

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News - 21 Nov 2023

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

80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour – see poster section

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Nov 22 | Mess Lunch and presentation – History of the VPD.
Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting. |
| Nov 25 | Fraser Highlanders, Fort Fraser Garrison, Feast of St Andrew Dinner |
| Nov 29 | Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting. |
| Dec 02 | 15 Fd Offrs Mess St Barbaras's Day Dinner |
| Dec 04 | Coast to Coast Toast (on Zoom) |
| Dec 10 | Commanding Officer's Christmas Tea |

Lunch and Speaker

Our next Mess lunch has been arranged by the 15 Fd Regimental Society with speakers again arranged by RUSI Vancouver.

Menu
Wednesday, Nov 22

Buns & butter
Tossed salad and beans salad
Baked ham with mustard glaze, Scalloped potatoes,
Glazed carrots
Veggie tray or meat and cheese tray
Assorted desserts, Tea and coffee

Reservations required by 20 Nov

Vegan/vegetarian options available, but you must make your preference known when you make your reservations.

RUSI Presentation in lecture room following lunch.

Nov 22

The post Lunch speaker arranged by RUSI Vancouver, will be Pamela Roberts, Executive Director, Vancouver Police Museum & Archives, who will give a talk on the *History of the Vancouver Police Dept.* (See her bio in the poster section.)

Lunches start at 1200hrs, and the presentations will take place in the lecture room at 1300 hrs. Cost for lunch is \$35 per person. **Reservations and payment in advance are required.**

Prepayment for lunch tickets required by **20 November**

Those wishing to attend must RSVP HLCol Don Foster at dgfoster60@gmail.com

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

F-15 Scored Air-To-Air Kill By Dropping a Bomb On Enemy Helicopter

Not your typical air-to-air kill. *Jeff Schogol Task & Purpose Jul 7, 2022*



An F-15E Eagle aircraft takes off on a mission during Operation Desert Shield. (DOD).

US military aviators won several impressive air-to-air engagements during the Gulf War, but perhaps the most stunning victory happened on Feb. 14, 1991, when two airmen in an F-15 successfully dropped a bomb on Iraqi helicopter that was in the air. Air Force Capt Tim “Rhino” Bennett was hunting Scud missiles near Al-Qa’im in northwestern Iraq — much further north than where any other coalition aircraft were operating — when he and his weapons system officer Capt Dan “Chewy” Bakke got word that an American special operations forces team had been discovered and was under attack from Iraqi helicopters. It was early morning, long before dawn, and the weather was bad as Bennett took the plane low so that Bakke could find the Iraqi helicopters with the F-15’s targeting pod, Bennett told Task & Purpose. As soon as they were at an altitude between 1,500 and 2,000 feet, they could see the Iraqis and “a lot of shooting.” “Basically, they had this group of special ops guys surrounded,” Bennett said. “And the helicopters were moving. You could see them flying around. It’s so bright up under there with all the muzzle flashes, the shooting going on, you could see there’s troops all around them.”

Air Force Capt. Tim Bennett flew this F-15E on Feb 14, 1991 on a mission to defend a US special operations team from Iraqi troops and helicopters.
(Photo courtesy of Tim Bennett.)



It looked like the helicopters were transporting Iraqi troops to attack the American special operators, Bennett said. His plane was not armed with any long-range AIM-7 Sparrow missiles, which are guided by radar and effective up to 6 miles, because at the time F-15Es could not be configured to carry both bombs and Sparrows, he said. “If I had had AIM-7s on board, we would have shot them with that a little bit further away,” Bennett said. Instead, his plane was carrying four GBU-10 bombs, each weighing 2,000 pounds, and four short-range AIM-9 Sidewinder heat-seeking missiles. With those weapons at his disposal, Bennett came up with an idea. “I’m thinking: Hey, let’s let a bomb go — because they were already danger close, and they were all getting shot up,” Bennett said. “If they’re sitting on the ground, we’ll hit the helicopter. If not, it will give them something to think about and get their attention away from these guys.” Bakke targeted an Iraqi Mi-24 Hind helicopter on the ground with a laser-guided bomb while Bennett maneuvered the F-15 for the attack. After the bomb was released, Bennett suddenly saw on his radar that the helicopter had taken off again.



