

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News – 13 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 14** Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs
Feb 17 BCR Concert for the Padre
Feb 21 Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs and RUSI NS presentation
Feb 28 Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs
Mar 01 15 Fd & 78th Frasers Whisky Fundraiser – Bessborough Armoury Officers' Mess

RUSI(NS) - Distinguished Speaker 21 February 2024 - MGen Ménard RCAF

Save the date: 1300-1500 Atlantic, Wednesday, 21 February 2024. MGen/mgén SY Ménard, Chief Fighter and NORAD Capability, RCAF will present to RUSI(NS) and guests, providing an update on the Future Fighter Capability Project (F-35 procurement) and highlighting the RCAF Centennial.

Registration is required. There is no fee to attend this event. To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close-of-business Monday, 19 February. As the subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker 21 February 2024 Registration. In addition to your name, please provide your organization (agency/directorate, unit, association or company). Participation is limited and later registrants may have to be put on

a waiting list. If after registering your availability changes and you are no longer able to attend, please advise RUSI(NS) as soon as possible so your spot can be re-assigned.

The event will be done by Zoom. Instructions will be emailed to registrants by end Monday, 19 February. If you have not received them by end-of-day 19 February, please check your spam folder and, if necessary, email RUSI(NS).

Colin

CAH Darlington

Commander, Royal Canadian Navy (retired)

Vice-President, RUSI(NS)

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 TBA**

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 kdmaxwell@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.

Canada's Military is 'Too Woke?' Hardly

Paul T Mitchell Professor of Defence Studies, Canadian Forces College Feb 5, 2024



Members of the Canadian Armed Forces stand at attention during a Remembrance Day ceremony in Montréal on Nov. 11, 2023.

The Canadian Press/Graham Hughes.

The publication of the latest issue of the *Canadian Military Journal* (CMJ) has angered some of Canada's right-wing media commentators. The issue on the topic of diversity in the Canadian Armed Forces was branded as "woke" by the right. Furthermore, these commentators implied the military itself has been taken hostage by radical ideological "activists," specifically the women involved with the issue. The irony of this, incidentally, seems lost on the Rebel News site that decries the "activism" of others while labelling itself "rebel." The opinion pieces are effectively political performance art, more concerned with stirring up resentment against the ruling Liberals than solving the woes of Canada's military. That the *Journal* has devoted its last three issues to both education and diversity in the military is no surprise to those who have been paying attention to widespread coverage of the military's leadership failures over the past decade, nor is it an indication of where the publication's coverage is heading in the future.

The publication of the latest issue of the *Canadian Military Journal* (CMJ) has angered some

If we take this somewhat hysterical reaction in good faith, it reveals a deep-seated concern over the readiness of Canada's military to deal with a national security emergency. It suggests that social concerns have distracted the military from its proper role to prepare for war. Setting aside for the moment that Canada remains one of the most secure geographical locations on the planet, the idea that our armed forces are "too woke" misunderstands efforts to improve the work environment for historically underrepresented groups. This effort is as central to the ability of the CAF to fight wars in the future as acquiring the latest military technology. If diverse perspectives within our own workforce are too difficult to understand, how much harder will be the effort to understand those of our allies and enemies?

Two cabinet ministers and a military official listen as Defence Minister Bill Blair speaks during a news conference in November 2023 about the federal government's purchase of Boeing surveillance planes from the United States to replace the aging CP-140 Aurora fleet.

The Canadian Press/Adrian Wyld



“Wokeness” emerged as a term of political activism from the Black American experience in the 1930s. In recent years, it has been reappropriated to mock efforts to re-examine or change cultural norms. Now, criticizing something as woke only serves to identify and silence debate. People are the foundation of all military capability. Historically, the Canadian Armed Forces has drawn the majority of its personnel from rural Canada. Demographically, this source no longer reliably provides sufficient numbers of recruits to maintain the size of Canada’s military. Racialized minorities are now the fastest growing portion of Canada’s population. War is the province of hardship. Training focuses on developing individual resilience to such conditions. Training also works to help team members bond and develop camaraderie, so that in the most difficult of circumstances, all will pull together in the same direction with the same effort.



A soldier places a poppy on a veteran’s grave marker following a Remembrance Day service in Calgary on Nov 11, 2023.

