the needs of commanders. Feedback from commanders will help researchers refine some capabilities, such as targeting, predicting air clearance processes and deconflicting air space. "Project Convergence gets it ready for a lot of different kinds of use cases, but it doesn't consider everything. Going beyond, we would be working with a lot of the [combat command] partners and active duty, like III Corps, or even divisions, to make sure we're incorporating a lot of that feedback into FIRESTORM," Patel says. Patel suggests her team could work directly with combatant commands, or COCOMS, in the Indo-Pacific region or Europe to better meet their needs. "We're trying to connect with some of the COCOMs. As the software matures, I think we'll be able to support a lot more COCOM events, probably in the later part of 2021 or 2022 for sure."

For this year's Project Convergence, the system also will be integrated with about 20 other systems and will support joint missions. That includes the Air Battle Management System (ABMS), an Air Force solution for the Joint All-Domain Command and Control Concept. ABMS allows a joint force to use cutting-edge methods and technologies to rapidly collect, analyze and

share information and make decisions in real time, according to an Air Force press release. It also includes the Army's Air and Missile Defense Workstation, a staff planning and battlespace situational awareness tool. It provides the user with an air defense picture and supports the Surface-Launched Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile air defense system by providing an automated defense planning capability for deployed units. "There's a lot of integration work that's happening to make sure we can receive data from all kinds of systems that are fielded—or emerging technologies—and have interoperability with them," Patel reports. "We're probably integrating to, I'd say, about 20 technologies for Project Convergence. We're extending our interfaces to work with a lot of those different, newer platforms." She notes that FIRESTORM can work for commanders at higher echelons, including joint task forces, or at the tactical level for individual tank or helicopter crews. "The platforms, such as the ground tank commander, could utilize the system all the way to the joint task force. So, we're also integrating with the Abrams since Abrams is at the tactical edge."

The system will benefit overwhelmed tank commanders. "It's not going to get involved with a direct fire mission. If a commander sees a target, he'll continue to engage as he sees is the best for him to minimize any kind of fratricide and also a self-defense kind of scenario," Patel explains. "Where it helps is if that specific tank platoon is getting an overwhelming number of targets. FIRESTORM will continue to communicate with all the other inorganic assets that could support those fire missions." For example, FIRESTORM could alert the commander of unseen dangers. "Let's say a target that came from a higher echelon, or an intel system saw a target that was beyond line of sight of that platform, that could be alerted to that commander," Patel adds. FIRESTORM already has been partially integrated with the Army's Tactical Assault Kit and Nett Warrior and also is available on Linux-based laptops. "The Android capability, I would say, is not as mature from a decision-aiding and algorithm perspective. It's really mainly on the Linux laptop," Patel says. "We will continue to develop other technologies, such as Microservices, to have it working with cloud and all the other newer, modernized architectures that the joint partners, as well as the Army, are developing." In addition to the technology piece, researchers must consider differing policies and doctrine. "Once we establish what we're sharing between the systems, and we all are on the same page between us and all the developers, then it becomes a little bit easier. I think we are still figuring out what it is that makes sense from a commander's perspective that they would want to see … across different warfighting functions," Patel explains.

Other enhancements are in the works as well. "We're improving everything from working at scale to being able to handle a lot of the data that we're getting … given that we will be at the different echelons, there is a lot of that work getting implemented to scale it up," she adds. While reducing the decision-making time from 20 minutes to 32 seconds is impressive, Patel stresses optimization as another crucial benefit. "We're optimizing the target assets that we want to utilize and not just using any available asset that could be the shooter. We're looking for the best shooter and the best effects for any target," she says. That benefit cannot yet be quantified. "Right now, we don't have quantified data. We will as we build out use cases and run out simulations in fiscal year 2022. We will scale it up where we will ingest a lot of targeting data and utilize what might be all the effects and see which ones were selected and come up with a cost metric. I don't mean cost from a money perspective but from an optimization perspective," Patel explains.

Search for Crew of British Bomber Shot Down in WW2

Salvage operation in Dutch waters finds remains presumed to be those of Arthur Smart, Charles Sprack and Raymond Moore. *Senay Boztas in the Ijsselmeer The Guardian 7 Sep 2023*

A five-week salvage operation is underway on the wreckage of British Lancaster ED603, which never returned from a mass bombing mission targeting Bochum, Germany, in 1943.
Photograph: Granger/REX/Shutterstock