A Mi-24 ‘Hind’ helicopter simulates an attack while being scoped by a Dutch Stinger Missile Platoon
(HUM Images/Universal Images Group via Getty Images)

With the helicopter back in the air, Bennett and Bakke no longer knew how long it would take for the bomb to reach its target. The time estimated for the bomb to strike the helicopter came and went. Nothing happened, but Bennett told Bakke to keep the laser spotter on the Hind. “Maybe three to five

seconds later, as I’m turning in to re-execute the attack from a different azimuth, the bomb — we’re so close, you can see the resolution very well — you could see it hit the helicopter,” Bennett said. “We had delayed fuzes on those things, so that when we hit a Scud or a Scud site, it would penetrate and then blow up. I think we had a 0.25-second delay on the bombs. So, really the bomb blew up right below the helicopter as it went through it. There weren’t even little pieces of it. It was a great hit.” By a stroke of luck, the helicopter had flown toward the F-15, allowing the bomb to find its target, Bennett explained. If the Hind had gone in any other direction, the bomb would not have had been able to reach it.

But any elation that Bennett and Bakke might have felt quickly dissipated when a US service member aboard an E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft asked them if they had visually identified the target first to make sure it was not an American helicopter. The US military was flying special operators from Syria into Iraq in MH-53 Pave Low helicopters at the time, Bennett said. Since it was night, Bennett had seen an infrared image of the Iraqi helicopter. It

looked like a Hind, but suddenly he started to wonder if it could have been a Pave Low instead. Bennett said that he and Bakke marked the area where the helicopter was destroyed in case it turned out to be friendly and the US military needed to launch a combat search and rescue mission for survivors, but they both knew “nobody was living in that.” “It scared the shit out of both of us, when she asked that,” Bennett said. Thankfully, it turned out that Bennett was correct: It was an Iraqi Mi-24 Hind, not a friendly helicopter. “Within about five minutes, we knew that we didn’t have any helicopters up — it seemed like about five hours.”

Bennett left active duty after the Gulf War, but he flew F-16s with the South Carolina Air National Guard until he retired as a lieutenant colonel five years ago. His advice for young fighter pilots today is to train hard to face the highest threats that they may have to fly against. “My personal opinion is we’ve gotten too used to flying around at medium altitude a lot and you rely on GPS [Global Positioning System] a lot and things that can help you out — but can be taken away too,” Bennett said. “That’s a long, drawn-out way of saying: Always, always try to develop your fighter pilot skills. The truth is it will always be — it should always be — a business where you’ve just got to be aggressive because your job is to max-perform the airplane.”

For 250 Years, US Troops Could Tow Cannons Around the Battlefield.

The war in Ukraine shows they won't have that luxury in the future. *Michael Peck Oct 31, 2023*



US soldiers moving an M777 towed 155 mm howitzer at a training area in Germany in March 2013.

US Army/Gertrud Zach

As the Ukraine war has proven, the effectiveness of artillery rests on more than its range or the destructive power of its shells. The mobility of a howitzer — its capacity to "shoot and scoot" —

can make the difference between living to fight another day and being destroyed by the enemy. That's why the US Army is pondering whether hauling guns by truck is still a viable option. For towed artillery, "10- or 15-minute displacement time is not going to work against a good enemy," Gen James Rainey, the head of US Army Futures Command, told reporters at the Association of the United States Army's annual conference, held this month in Washington, DC. The Ukraine war has featured an array of towed and self-propelled artillery in a variety of calibers that have been manufactured by numerous nations. These include the US M109, Russian 2S19, and German PzH 2000 self-propelled howitzers and the US M777, Russian 2A65, and British L119 towed guns.

Both sides are also using numerous weapons to hunt down the other's artillery batteries. These include counter-battery radars to locate hostile guns as soon as they fire and an armada of drones that hover over the battlefield constantly, waiting to pounce on unwary gunners. New precision-guided shells, such as the US made, GPS guided Excalibur, are also being used to destroy an enemy howitzer with one round instead of hoping for a lucky hit with a barrage of unguided shells. The increasing spread and sophistication of anti-artillery systems is set to feed the long-running debate over the value of towed and self-propelled guns. For most of history — ever since

cannon first appeared in the Middle Ages — the big guns were hauled by horses or oxen, which limited their mobility. By the time of the World Wars, trucks could more swiftly tow cannon around the battlefield, though the guns still required time to set up.

