

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News 28 Feb 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

The **2023 Army Gala. May 6, 2023**, at the Sheraton Wall Centre www.militarygala.ca

Commemoration Cyprus 2024 – see poster section

- Mar 01 Wed 'Zoom' meeting.
- Mar 07 **Tuesday** Lunch at 15Fd Offrs Mess & RUSI Vancouver Speaker Series
- Mar 08 Wed 'Zoom' meeting.
- Mar 15 Wed 'Zoom' meeting.
- Mar 22 Wed 'Zoom' meeting.
- Mar 29 Wed 'Zoom' meeting.
- Mar 30 Left Coast Lancers Battle of Moreuil Wood Luncheon **For details see poster section.**

39 CBG Commanders Conference



The Command Teams of 39CBG attended the Commanders conference in Victoria on the weekend of Jan 27-29. On 28 January, the Honourable Janet Austin, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, graciously hosted the Command Teams for dinner, at Government house.

Capt Don Lamb organised the dinner for the Brigade and attendees all agree he did a great job.

The Gunner party posed for this picture.

L-R. LCol Kent Wickens (fmr CO 15th Fd) CO Seaforth Highlanders); CWO Rob Garrett (fmr RSM 15 Fd); CWO Clyde Roberts, RSM 5 Fd; Capt Don Lamb, 15 Fd/39CBG; CWO Heath Porritt, RSM 15 Fd; LCol Michael Lomax, CO 5 Fd; HCol Al DeGenova, 15 Fd; LCol Brent Purcell (fmr CO 15th Fd), Deputy Comd 39 CBG; HCol John Ducker, 5 Fd; HLCol Don Foster, 15 Fd; LCol Nick Watts, CO 15 Fd.



This Video Demonstrates Why ‘Backblast Area Clear’ Matters

Backblast area clear, everyone. *Max Hauptman Task & Purpose Sep 8, 2022*



Backblast area NOT clear. (Aaron Provost/Task & Purpose).

If you’ve ever had the pleasure of firing something like an AT-4, then you’ve heard the phrase “backblast area clear!” And if you ever wondered, “how bad could that backblast actually be?” This video

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1567325070246256640> will answer that question and disabuse you of the notion that it’s not *that* bad. The video, which was shared on Twitter by OSINTtechnical on Sept 6, shows what appears to be a group of Ukrainian soldiers with an SPG-9 recoilless rifle. They’ve got it set up in a dilapidated-looking building, and with one shot, well, their ears are certainly ringing, and they’ve demolished plenty of drywall. The aftermath shows that the operator was, fortunately, unhurt — which feels like a miracle given the pile of ordnance right next to him. There is, of course, plenty of evidence of the “blast” portion of the phrase “backblast.” As Newton’s Third Law states, for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. For your standard artillery or rocket, launching the projectile is essentially a contained explosion, which produces recoil. But applying the same principles of force on both ends of the barrel is what gives a recoilless weapon its, well, lack of recoil.

A recoilless rifle like the SPG-9 is a fairly old piece of military technology, and how it works is simple. When the projectile is launched from one end, a counter-mass — in the form of the gaseous propellant — is ejected from the other end. Essentially, the two explosions counteract each other causing no recoil, but you certainly don’t want to be standing behind one of these things when they’re fired. “An enclosed space doesn’t allow the concussion to dissipate,” said

John Spencer, chair of urban warfare studies at the Madison Policy Institute. “If you try firing one of these things inside a building, it will jack you up.” Indeed. Recoilless weapons are cheap and prolific in combat zones — you can even watch a compilation video of people making the same mistake as these Ukrainian soldiers.