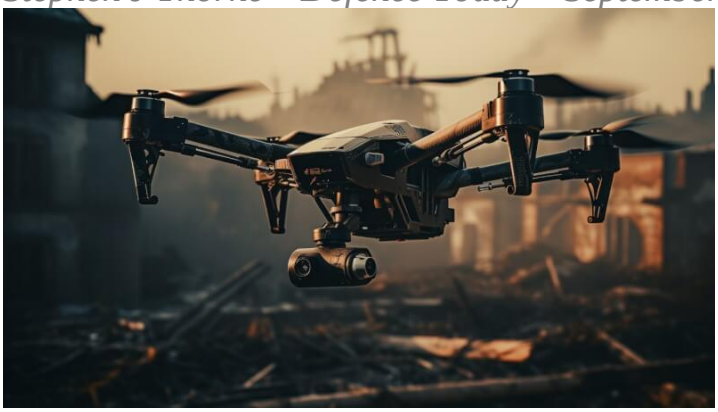
The remains of British airmen shot down by the Nazis over Dutch waters may have been discovered in a massive recovery operation. With the help of a €15m national plane wreck rescue fund, the Dutch have started to sift the wreckage of the British Lancaster ED603, which never returned from a mass bombing mission targeting Bochum in Germany on 13 June 1943. Instead, this "Pathfinder", that gave the lead to 503 bombers, was tracked as it headed home. It was shot down and crashed in the blue Dutch waters of the IJsselmeer with seven men aboard. The bodies of four men washed up within days and were eventually buried in the Netherlands but, to this day, three are officially registered as missing: 27 year old flight engineer Arthur Smart; 23 year old mid upper gunner Charles Sprack; and 21 year old wireless operator Raymond Moore. At the site, where the water has been pumped out of a huge metal box mounted in the middle of the artificial lake, Dutch experts confirmed they had found skeletal remains presumed to be those of the missing British fighters.

Capt Geert Jonker, the commanding officer of the recovery and identification unit in the Royal Netherlands Army, told the Guardian. "We have found the first skeletal remains. At the moment, we can't say any more than that. "It's early days … but there is no doubt that the remains we have found come from one of the missing airmen." The salvage operation, which will also defuse explosive material, is expected to last five weeks as the aircraft's remains are revealed at a rate of 20cm a day, sifted through a mechanical sieve and sorted by hand. They will be taken to the Dutch military laboratories, the BIDKL, for further analysis and the Guardian understands the decision about the future of bodily remains will pass to the Ministry of Defence and British Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Jonker said that DNA tracing is unlikely to be used. "The main mission of my team is to establish the minimum number of individuals: three crew are unaccounted for, and it is up to us to look whether we have remains from the three people," he said. "The goal of this national programme is to find missing airmen, to give them a grave with a name, and to give their relatives closure."

The crash site was first discovered in 1996 when local fishers hauled up a motor, pulled off the serial number and brought it to a museum run by the Stichting Aircraft Recovery Group. "Our organisation started a large investigation," says chairman Johan Graas. "In 2016, we found evidence of human remains, confirming actually that one or more of the crew were down there." At the request of relatives of the lost men, the local municipality Súdwest-Fryslân won a subsidy from the fund to retrieve remains from about 5,500 aircraft lost over the Netherlands. The Dutch government believes about 400 still contain remains of airmen from both Allied and German forces. Together with the defence ministry and contractors Leemans and Mos, the recovery began this month and relatives are expected to travel to the site for a ceremony next week. "The bodies of Arthur Smart, Charles Sprack and Raymond Moore alas were never found, and with this salvage operation we will be able to close the last chapter of these brave airmen," said Petra van den Akker, head of heritage at Súdwest-Fryslân council. "This is a story of freedom, of sacrifice … the last chapter of an extraordinary story."

Musk War Manoeuvres Raise Concerns Over Tech Giants' Power

Stephen J Thorne Defence Today September 20, 2023



Small drones, many of them satellite-dependent, have had a big impact in Ukraine's defence against Russia's invading forces.

US Senator Elizabeth Warren is calling for an investigation after a biography of tech entrepreneur Elon Musk revealed he foiled a 2022 Ukrainian military offensive by limiting critical access to his Starlink satellite network. "Congress needs to investigate what's happened here, and whether we have adequate tools to make sure foreign policy is conducted by the government and not by one billionaire," the Massachusetts Democrat said on Sept. 11, 2023. In his new biography titled *Elon Musk,* author Walter Isaacson describes how a sneak attack on Russia's Black Sea fleet by a Ukrainian drone was disrupted after the Tesla and SpaceX CEO ordered engineers to shut down satellite access over Crimea. The tech billionaire told Isaacson he feared the Ukrainian attack would provoke Russian President Vladimir Putin into launching a nuclear war, which he has refused to rule out. Isaacson has since clarified in a post on the former Twitter platform, now owned by Musk and known as X, that "the Ukrainians THOUGHT coverage was enabled all the way to Crimea, but it was not." Finally, Musk chimed in: "There was an emergency request from government authorities to activate Starlink all the way to Sevastopol. The obvious intent being to sink most

of the Russian fleet at anchor. If I had agreed to their request, then SpaceX would be explicitly complicit in a major act of war and conflict escalation."