US soldiers using a tractor to pull a "Long Tom" artillery gun to the front in Sicily in September 1943.

CORBIS/Corbis via Getty Images



World War II, however, saw the debut of self-propelled howitzers, often mounted on converted tank chassis. These tracked vehicles could not only keep up with tanks in cross-country movement but also shoot, rapidly relocate, and then shoot again. Western nations especially tend to base their artillery arsenals on self-propelled guns that resemble lightly armored tanks. Those militaries often earmark towed cannons for airborne and amphibious forces that can't travel with heavy equipment or pass them off to less advanced allies that can't operate mechanized artillery. Both sides in the towed vs. self-propelled debate make strong arguments. Advocates of self-propelled howitzers point to their superior protection and their ability to rapidly displace after firing. Supporters of towed guns cite their lower cost, lighter weight, and improved setup times. (The US-made M777 is reported to displace and emplace within two to three minutes.)



Ukrainian troops firing an M777 howitzer in the Kharkiv Region in July 2022.

*Vyacheslav Madiyevskyy/Ukrinform/
Future Publishing via Getty Images*

Logistically, towed cannon are less demanding. If a truck hauling a cannon breaks down, another truck can tow it. If the chassis of a self-propelled gun breaks down, the weapon is sidelined. A sort of hybrid solution is truck-mounted howitzers, such as France's Caesar. These offer self-propelled mobility without the cost, weight, and mechanical complexity, though they also lack armored protection. In the future, another option is likely to be artillery that can be operated remotely or operate autonomously. "We continue to look at wheeled and robotic solutions to artillery that is towed," Rainey said at the conference. Like unmanned aircraft, these robotic artillery systems could be smaller, lighter, and more expendable than human-operated guns. But the US Army's next-generation Extended Range

Cannon Artillery is set to essentially be an upgraded M109A7 Paladin with a more powerful gun. If the war in Ukraine is a guide, artillery will still be the key weapon in future ground combat — and so will counter-battery fire. Militaries will focus on either neutralizing anti-artillery systems or on developing howitzers that are highly mobile or extremely well-protected, though most nations will likely invest in both. But as the war in Ukraine has also shown, there are no silver bullets on or above the battlefield.

Ottawa Commits to Honouring All Black Battalion That Served During WW1

The Canadian Press November 17, 2023



Blair speaks in the Foyer of the House of Commons before Question Period, Friday, November 3, 2023 in Ottawa.

The Canadian Press/Adrian Wyld

The federal government announced today \$2.25 million in funding to honour the legacy of No 2 Construction Battalion, Canada's only all-Black unit to serve during the First World War. Defence Minister Bill Blair issued a statement saying the money will be spent over five years on commemorative activities, educational materials and community war memorials. Blair's announcement follows Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's formal apology to the descendants of battalion members in July 2022. Trudeau said the 600 members of the battalion faced systemic anti-Black racism before, during and long after the war. Today's announcement was held at the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia in Cherry Brook, NS. The Department of National Defence has said it is taking steps to change the culture in the military, including the eradication of systemic racism and discrimination. "The contributions of No. 2 Construction Battalion members to the First World War effort were invaluable," Blair said in his statement. "Acknowledging the experiences of these brave men and promoting their legacy is an important step in reconciling past wrongs and promoting diversity and inclusion within the Canadian military."

When the First World War started in 1914, hundreds of Black men in Canada were turned away when they volunteered to fight overseas. After two years of protests, the Canadian military was granted approval in 1916 to establish a segregated, non-combat battalion that would be tasked with building roads and railways and conducting forestry operations as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Established July 5, 1916, in Pictou, NS, the battalion was the last segregated unit in the Canadian military. Recruitment took place across the country. More than 300 of those who enlisted were from Nova Scotia. Others joined from New Brunswick, Ontario, Western Canada and the United States. The unit was disbanded on Sept 15, 1920 without ceremony or recognition for its members' service. "This funding is a concrete example of the government of Canada's commitment to taking meaningful action to encourage diversity and inclusion and combat racism in our workplaces and society," the military said in a statement.