The Canadian Press/Jeff McIntosh

Research of the kind highlighted in the pages of the *Canadian Military Journal* shows that the norms and mores that have historically shaped Canada’s military

no longer reflect the increasingly diverse population of citizens. Canada’s proud military history isn’t motivating young Canadians to enlist. Many of the institutions and traditions of service, in fact, actually discourage people to stay in uniform. In my role as professor at the Canadian Forces College, I’ve heard older CAF members sometimes argue “you joined us, we didn’t join you.” This is a disastrous attitude given potential recruits and long-serving military personnel have considerable career options to choose from — often with better pay and fewer hassles and hardships that come with military life. How we treat military families also has a strong impact on retention. Contemporary military families, like those of Canadian society in general, no longer reflect the tradition of a single male wage-earner with a non-employed female spouse to raise the kids. The criticism of the *Canadian Military Journal*’s content essentially concludes with admonishments that diversity and inclusion efforts are a silly waste of time and resources that should be devoted to “proper soldiering.”

They ignore the elephant in the room — institutional failures are directly relevant to the ongoing crisis. The solution, they seem to suggest, is to double down on failed policies rather than engage in the hard work of making a career in the military attractive. In the end, these “woke” efforts are aimed at increasing operational readiness by attracting more recruits from previously underrepresented groups, and building a diverse force representative of Canada and its values. Defaulting to the same past approach is, as demonstrated by missed recruiting targets of most western militaries, akin to the observation that “insanity is doing the same thing, over and over again, but expecting different results.”

It is time for change.

Ukraine is Getting a New Long Range Bomb Before the US

New Ground Launched Small Diameter Bombs will be used in combat for the first time by Kyiv.

Nicholas Slayton Task & Purpose Feb 4, 2024



Image courtesy Saab

A relatively new precision bomb is on its way to Ukraine for use on the battlefield. It would be the first time the munition is used in combat, and it will be used before the American military gets any of its own, despite testing it early in development. That's according to a report from Politico which said that the Ground-Launched Small

Diameter Bombs started being sent to Ukraine this past week. The story cites four sources, who said the munitions would quickly be fielded onto the battlefield against Russia. The United States announced plans to send the munition to Ukraine last year. Delivery was pushed back several times, according to Reuters. However, Pentagon spokesman Maj Gen Pat Ryder declined to comment on Politico's reporting this past week, saying it was up to Ukraine to announce any delivery of such a weapon. How many are on their way or already in Ukraine has not been disclosed, nor how many more would follow.

The bombs, developed by Boeing and Saab, are a modified version of the air launched munition currently in use by the American military. Originally created in 2019, the United States did not buy it, only agreeing once the companies agreed, to send some to Ukraine. However, Politico notes that the US Army was involved in testing the new munition. This newer version allows it to be fired from a variety of ground-based missile systems, including the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System or HIMARS, which Ukraine has used to devastating effect on the battlefield. With a range of just over 90 miles, the new munitions would expand Ukraine's ability to hit farther into Russian lines, and at a cost per munition less than the Storm Shadow or Army Tactical Missile Systems. Although the munition is not as powerful as some of the other Western-supplied bombs and missiles (such as ones that utilize cluster munitions), a selling point according to Saab is the accuracy it offers. The company claims that the munition is accurate to one meter and can hit targets in a 360-degree range, even those behind the launcher. It also claims a navigation system resistant to jamming. Saab has an animated video detailing how it would work in the field, but so far, the GLSDB hasn't actually been used in combat. And it won't until it gets to Ukraine.

Although Western nations are not directly participating in the fighting in Ukraine, many militaries are watching the developments in the war closely, particularly how modern technology and weapons are used. As much as the war has descended into anachronistic fighting reminiscent of the trench warfare of World War I, it also features several truly 21st Century tactics. The use of drone swarms, jamming and anti-radar tools are being studied to see how other armies can learn from these fights. And this is where things get weird. As Motherboard noted, Russia already

claims to have shot down a GLSDB, in 2023. The state run TASS news service quoted a Ministry of Defense spokesman in March 2023 who said that Russian defenses had shot one down along with more than a dozen rockets. Unless Russians were facing time traveling munitions, it appears to be a false claim. How much of a game changer the new munition will be for Ukraine is unclear. Right now, with American military aid in limbo due to Congressional infighting, Ukraine's armed forces have been dealing with a dwindling amount of ammunition for its artillery. That's impacted their ability to match the Russians in a war largely dominated by intense barrages of artillery. The longer range of the GLSDB might help but it won't make up for an ammunition shortage.