Members of Ukraine's 72nd Black Zaporozhians mobile aerial reconnaissance group pose with their DJI Matrice 300 "bomber." Connected via Starlink satellite, it allows Ukrainian artillery teams to target Russian positions by dropping anti-tank munitions, often in silence and at night.
Black Zaporozhians/Wikimedia

Musk delivered Starlink terminals to Ukraine for free in the early days of Russia's unprovoked invasion as Western governments rallied to supply Kyiv with artillery and air defence systems. Musk eventually soured on the arrangement, saying "Starlink was not meant to be involved in wars," and at one point threatened to withdraw access altogether. Starlink "was so people can watch Netflix and chill and get online for school and do good peaceful things, not drone strikes," he said. "As a result, civilians, children are being killed. This is the price of a cocktail of ignorance and big ego." It wasn't the first such incident. Ukrainian forces discovered in October 2022 that Starlink ceased to function when they entered newly liberated areas, depriving them of critical communications capability at vulnerable moments. In February 2023, Starlink imposed more restrictions, saying the system should not be used for offensive purposes such as providing communications for controlling drones carrying out attacks on Russian troops.

The US military has since contracted the continued support of the SpaceX service. The Pentagon won't disclose details of the deal, citing operational security. But the Crimean incident, and the fact the Pentagon has become reliant on the service, have suddenly got the attention of people in high places, starting in Ukraine, where a top aide to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy lashed out at Musk. "By not allowing Ukrainian drones to destroy part of the Russian military fleet via Starlink interference, Elon Musk allowed this fleet to fire Kalibr missiles at Ukrainian cities," declared Mykhailo Podolyak. "As a result, civilians, children are being killed. This is the price of a cocktail of ignorance and big ego." US Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall said the situation has raised questions as to whether the US military needs to be more explicit in future contracts that services or products it purchases could be used in war. "If we're going to rely upon commercial architectures or commercial systems for operational use, then we have to have some assurances that they're going to be available," Kendall told a convention roundtable. "We have to have that. "Otherwise, they are a convenience and maybe an economy in peacetime, but they're not something we can rely upon in wartime."

Putin, on the other hand, had high praise for Musk, touting him as an "outstanding person… an active and talented businessman and he is succeeding a lot, including with the support of the American state." *Guardian* newspaper columnist Keir Giles contends the underlying issue warrants more scrutiny. SpaceX, he writes, is far from the only technology company playing a

vital role in Ukraine's fight. Household names such as Amazon, Google, Microsoft and others have been "essential" to the country's defence. "The key role of tech companies—and the people working for and with them—in this war raises new questions about the status of private industry and civilians in wartime," said Giles. "Private companies are playing major roles in cyber, telecommunications, national resilience and more—but, just like SpaceX, none of them have an absolute duty to do so. Simply put, companies are providing capabilities that are vital to Ukraine's national survival because they choose to, not because they are beholden to any of the states involved in the conflict." Some examples of companies providing free or Western government-backed services:

- Amazon and its cloud services were crucial in evacuating Ukrainian government data before the invasion.
- Information technology companies such as Microsoft and ESET have provided critical cyber-protection to Ukrainian government and civilian networks against Russian attack.
- Google provides support services for Ukrainian government functions and protection for government websites and embassies worldwide.

"The reason why none of these have hit the headlines in the same way as Starlink is not just because their support is provided quietly in the background," Giles writes. "It's also because, unlike Starlink, all of these companies have made a clear choice as to which side they are on. They concluded that their own values, and their duty to their other customers, mean that they must back Ukraine." He said the Starlink issues highlight "the vulnerabilities that come with dependence on this kind of goodwill." "Twitter and Starlink under Musk are the primary case study for major tech platforms that hold power without accountability," Giles writes. "Their distinctive ownership structure means that Musk's personal decisions can easily cause lives to be saved or lost. "In all these cases, there are vital lessons for any other conflict where a state might be dependent on the goodwill of private industry: a critical warfighting capability can be hostage to a terms-of-service violation. What is more, in a future, more ambiguous conflict, private companies' loyalties could cross borders and they could find themselves offering services to both sides. This has direct implications for the defence of western societies."