The Latest Russian Drones Fire Lethal Slugs of Molten Metal

There aren't a lot of great defenses against explosively formed penetrators.

David Axe Forbes Staff Nov 10, 2023

Russia's newest Lancet explosive drones apparently fire slugs of molten metal that can shoot right past the add-on armor Ukrainian troops count on to protect their vehicles from drone attacks. If there's any good news for the Ukrainians in the proliferation of drone-fired explosively formed penetrators, or EFPs, it's that the best-protected vehicles should be able to deflect the strikes. Keen-eyed observers *months ago* spotted—in photos and videos from the front—what they believed were EFP-armed Russian drones. Now wider acceptance is sinking in. “A video of the latest iteration of the Lancet loitering munition equipped with such a warhead striking a Bradley [fighting vehicle] was recorded on the Donetsk axis,” the independent Conflict Intelligence Team noted this week. A sensor aboard an EFP-armed drone—a laser ranger, in the case of the Lancet—calculates the distance to the target as the drone barrels in. At the best distance, 12 or 15 feet, the sensor triggers an explosive charge that sits behind a curved metal plate. Propelled and heated by the charge, the plate lances outward—and takes the shape of a long slug. This slug pierces the target. An EFP isn't as powerful as is, say, a high explosive antitank—HEAT—warhead that directly strikes its target. The main advantage of an EFP is that it ignores certain kinds of armor. For instance, bolt-on slats and cage armor that can detonate high explosive rounds at a safe distance, and which also tend to snag explosive drones *before* they explode.



Russian troops launch a Lancet.

Both the Russian and Ukrainian militaries routinely add slat or cage armor to many of their combat vehicles. The armor is an expedient and doesn't always work. But it will work even less often for the Ukrainians now that the Russians apparently are

equipping their Lancets with EFPs. There *are* countermeasures. To defeat EFPs in Iraq, the US Army added composite armor to many of its vehicles. The main problem with this additional protection was the weight. One example: EFP-proof armor added a ton of extra mass to a three-ton Humvee, severely limiting the vehicle's mobility. Explosive reactive armor *might* work. “Since the 1970s, this has been used to defeat HEAT and EFP rounds by exploding small charges outward from the armor, interrupting the penetrating blast,” Capt Vincent Delany, a US Army infantry officer, noted in an essay for West Point's Modern War Institute. Explosive armor also adds weight. More troublingly, explosive armor *explodes*. You can't hang ERA on a thin skinned vehicle without the armor's own blasts damaging the vehicle. “Behind all ERA must be passive armor such as [rolled steel],” Sam Cranny-Evans and Sidharth Kaushal explained in a study for the Royal United Services Institute in London. All that is to say, the Ukrainians have some troubleshooting to do. There are ways of grounding and intercepting drones—jammers and air-defense guns, for example—and there are ways of protecting heavier vehicles against EFPs. But these measures could leave many vehicles exposed. Especially lighter ones that can't handle ERA. The usual anti-drone expedients—slats and cages—no longer are enough.

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

Remembrance Day 2023

We've added some additional Remembrance Day photos. Have you got any that you would like to share? Send them to president.vcrgunners@gmail.com
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/remembrance-day-2023.html>

Vokes Range – 28 Oct 2023

Check out the great photos here. There's some Gunners out there with some great photographic skills. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/vokes-range-28-oct-2023>

Christmas 1947

A bit of history as Bessborough Armoury was utilized to assist with Canada Post's Christmas rush. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-19473683934>

Christmas Tea

Mark your calendar for 10 December at 1400 hrs!

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/christmas-tea-2023>

Wednesday Lunch

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies. Click on this link. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71810323784?pwd=ehLJDhj9zlqI0HvnBIMCYmw0p6ZDwe.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) **Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!**

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: The *Vezdekhod* (Russian: Вездеход) was claimed by the Russians to be the first true tank to be developed in the Russian Empire. The word Vezdekhod means "anywhere goer" and in modern Russian means "all-terrain vehicle". The initial project was indeed an ATV. It did not however progress further than a pre-production model, due to problems in the design. The second design, which can be described as tank was submitted to the military only after the news broke about Western tanks and the government started negotiating purchases of them in 1917. In August 1914, a 23-year-old Russian aircraft designer Aleksandr Porokhovschikov based