US Army Eyes Remote Maintenance After Ukraine Success

American troops have helped Ukrainian forces with telemaintenance for 155 mm howitzers, High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems and Javelin anti-tank weapons.

Patty Nieberg Task & Purpose Feb 5, 2024



Soldiers Illinois National Guard perform maintenance on an M777 Howitzer.

The Army is broadening telemaintenance capabilities for weapon systems and equipment after seeing its success in Ukraine, the Army's chief acquisition official said Monday. When a howitzer or Javelin breaks down on the front lines in Ukraine, soldiers there have a direct line back to American mechanics and experts to help get those sophisticated weapons back in the fight. The Army credits that direct contact between soldiers in a fight and weapons experts, which it calls "telemaintenance," with drastically reducing the amount of time Ukrainians have had to spend fixing broken weapons. The Army may soon expand the telemaintenance concept to US units, pushing repairs and maintenance that might once have meant a costly and time-consuming trip to a repair depot back to the frontline, the Army's acquisition chief said Monday. "It's remarkable and we've never tried anything like that for ourselves," Doug Bush, the Army's Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology said at a Washington DC think tank event. "Now that it's succeeded with Ukraine, we need to fundamentally rethink how we support our own maintainers in the field."

The first Remote Maintenance Distribution Cell Ukraine began providing American-made weapon and equipment assistance to Ukrainian forces in May 2022 – less than three months after Russia invaded Ukraine. In July 2022, the Army officially established the RDC-U in Jasionka, Poland, to provide remote maintenance and repair assistance to Ukrainian soldiers on the ground. Since the US military is not authorized to operate in Ukraine, the RDC-U conducts remote sessions with translators and secure voice, video, and chat channels to guide their Ukrainian counterparts through the entire maintenance process for a weapon system. American troops have aided frontline Ukrainians with remote maintenance on heavy US supplied weapon systems,

including the M777 155mm howitzers, M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, and Javelin anti-tank weapon systems, said William King, a spokesperson for Army Materiel Command. With technology, the Army could have “more efficient ways” to “do more advanced repairs further forward,” Bush said. “These are all things that can save time and money versus bringing a tank for example all the way back to the depot.”

The Army is looking at telemaintenance in large-scale training exercises in the Indo-Pacific, King said. The head of AMC told Defense News that telemaintenance may also be part of training at national centers at Fort Irwin, California, and Fort Polk, Louisiana. The American-Ukraine support cell began after the 87th Division Sustainment Support Battalion deployed to the region to support Ukrainian forces in March 2022. Within a month of arriving, the battalion conducted “informal hands-on training” for nine Ukrainian artillery technicians with 18 retrograde M777 howitzers. Service tickets from Ukrainian soldiers “continued to flood in” and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sun Kim, armament systems maintenance warrant officer from the 87th Battalion realized the need for more efficient maintenance support. One service request was pending for over two weeks due to finite resources. Kim decided to host a video chat with two members from Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command, two weapon experts and an interpreter via cellphone. “We were their only resource,” Kim told the Army in a release. Maintenance resources then opened for 24 hour communication and soon American troops were able to help soldiers with battle equipment malfunctions they were experiencing on the front lines. In April, the Army Sustainment Command’s Chief of Plans and Exercises, Col Joe Parker echoed a similar sentiment about bringing virtual maintenance to other parts of the Army. “This cell not only supports our coalition partners, but we’re also seeing considerable interest in this method from other units in other training centers as they adapt to the current threat environment,” Parker said. “Remote maintenance provides that flexibility.