Dominique Jean, Baron Larrey

The first modern military surgeon, Larrey developed techniques in the service of Napoleon's army still in use today. *Eric Niderost Warfare History Network Sept 2023*

It was late November, 1812, and the fate of Napoleon's Grande Armee hung in the balance. Several Russian armies were closing in, but if the French crossed the 300-foot-wide Berezina River, the bedraggled survivors of a once great army might still manage to escape the trap. Two bridges had been hastily thrown across the river, a frigid waterway

littered with great chunks of floating ice. Temperatures continued to plummet, until they reached -27.4 degrees Fahrenheit, or -33C. The ragged soldiers had been reduced to gaunt scarecrows from lack of food, their breath misting into clouds of ice crystals as they trudged painfully along on frostbitten feet. Some even were snow blind, and without a companion to assist them, they were doomed. Dreams of glory were replaced by an animal instinct for personal survival. Camaraderie, even basic human compassion and decency, was all but forgotten in the struggle to keep alive. Some charged money for a place at their campfire, and teamsters callously drove wagons over wretches who couldn't get out of the way in time. Things got worse when Russian cannonballs began to fall near the bridges, sparking fear that soon became a full-blown panic.

A traffic jam blocked parts of the spans, and in the scramble to cross many were trampled or fell into the icy waters. But amidst the chaos a voice could be heard above the groans, shouts, and cries of anguish. "Monsieur Larrey! Monsieur Larrey! Save him who saved us!" The single voice was joined by another, and another, until it was a rising chorus. Larrey, Surgeon-in Chief to Napoleon's Imperial Guard, needed to cross the Berezina—if he didn't, he would probably be killed by rampaging Cossacks or vengeful Russians. Strong hands lifted him and passed him from one to another, like a piece of driftwood floating on a sea of humanity, until he was across the bridge and safely on the opposite bank. Larrey was surprised by the men's reaction, not realizing that his selfless devotion to wounded soldiers had already become the stuff of legend. He had saved many lives in his career and the soldiers were going to return the favor by saving him.

Portrait of Baron Dominique-Jean Larrey
by Anne-Louis Girodet de Roussy-Trioson, 1804.

Dominique Jean Larrey was born on July 8, 1766, in the tiny village of Beaudean, a hamlet nestled on the French side of the Pyrenees mountains, not far from the Franco-Spanish border. The son of a shoemaker, the future surgeon had humble, even obscure origins. He might have followed in his father's footsteps, toiling away at a cobbler's bench, but fate decreed otherwise. Orphaned at 13, he was sent to live with his uncle Alexis, who was the chief surgeon in Toulouse. Young Larrey found he liked the medical profession, and after serving an eight-year apprenticeship with his uncle he journeyed to Paris to study under Pierre-Joseph Desault, who was the chief surgeon at the Hotel-Dieu. His uncle Andre gave him a letter of introduction, but money was scarce, and Larrey walked all the way from Toulouse to Paris, a distance of roughly 400 miles. Desault was kind, but essentially told the young surgeon he needed more practical experience. Larrey took the advice and joined the French Royal Navy of Louis XVI, but found in the end a life at sea had little appeal. Quitting the navy, he took a position as an assistant surgeon at the Hotel-Dieu where his mentor Desault welcomed his arrival. Larrey became a passionate supporter of the French Revolution, and personally witnessed the celebrated fall of the Bastille on July 14, 1789. When the War of the First Coalition broke out in 1792, Larrey joined

the French Army of the Rhine. He was an army surgeon during the 1790s, but as he gained experience he also developed new ideas in treating battlefield casualties.

In retrospect it is amazing he accomplished as much as he did, given the abysmal state of medical knowledge at the time. In 1800 the first true anesthetics were over 40 years into the future, and if a soldier was in agony he might be given a swig of liquor. But most of all Larrey and his contemporaries had no idea what caused disease or the horrible infections like gangrene that all too often plagued the wounded. The existence of pathogenic microorganisms—germs—were still unknown. In the 1790s Larrey was appalled by the haphazard way the wounded were evacuated from the battlefield. Ambulances were posted well behind the lines, and often wounded were not picked up until the fighting was over. Many could lie on the battlefield for hours, even a day or two, suffering not only from their wounds but from shock, hunger, dehydration, and the risk of being stripped and murdered by nearby villagers or even other soldiers, especially if they were from the opposing army. All too often these unfortunates died before they were picked up, or died en route to the dressing station. Larrey felt there had to be a better way. He was inspired by observing how fast the French mobile artillery could maneuver, and decided to create ambulances that were similar in design. The result was the celebrated ambulance volantes or "flying ambulances."