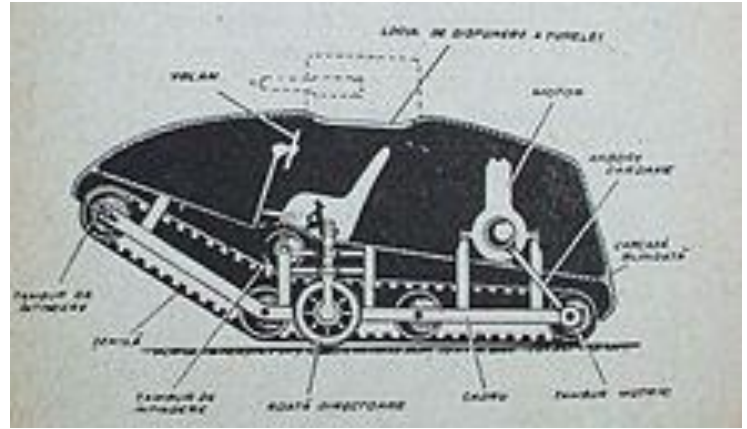
in Riga (now in Latvia), offered to build a vehicle with cross-country capability. The working drawings and estimate were finished by January 1915, and on January 13 approval was given to proceed with construction, the project being supervised by Colonel Poklevskij-Kozello.

*The 'Vezdekhod' prototype tank built
by Aleksandr Porokhovschikov*

The Vezdekhod had a welded frame which ran on a wide single track made from rubberized fabric stretched over four drums, with a fifth drum tensioning the track from above. Two small wheels controlled by a steering wheel were placed on the sides of the track and could be lowered to steer it. The machine was propelled by a 10 hp (7.5 kW) petrol engine driving through the rear drum. Porokhovščikov intended that the Vezdekhod should run on the back drum and its wheels while on firm ground, while on soft ground it would lie down on its track. Preliminary automotive testing began on 18 March.

Technical drawing of a Vezdekhod tank.

Construction of the prototype began in February 1915 with the first tests on a paved road being carried out in May, with further tests proceeding until the end of the year. In cross-country trials the Vezdekhod was reported to be capable of a speed of 40 Verst per hour (42.6 km/h (26.5 mph))



with simulated armor weight but proved impossible to steer using the wheels provided for that purpose and the project was therefore rejected, the Military Technical Department forbidding further work on it after December 1915. The actual performance of Vezdekhod is debated, but according to the test commission Report No 4563: "It appears that Vezdekhod is a sound and practical idea; it can achieve a speed of 25 Verst/hour (26.67 km/h (16.57 mph)). In addition, Vezdekhod can ascend a slope of 40 degrees inclination, cross a trench three metres wide, and a vertical obstacle of 3/4 metre. All significant holes and rough surfaces were crossed wherever tests were carried out. Vezdekhod steers easily during fast motion, and turns very satisfactorily. In all, Vezdekhod crosses terrain and obstacles impassable to conventional motor vehicles." The project was reopened in October 1916, but no further progress was made.

Type	Prototype tank
Place of origin	Riga, later Saint Petersburg, Russian Empire
Specifications	
Length	3.6 m
Width	2 m
Height	1.5 m
Engine	2-cyl petrol 10 hp (7.5 kW)
Maximum speed	42.6 km/h (26.5 mph)

The original blueprints, and possible photographs have been lost to history, perhaps due to the Revolution of 1917. After Russian newspapers published news about the first British Tanks in World War I, Porokhovschikov argued that the Vezdekhod was the rightful first tank. After the Revolution, Soviet propaganda promoted the idea that Vezdekhod was the first tank ever made. Porokhovshchikov was executed by the NKVD, either in 1941 or 1943,

for "expenditure of public funds for unnecessary inventions".

This Week: We tend to switch between land-based and air-based items in the quiz, with a few naval objects thrown into the mix to keep the Tars happy. However, some objects seem to defy

categorization. For example, was the Flying Jeep an army or an air force device? And what of the 1930s Soviet submersible aircraft we featured a few months ago? This week's "thing" is one of those trans machines that defies easy stereotyping, so is an appropriate topic for our pronoun-fueled times. It/she/he is quite fuzzy, which is a clue to those who know that a certain notorious state was once accused of building things in a fuzzy manner so that they would be a mystery to the forces of democracy. It wasn't just a case of crappy film, although that seems to have played a role, too.