Excavations at Harwell Investigate Experimental WW2 Catapult

Military History Magazine 12.10.2023



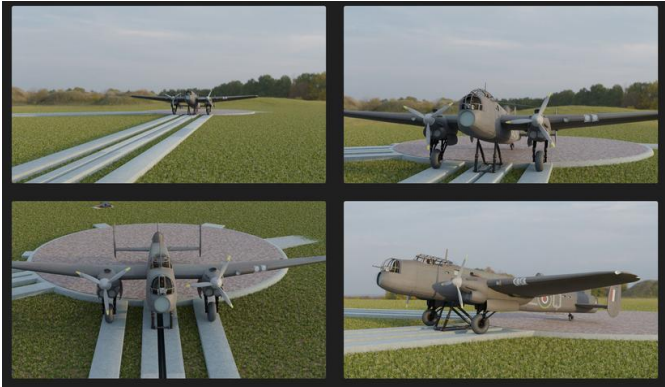
These kinds of catapults were being developed, including being able to launch planes using shorter runways and loaded with more fuel. This excavation, done on behalf of Carter Jonas and Bidwells, will help us understand and shine a light on this extraordinary piece of history.

We’ve recorded an experimental World War Two catapult in incredible detail ahead of a Harwell Science and Innovation Campus development. Named the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) Mark III Catapult, this device was developed to literally catapult bomber planes into the air. There are several reasons why



How did the catapult work? This prototype was built 1938-1940 at Harwell, Oxfordshire after three years of design work. The catapult was made up of a large rotating turntable which directed aircraft towards one of the two concrete track runways that were just 82 metres long. To launch, the aircraft would be attached to an underground pneumatic ram using a towing hook. 12 Rolls-Royce Kestrel aero engines, sitting underneath the turntable, compressed air to 2,000 psi to drive the ram. This high-pressured air was then forced into the pneumatic ram, which rapidly expanded to the length of the guided track - literally catapulting the large bomber planes into the sky.

This catapult was part of a series of innovations and experimentations that happened in the lead up to and during World War Two. Unfortunately, this was one idea that literally never took off. The prototype catapult had several problems, including engines wearing out and the design not



fitting the bomber planes it was meant for. The project was quickly abandoned after never actually launching an aircraft. Once abandoned, the mechanism was taken out, the structure was filled in and by 1941 a normal runway was built across the end of the southern arm. However, it paved the way for other launching designs such as the CAM system used in the early part of World War Two to protect merchant ships.

As part of the recent works, we fully excavated the concrete remains of the catapult – which had been mostly buried since the 1940s. Although its existence was known about through historical records, this work meant the structure could be recorded in incredible detail for the first time. Susan Porter, MOLA Project Officer, says: “This fascinating structure reminds us of the rapid experimentation and innovation of the interwar years and World War Two. Crucially, recording the location and appearance of every inch means that the catapult is preserved by record for future generations.” Now, bringing together hundreds of photos and thousands of data points, we have faithfully recreated a 3D digital replica of the remains. This allows the public and future researchers to explore the Mark III Catapult from the comfort of their own home. The excavations also uncovered finds from a later runway nearby, including large runway lights, roughly 1m square, and a previously unknown gun emplacement that originally defended the runway from attack.

The catapult has now been dismantled to allow construction works to continue. However, we are still carefully working through all the information we’ve captured and the finds we’ve excavated. Once this work is complete, everything will go into an archive providing a permanent and detailed record of this unusual piece of early World War Two history.



Dues 2024

As of Jan 1, 2024, dues for both the Vancouver Artillery Association and RUSI Vancouver are payable.

Vancouver Artillery Association members:- Dues payments for VAA 2024 are payable on 1 Jan 2024. Dues are \$35. Payment may be made by:-
etransfers to the treasurer at dj4loney@shaw.ca or by mail (cheque made to Van Arty Assoc) mailed to:-

Doug Loney
5-10736 Guildford Dr
Surrey, BC V3R 1W6

RUSI Vancouver members: - Dues for 2024 are payable as of 1 Jan 2024. Dues are \$50 for regular members and \$25 for student members. Payment may be made as follows:-

By etransfer to the Treasurer at richmark@telus.net or by mail, check (made to RUSI Vancouver) to: –

Richard Dunn
1998 Ogden Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 1A2

Interested in becoming a member of the VAA or RUSI Vancouver?

Email bob.mugford@gmail.com for more information and application form.

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

2024 Page

Check out the new 2024 page for the latest updates. Here's a list of what's been posted so far:

New Year's Levee and Breakfast

Many members, who attended last year, had taken the opportunity to travel in this second post COVID-19 year and were not in attendance hence the small turn out . To top it off, our chief coordinator, Sergeant Donato Calogero, tested positive to COVID-19 after a visit from some foreign friends and was unable to attend. He certainly look forward to a larger turnout in 2025!