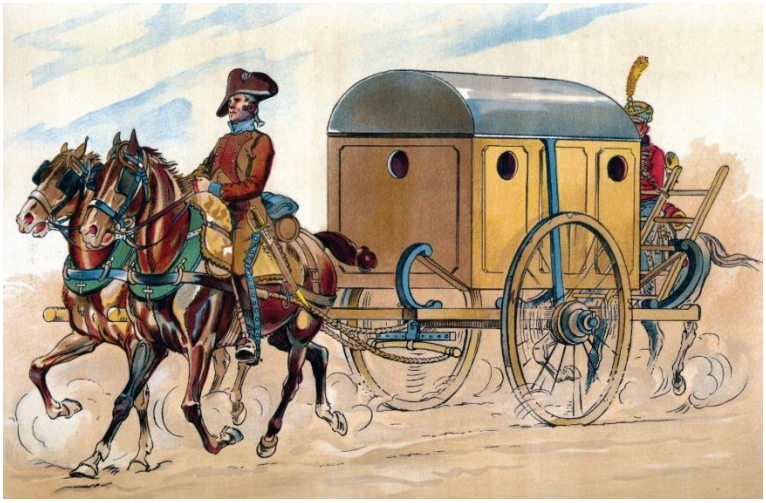
Larrey "Tending the Wounded at the Battle of Moscow," oil painting by Louis Lejeune.

The flying ambulances were light, wooden horse drawn carriages that were designed to carry two wounded soldiers. These ambulances could pick up the wounded even as a battle still raged, and take him to a larger vehicle for transport to field hospitals that were set up in the rear. The drivers and medical staff that accompanied each ambulance were well trained, and the carriages included portable surgical instruments, field dressings, and some medicines. Nothing was left to chance. Larrey also developed the system of triage, which he described as "the assignment of degrees of urgency to wounds or illnesses to decide the order of treatment of a large number of patients or casualties." Injured soldiers were divided into three groups: dangerously wounded, less dangerously wounded, and slightly wounded. The ones who had the worst wounds were given priority for treatment. Larrey's triage system was strictly egalitarian, with no consideration given to rank, or even if a wounded soldier was from the enemy. All were treated with the best care then available.

No doubt hearing of Larrey's reputation, General Napoleon Bonaparte requested that the surgeon be attached to the Army of Italy in 1797. It was the beginning of a long association that would

last for many campaigns until the curtain fell at Waterloo. It was during the late 1790s that Larrey fine-tuned his flying ambulance system. He insisted that, when practicable, the ambulances pick up the wounded immediately, even during battle and some risk was involved. As a result almost all badly wounded soldiers had operations within 24 hours, and death rates fell. In 1798 Larrey was appointed Surgeon in Chief of the Army of the Orient, Napoleon's ultimately ill-fated expedition to Egypt. After the famed Battle of the Pyramids, wounded Mamluks were astonished that they were treated with humanity, decency and respect. After Larrey dressed his gunshot wound, a Mamluk Bey (chieftain) expressed his gratitude by giving the surgeon a large ruby ring. Larrey kept it with him as a kind of good luck talisman until some Prussians stole it after Waterloo. When Napoleon prepared to secretly leave Egypt, Larrey was one of those chosen to accompany him. The surgeon politely refused, declaring the soldiers in Egypt needed him more than Bonaparte did. Larrey was repatriated to France in 1801 with the remnants of the Army of the Orient. By that time Napoleon was First Consul and ruler of France, and once he returned to Gallic shores Larrey was made Surgeon in Chief to the Consular Guard. A few years later, he was named a Baron of the Empire.

When Napoleon became emperor, Larrey was named Surgeon in Chief of the Imperial Guard, and an officer of the Legion of Honor. Once a staunch Republican, Larrey fell under Napoleon's spell and over time became a staunch Bonapartist. He had remarkable prescience when he wrote to his wife in Egypt, saying in part "all that are united to him [Napoleon] are bound to follow. I share his career, though where it will take me or what its limits or perils I have no way of knowing."



French surgeon Baron Dominique-Jean Larrey's ambulance volante, or "flying ambulance," was used to evacuate casualties from the battlefield during the Napoleonic wars.

The years went by, and Larrey added to his laurels in campaign after campaign. He distinguished himself at the Battle of Eylau. Though the French army didn't know it at the time, it was a small foretaste of the frozen horrors they would endure on the Russian campaign. At one point the Russians nearly overran the field hospital where Larrey was busy performing operations. Larrey refused to leave, declaring he'd die with his wounded if need be. Only an eleventh hour French counterattack stopped the Russian drive. Such sangfroid in the face of mortal danger was typical of Larrey. During the siege of Acre, a bullet hit General Arrighi Casanova in the throat, tearing an artery. As copious amounts of blood pumped from the wound, a quick-thinking soldier literally plugged the hole with his finger. Larrey arrived on the scene and went to work immediately, though shot and shell still fell all around them. The surgeon saved Cassanova's life, and it was only after the wound was sewn and dressed that Larrey realized his own hat had been shot off.