The item in the photo appears to be speeding along, either on the ground, or just off it. The scene is a winter one, which means that this is not the fabled Rwandan Armed Forces "Simba" AFT (armoured fighting thing). It must be a northern, or very southern nation that built this speedy sled, which appears to have a three-person crew, with a rather basic engine mounted on top of the hull or fuselage. Whatever it is, it beats your old Ski-doo. So, do you recognize this marvelous machine? If so, send your answer to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or to the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Might it be the legendary Royal Leutonian Army atomic toboggan?

From the 'Punitary'

What do you get when you cross a cat with a lemon? A sour puss.

Murphy's Other Laws

Contact with the enemy will be made on the ground between two adjoining maps.

Quotable Quotes

The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up. - *Paul Valery*

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)

+-



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.

Lunch and speaker – Nov 22.

Rising From the Ashes: The History of the VPD



Lunch details still being worked out. The post Lunch speaker, being arranged by RUSI Vancouver, will be Pamela Roberts, Executive Director, Vancouver Police Museum & Archives, who will give a talk on the History of the Vancouver Police Dept

She is a museums professional with over 20 years experience both in Canada and the UK. Originally from Scotland, Pamela grew up in Glasgow and worked for a range of museums across the UK including the National Museum of Scotland and V&A Museum of Design Dundee. She moved to Canada in 2017 to embrace a more outdoor lifestyle, living on the North Shore with her husband and two kids. Working initially as a consultant, Pamela worked with Museum of North Vancouver for several years developing their public program strategy, exhibits and events for their new museum at The Shipyards. She has worked as Executive Director for the Vancouver Police Museum for the last 18 months and is excited about the opportunities the museum presents.

Pamela is also on the Board of North Shore Celtic Ensemble and enjoy skiing and hiking in the amazing B.C. mountains.

Feast of St. Andrew- 25 Nov 2023



Fort Fraser Garrison

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

Feast of St. Andrew

Mess Dinner

Saturday, 25 November, 2023

in the Officers' Mess, 15th Field Regiment RCA

2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

1800hrs for 1900

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>](mailto: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





YOU ARE INVITED!

COMMANDING OFFICER'S TEA

December 10, 2023
2 pm to 4 pm
Bessborough Armoury
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver BC V6J 2C7

TICKETS \$20 AT THE DOOR
PLEASE RSVP TO:
VIVIANTSANG@HSPH.HARVARD.EDU

St Barbara's Day 2023



The Commanding Officer
Lieutenant Colonel A.W. Grieve, CD
and the Officers
of
15th Field Artillery Regiment
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

request the pleasure of your company
at their annual

ST BARBARA'S DAY
SPECIAL GUEST NIGHT

to be held at the
BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

on
Saturday, the Second of December, 2023
at
six o'clock for seven o'clock in the evening

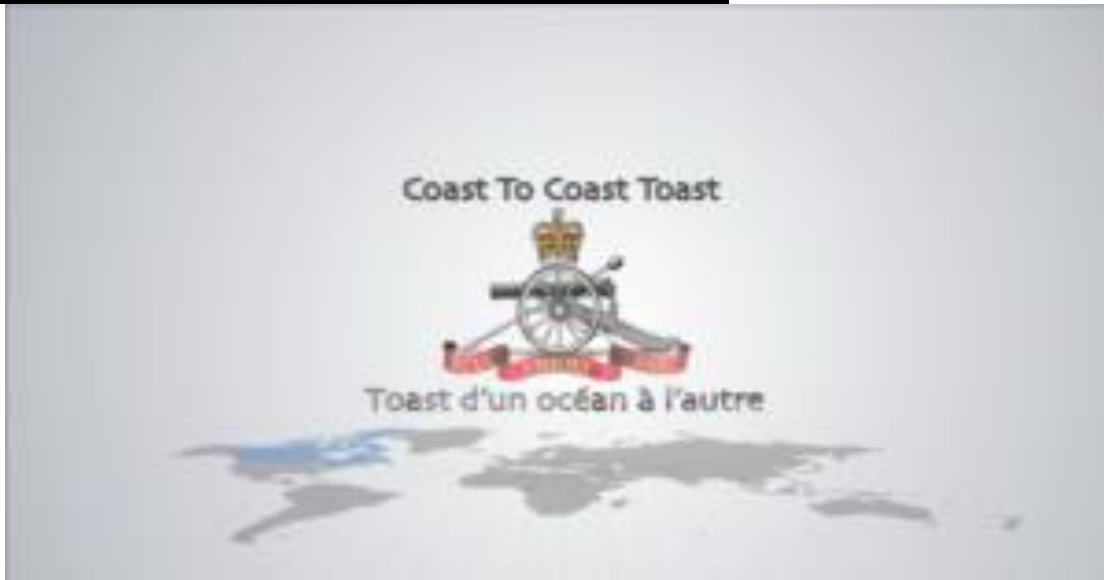
Dress. Mess Kit or Formal attire, with decorations.
*Retired members are authorized to wear Mess Kit.