15th Field Artillery Regiment Museum and Archives

The Directorate of History an Heritage conucted an evaluation of the Regimental Museum. Thanks to John Redmond, Doug Loney and Andrew MacRae for participating.

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=XE0y7bIBCNvTYsIFcFlZ6g1e1pfzMP.1>

or use Meeting ID: 727 5835 9360 Passcode: pFPey6

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: The **Special Type 4 Launch Ka-Tsu** was a Japanese amphibious landing craft of World War II. The first prototype was completed in late 1943 and trials were conducted off Kure in March 1944. Japan's combat experience in the Solomon Islands in 1942 which revealed the difficulty of resupplying Japanese forces in such situations prompted the IJN to commence an amphibious tractor program in 1943, as the Ka-Tsu, which was designed by Commander Horii Motoyoshi of the Kure Naval Yard.



Rear-side angle view of Type 4 Ka-Tsu



Type 4 Ka-Tsu with machine guns mounted

The Ka-Tsu's primary purpose was to transport cargo and/or troops ashore. It had light armored shielding with a maximum of 10mm. Its engine compartment and electric final drives were hermetically sealed, as it was intended to be launched from a submarine. The twin drive propeller shafts were designed to retract "into their ducts" once the vehicle reached the beach. The first prototype was completed in late 1943 and trials were conducted off Kure in March 1944. By the time development had been completed, it was proposed that the Ka-Tsu be used to attack US battleships anchored in atolls (such as Ulithi), which could not readily be attacked using conventional means. It was proposed that a Ka-Tsu armed with a pair of torpedoes be dropped off by submarine away from the atoll, propel itself to the outer reef using its tracks, and then enter the lagoon on the inside of the reef. Tests were successfully carried out with a modified Ka-Tsu carrying two torpedoes on its deck, but the war ended before any such mission could be mounted and the Ka-Tsu deployed in combat. A total of 49 units were produced.

This Week: This week, our theme is nautical, due to an influx of post demanding more focus on the Senior Service. And, so we oblige, as we always try to please our readers, most of whom are trained killers. Many of you may remember the days when the Royal Canadian Navy was the pride of the nation, being the third largest fleet in the world at the end of 1945, helped to this exalted position by the fact that several larger fleets were, by that date, at the bottom of several oceans. Nonetheless, we did field an impressive number of the most modern vessels afloat, and had crews with years of combat operational experience.

During the Cold War, at least for the first bit, we maintained that strength, at one time fielding (oceaning?) aircraft carriers, cruisers, and all sorts of boaty mcboatface thingies. Your author has memories of seeing HMCS Magnificent steaming out of Halifax Harbour, accompanied by low-flying naval aircraft, and of boarding our glamorous Cadillac-like destroyer escorts during their courtesy visit to Washington DC, where we lived for a few years. Our navy had the best the Treasury Board would allow. Sadly, that changed. One should not fault one political party; rather the whole nation should take the blame for neglecting not only our sea service, but all aspects of national defence. Parsimony, ignorance, complaisance, and a reliance on our southern neighbour



have combined to bring us to the state in which we currently find ourselves.

But take heart! Other nations have ships even older than ours, and in worse condition. We present one as this week's photo subject. It is not a

wreck; it is an active vessel. But, dear reader, can you tell us who owns it? What is its history? Why does it matter? Let us know your musings by contacting the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the equally rusted author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Ahoy!

From the 'Punitentary'

What do nuclear scientists eat for dinner? Fission Chips.

Murphy's Other Laws

Anything you do can get you killed, including nothing.

Quotable Quotes

It takes two years to learn to talk and sixty to learn to keep quiet. *Ernest Hemingway*

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.

BCR Concert for the Padre

15th Field Artillery
Regiment Band

BC Regiment
Irish Pipes & Drums

Concert for the Padre

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

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

Tickets by donation
thecathedral.ca

Select Regimental Ministries
on the donations page





The
Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia
presents
Distinguished Speaker
Major-General S.Y. Ménard
Chief Fighter and NORAD Capability
Royal Canadian Air Force



F-35 Update

**1-2:30 pm Atlantic time, Wednesday, 21 February 2024
via Zoom**

register through RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com

RUSI(NS) - Distinguished Speaker 21 February 2024 - MGen Ménard RCAF



Major-General S.Y. Ménard, MSM, CD Chief Fighter and NORAD Capability Royal Canadian Air Force

Major-General Sylvain Ménard was recently appointed to Chief Fighter Capability, Royal Canadian Air Force in the National Capital Region, where he is responsible for the management of all projects related to the current and future fighter capability.

He joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1989 and attended the Royal Military College of Saint-Jean (RMC) Saint-Jean, and Royal Roads Military College (RMCC) Victoria, from which he graduated in 1994. He proceeded through pilot training and received his wings in 1995. In 1996, he was posted to 439 Squadron, Bagotville, Quebec, where he flew the CT-133 Silverstar. In 1998, he completed the Fighter Pilot Lead in Training and the Fighter Pilot Course on the CF-188 Hornet at the 410 Operational Training Unit in Cold Lake, Alberta. He then flew the CF-188 with 425 Tactical Fighter Squadron from 1999 to 2003, and completed the Fighter Weapons Instructor Course (FWIC) and the Tactical Leadership Program (TLP). In his flying career Major-General Ménard has accumulated over 2,600 flying hours on jet aircraft, with 1,600 of those hours in the CF-188 Hornet.

Over the course of his career, he held various significant staff assignments. He was the 3 Wing Evaluations, Exercise and Plans Officer, held the positions of Flight Commander, Operations Officer, and Deputy Squadron Commander at 425 Squadron, and worked at the 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters as A3 Fighters. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2008 during Op ATHENA to work within the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) Combined Joint Operations Centre. In 2011, he led the expeditious deployment of the Canadian fighters and air-to-air refuellers detachment to Italy in support of Op MOBILE, the country's contribution to NATO Op UNIFIED PROTECTOR. Over the course of that mission Major-General Ménard flew numerous combat missions over Libya in support of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973.

In 2008, Major-General Ménard completed the Joint Command and Staff College (JCSP) in Toronto, and in 2015 the USAF Air War College (AWC) in Montgomery, Alabama. He assumed command of 3 Wing/Canadian Forces Base Bagotville (2013-2015) and filled the role of Director Defense Program Coordination in Ottawa (2015-2017). Following, he assumed the duties of Deputy Commander Continental U.S. NORAD Region in July 2017, where he was responsible for the region's continuous air defense readiness in addition to the defense of the US National Capital Region.

Major-General Ménard holds a Master's degree in Strategic Studies, with academic distinction, from the USAF Air University in Montgomery, Alabama, a Master's degree in Defense Studies from the RMC Kingston, Ontario, a Bachelor degree in Space Sciences and Physics from RRMC Victoria, British Columbia and a certificate in Complex Projects and Procurement Leadership from the TELFER School of Management, University of Ottawa, Ontario.

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 refreshments 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

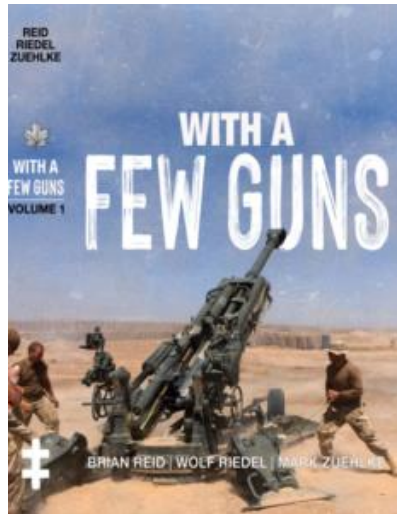
Prior proceeds for this event have supported the 15 FD Centennial Activities, and scholarships including one to the Scottish Studies Programme at SFU.

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.

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

*The
Royal Canadian Artillery
Association*



*L'Association de
l'Artillerie royale
canadienne*

13 October 2023

RE: 80th Anniversary Liberation of Holland Commemorative Battlefield Tour, May 2025

Dear Sirs, Commanding Officers, et al

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

Why

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

Mission

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

Rationale

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

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

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

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



Concept and Scope

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

Conclusion

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

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

Ubique!

Bill Kalogerakis

B. (Bill) Kalogerakis, CD
Colonel (Ret'd)
President
The Royal Canadian Artillery Association
president.rcaa.aarc@gmail.com

Commemoration Cyprus 2024



Comméoration 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](#)