Larrey was present during Napoleon's Spanish campaign in 1808 and was also on hand during the 1809 fighting in Austria. It was during the Battle of Aspern-Essling that Jean Lannes, one of Napoleon's Marshals and one of Larrey's closest friends, was badly wounded. A cannonball had smashed into his legs, mangling one of them so badly he could not stand. The Marshal was taken to Larrey, who saw that the left knee was shattered and there was a terrible bloody gash on the right thigh. Normally Larrey was in control of his emotions, but the sight of his friend momentarily unnerved him. He summoned other surgeons for their opinions. It was decided that the left leg should be amputated, and Larrey, his customary calm restored, performed the operation. The leg was taken off in two minutes, then the marshal was transported to Lobau Island, in the middle of the Danube. Lannes was at Lobau when a grief-stricken Napoleon came to visit. There seemed to be a genuine friendship between the two men—only Lannes could use du, the informal French "you," when speaking to the Emperor. As Napoleon embraced Lannes, he soaked his white waistcoat in the marshal's blood. Afterwards, Lannes admitted that he felt he was probably going to die, but said to Larrey, "If I am to live, only you alone can save me." Unfortunately six days after his amputation Lannes developed septicemia—a bacterial infection—which probably led to sepsis, an infection which spreads throughout the body. The marshal developed a high fever, and died. Hidden bacteria had triumphed over Larrey's skills, but his triage system and flying ambulances proved their worth and saved lives.

Napoleon visits his friend, Marshal Jean Lannes, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Aspern-Essling (May 21-22,1809) as Surgeon Larrey looks on in this 1894 painting by Paul-Émile Boutigny.

Larrey also performed wonders on the Russian campaign. The Battle of Borodino was one of the bloodiest battles of the 19th century, and it was said that Larrey personally performed 200 amputations during the course of the day with little rest. He might have died during the terrible retreat from Moscow had it not been for the efforts of the common soldiers. Larrey never wavered in his devotion to the wounded, and his loyalty to the Emperor. The surgeon continued to serve in 1813 and 1814, even as Allied armies closed in for the kill. When Napoleon abdicated in April, 1814, Larrey must have thought his days on active service were over forever. By then Larrey was universally respected, and even the restored Bourbons treated him well. Nevertheless, when Napoleon returned from exile to begin the celebrated "100 days," Larrey had no qualms about rejoining his beloved Emperor. When Napoleon's attempt to reestablish himself on the French throne ended with his defeat at Waterloo, Larrey came within a hair's breadth of being executed by the Prussians in the aftermath of the French defeat. Larrey tried to get his ambulances to safety, but they were blocked

by Prussian lancers. Firing his pistols, Larrey went forward at the gallop to try and force a passage for the ambulances. In the confusion, Larrey's horse was killed and he received cuts—either from a sword or lance—on his head and shoulder. Falling to the ground, he lapsed into unconsciousness.

The surgeon was captured by the Prussians, and stripped of almost everything he had, including most of his clothes. Disheveled, barefoot, and bleeding profusely from the head wound, Larrey was in a bad way. No one knew who he was and orders were given to shoot him—he was a Frenchman, and the Prussians were out for revenge. A Prussian surgeon bandaged his head wound, but he was still earmarked to be summarily executed. At the last minute he was recognized, spared, and sent on to General Friedrich Wilhelm von Bulow, who treated him kindly, gave him clothing, and sent him on to Field Marshal Blucher. Once again, Larrey's past good deeds had a role in saving his life—years earlier he had saved the life of Blucher's son. Like many Bonapartists, Larrey was out of favor when the Bourbons returned in the wake of Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo. But after a few years, past political associations were forgotten, and Larrey not only had his pension restored, but was appointed a member of the distinguished Academy of Medicine that was established in 1820. He remained active, lecturing and performing duties as Surgeon-in-Chief of Les Invalides in Paris, the celebrated old soldier's home. He died in 1842, honored by all. Dominique Jean Larrey is considered by many historians to be the first modern surgeon. The basic principles he laid down in the treat of wounded, like triage, are still practiced today. Napoleon remembered Larrey in his will, and once said that the surgeon was "the most virtuous man I ever knew."