Tariff. \$135 - Pre-payment is preferred: e-transfer to
15rca100th@gmail.com
Credit card payment is also acceptable at the door:

RSVP by 22 November, 2023 to
15fdofficersmess@gmail.com

Please indicate your post nominals, associated
Regimental March, specific meal restrictions (gluten
free, vegan, allergies, etc.), and your choice of meal
(roast beef, chicken, or vegetarian).

Coast to Coast Toast on Zoom – 4 Dec 2023



The Coast-to-Coast Toast in celebration of St Barbara's Day

The RCA Association invites you to register for a virtual social event on

4 December at 7pm ET (4pm PT). Here's what you can expect:

- Greetings from the Colonel Commandant,
- Greetings from the Senior Serving Gunner,
- Greetings from the Regimental Colonel,
- Greetings from the Director RCA,
- Greetings from the RCA RSM,
- A special announcement from the creators of [With A Few Guns, the unofficial history of Canadian Gunners in Afghanistan](#),
- a Toast to The Royal Regiment followed by a chance to catch up with other gunners in chat rooms labeled in commemoration of 75 years of Peacekeeping operation:
 - Cyprus (OP Snowgoose)
 - Former-Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR, IFOR, SFOR)
 - Haiti
 - Middle East
 - Africa and
 - Gunners & Friends of Gunners

Stay with us after the presentations when we will open the chat rooms for you to connect with other Gunners.

**The Coast to Coast Toast –
Come for the Toast, Stay for the Fellowship!**

Click here to register:- [Coast to Coast Toast St. Barbara's Day 2023 \(member365.com\)](https://rcaa.member365.com/public/event/details/37d8fa294fcd26e0577828c4af194499f8d354bb/1) or copy and paste this link <https://rcaa.member365.com/public/event/details/37d8fa294fcd26e0577828c4af194499f8d354bb/1>

Meeting details will be sent to you when you register.

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.

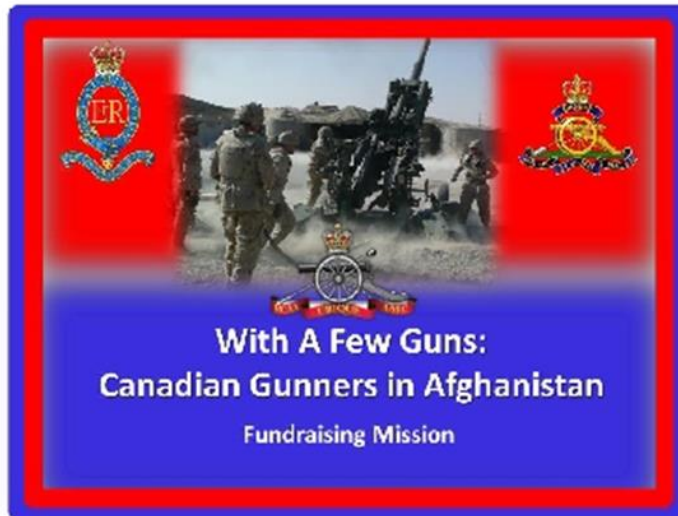
Ubique!

Bill Kalogerakis

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

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 Force 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 fundraising 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 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](#)