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

Royal Canadian Artillery Association Annual General Meeting
Your Vancouver Artillery Association president is currently in Ottawa for the RCAA AGM later this week. Have you registered for the online presentations? https://rca-arc.org/ Do you have any artillery concerns that I should be bringing forward? Email me at president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

RCAA Executive Position
The Royal Canadian Artillery Association is currently looking for a Secretary. This is a voting position on the executive (President, Vice-President, Past-President, Treasurer, Secretary and 4 Divisional Reps). The main responsibilities include attending monthly zoom meetings, transcribing recordings of the monthly meeting into a Record of Discussion and compiling the Annual Report. Check out some more details here: https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/rcaa-executive-position

Fixed Coast Artillery Defences on the Pacific Coast
Report on the state of defenses on the Pacific coast, including the "Ultimate Plan" to defend the ports and the "Interim Plan" of the 1930s. This is one of the declassified Army Headquarters (AHQ) reports and has now been uploaded to our reference page. https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/references.html

Quartermaster Stores
We've had some items donated with the caveat that if they did not fit into our museum collection, we were allowed to sell them and receive some money for our heritage projects. https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/quartermaster-stores7333216

Point Grey Battery Autumn Clean Up
Still looking for volunteers. Who's available for 21 October 2023? We'll scrape some moss, clean up the gun stores room, add some QR codes, grease some hinges.
Send me an email if you're interested president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

Wednesday Lunch
Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies. Click on this link. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71810323784?pwd=ehLJDhj9zlqI0HvnBlMCYmw0p6ZDwe.1 or use https://zoom.us/j/71810323784or 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) **Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!**

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: The **AutoGyro MT-03** is a German autogyro, designed and produced by AutoGyro GmbH of Hildesheim. The aircraft is supplied as a complete ready-to-fly-aircraft. The MT-03 was approved in the United Kingdom in 2007 in a modified form as the RotorSport UK MT-03. The MT-03 features a single main rotor, a two-seats in tandem open cockpit with an optional partial cockpit fairing, tricycle landing gear with wheel pants and a four-cylinder, air and liquid-cooled, four-stroke, dual-ignition 100 hp (75 kW) Rotax 912 engine or turbocharged 115 hp (86 kW) Rotax 914 engine in pusher configuration. The aircraft fairing is made from composites. Its 8.4 m (27.6 ft) diameter rotor has a chord of 20 cm (7.9 in). The aircraft has an empty weight of 245 kg (540 lb) and a gross weight of 450 kg (990 lb), giving a useful load of 205 kg (452 lb). The MT-03 was developed into the MTOsport and the fully enclosed AutoGyro Calidus.

This AutoGyro is operated by the Kurdistan Traffic Police. Fourteen AutoGyrop Europe MTO Sport are operated from Erbil airport.

This Week: Canada has a long tradition of fending off invaders, usually, but not always from a great distance. There was one noticeable failure in 1759, but we won't talk about that as it still hits a raw nerve in some "quartiers". In short, be it New Englanders, Johnny Crapaud, the Doodles, evil Huns, duplicitous Tojoites, or Ivan Ivanovich and his mates, we have always triumphed, usually with a bit of help from others. Prime amongst our defences was coast artillery, something that, sadly, no longer exists. Fortunately, there still are many examples in our great

Dominion, from the smooth bore guns of Halifax's Citadel, to the concrete emplacements of Fort Rodd Hill near Esquimalt. Those living in Vancouver can visit the remains of Point Grey Battery, behind the UBC Museum of Anthropology, or view a fine model of the site in our world-renowned museum. A few of the guns that once were mounted at those positions exist, mostly those from the distant past, such as the fine rifled muzzle loaders (RMLs) of York Redoubt near Halifax. Regretfully, if you want to see one of the last generation of breech loading large guns, you will have to visit museums overseas. Fort Siloso in Singapore has several, but the one that fires a puff of smoke at the push of a button is made of fibre glass. Nonetheless, it's a lot of fun.

Most of those guns were the almost universal six-inch type, such as graced Point Grey and Yorke Island, but a few were oddballs. This week's photo is of one such eccentric. Your task is to identify this impressive piece of ordnance and tell us where and when it was employed by the gallant men of the Regiment. Was it even a proper British gun? Let the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com) or the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net) know.

From the 'Punitentary'

What's the hardest working part of your eye? The pupil of course.

Murphy's Other Laws

Don't look conspicuous; it draws fire.

Quotable Quotes

A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence. *Jim Watkins*

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.**

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

https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71810323784?pwd=ehLJDhj9zlqI0HvnBlMCYmw0p6ZDwe.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)

Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars across mobile, desktop, and room systems. Zoom Rooms is the original software-based conference room solution used around the world in board, conference, huddle, and training rooms, as well as executive offices and classrooms. Founded in 2011, Zoom helps businesses and organizations bring their teams together in a frictionless environment to get more done. Zoom is a publicly traded company headquartered in San Jose, CA.

Invite 2 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.

St Barbara's Day Dinner Saturday, 2 December 2023. Save the date!

1800 hrs for 1900 hrs - to be held at 2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC.

In the coming weeks, you will receive a formal invitation from the Commanding Officer LCol AW Grieve, CD, and the Officers of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment to attend our annual St Barbara 's Day Dinner.

Dress will be Mess Kit or formal attire, with decorations.

When the formal invitation is sent, it will contain RSVP information, the tariff, and payment options.

Royal Canadian Armoured Corps (Cavalry)

(The Left Coast Lancers)

Battle of Leliefontein Luncheon
16 November 2023

You and your guests are most cordially invited to attend the annual Leliefontein Luncheon to commemorate the Royal Canadian Dragoon's battle in South Africa on 7 November 1900

The Luncheon will commence at 1115hrs and conclude at approximately 1400hrs to meet ferry schedules.

All Left Coast Lancers, Black Hats and Supporting Arms Welcome

At
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club
1949 Marina Way
North Saanich, British Columbia, Canada

Dress
Suggested - jacket and tie
Mask, Vaccinations

Tariff
$40.00 (TBC)

RSVP
David Scandrett - Tango14@outlook.com

Fort Fraser Garrison

Please join us as we celebrate the Patron Saint of Scotland at our annual

Feast of St. Andrew

Mess Dinner

Saturday, 30 November, 2023

in the Officers' Mess,
15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC
1800 for 1900hrs
RSVP by Tuesday, 21 November
to jobarb100@gmail.com

Proceeds of our Christmas Bottle Raffle will go to support the Union Gospel Mission's food program.

The traditional turkey dinner will be provided.

Tariff: $80.00 per person. *RSVP **requested** <jobarb100@gmail.com> **or 604-522-5766**

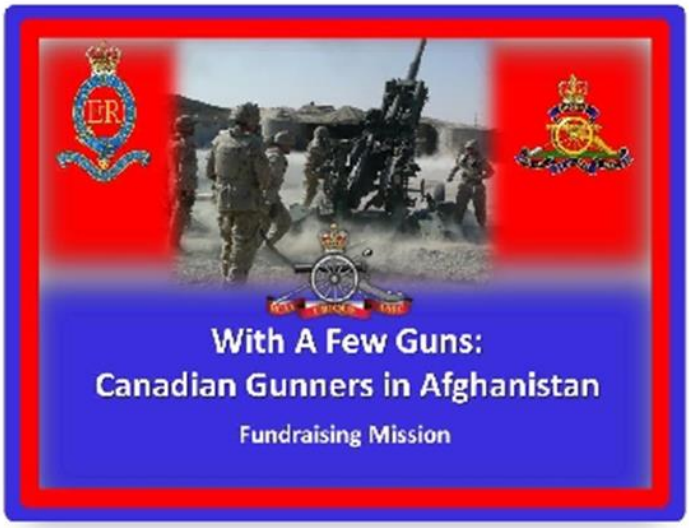
Dress: Highland Evening Dress,
Mess Kit or Business Attire.
Ladies equivalent.

Yours Aye,

James Barrett CD, Major
Officer Commanding the Garrison

With a Few Guns

"With a Few Guns"
Calling For Support!
Donate Now!



With a Few Guns will be an accounting of the contribution Canadian Gunners made to operations in Afghanistan from initial deployment in 2002 until withdrawal in March 2014. The book will not be an "official history" but will tell the story of the approximately 3,000 Gunners who served in Afghanistan, Regular Foce and Reserves, in any and all positions, in any and all functions, as well as the stories of commanders and supported arms, and Gunner families.

We have three accomplished and exceptional authors:
Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) Brian Reid
Colonel (Retired) Wolf Riedel
Mr. Mark Zuehlke

We are launching this fundraisining initiative to cover expenses and get the book published, while keeping the price affordable. With a Few Guns is being written with the backing of the RCA Association, and all donations will be eligible for a tax receipt. Any monies donated in excess of what is needed will remain with the RCAA for support to the causes as espoused by the RCAA.
Our MISSION is to raise $75,000 (+)
Questions may be directed to: WithAFewGuns@gmail.com
To Donate:
Go to: **https://rca-arc.org/**
Scroll down to: **Donate**
Go to : **The Royal Canadian Artillery Association**
Then donate to: **RCAA Donation "With a Few Guns"**

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 gare 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