These weapons — recoilless rifles — are also getting some technological upgrades. The M3E1 Multi-Role Anti-Armor Anti-Personnel Weapons System, or MAAWS, being fielded by the Army and Marine Corps fires multiple types of rounds at ranges up to 1,300 meters. The latest iterations of the Carl Gustav, to use the parlance of its Swedish manufacturer, are even being developed to mitigate the backblast, meaning it can be fired in enclosed spaces. The SPG-9, though, is not that. It’s an old, Soviet-era recoilless rifle, and if you’re looking for some backblast, it provides — as these Ukrainian soldiers discovered. “It’s understandable that there is a tactical desire to place weapons in buildings,” said Spencer. “But this shows soldiers who are untrained and don’t understand the capabilities and limitations of their weapons.” So, don’t fire a recoilless rifle indoors, unless you’re looking to take down some walls and have a serious headache.

How Ukraine is Using US Mines to Destroy Russian Tanks

Russia launched a new offensive to take Vuhledar, but its armour is taking heavy losses.

Nicholas Slayton Task & Purpose Feb 25, 2023



DONETSK OBLAST, UKRAINE - FEBRUARY 14: Ukrainian soldiers load ammunition to tanks on the frontline near the towns of Vuhledar and Marinka as Russian-Ukrainian war continues in Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine on February 14, 2023.

(Photo by Mustafa Ciftci/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images).

One year into the war in Ukraine, the conflict does not appear closer to ending, and Russian tanks appear no better at avoiding destruction. Armoured forces attempting to take the Ukrainian town of Vuhledar are being devastated by landmines. It’s been this way for much of February. Videos taken by Ukrainian fighters and shared online have shown Russian tanks attempting to cross fields and roads, only to crash to a halt as a mine blows up beneath them. And it appears to keep happening, with Russian forces unable to avoid the mines. Fighting around the town has been ongoing since March 2022, but has been escalating since Jan 24 when Russia launched a renewed offensive. It’s seen as the first part of an expected spring offensive, and so far, is not going well. Exact losses are unconfirmed; Ukraine’s military claims that in mid-February Russia lost 36 tanks. British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace claimed, citing reports, that a Russian brigade was “effectively annihilated” and 1,000 fighters killed between Feb 14-15. Despite those losses, Russia is continuing its push, and with that still trying to move its armour forward, directly into Ukrainian landmines. And the results are the same.

Videos show lead tanks getting disabled and the following tanks struggling to maneuver without meeting the same fate.

Along with its own Soviet-era mines, Ukraine has a supply of American remote anti-armour mine systems, which the United States provided approximately 6,000 of in late 2022. Right now, Ukrainian forces at Vuhledar are outnumbered when it comes to armour — the first Leopard tanks donated by Poland arrived in Ukraine on Friday — but the last two weeks have shown its mines are enough to hold back Russian tanks, at least for now. Mines have played a key role in the fighting in Ukraine over the past year. After their initial invasion last year failed to take Kyiv, Russian forces pulled back, mining roads and fields. Groups are working to de-mine those areas to make them safe for civilians. Russia's attempts at an offensive near Vuhledar, as much of the fighting in the Donbas region turned into an effective standstill, with neither side able to break through. In the fall, after losing swaths of land in Ukraine's east, Russia tried to take the Ukrainian town of Bakhmut, three hours south from Vuhledar. That has turned into a battle of attrition, with trench warfare and devastated no man's land straight out of World War I. Despite heavy amounts of artillery, armour and drones, neither side has been able to break through the other's lines.

Bakhmut is also where the Kremlin-aligned mercenary organization the Wagner Group has been leading the push, suffering heavy losses along the way, many of which are from the convicts recruited into the group. Wagner boss Yevgeny Prigozhin is currently in a war of words with the Russian military, accusing it of not supplying his organization with ammunition. As part of that conflict, he is posting photos of dead Wagner soldiers in Bakhmut, giving a glimpse at how severe Russian losses are in the battle. The town itself has been shattered by the fighting, with buildings bombed out and streets abandoned. Russian armour losses have been so severe that military leadership is dipping into a fleet of outdated vehicles. The military mobilized an unspecified amount of BTR-50 armoured personnel carriers, which have been spotted in Russian-occupied territory. The vehicle was initially introduced by Soviet armed forces in 1954. Despite having a huge advantage in armour when the war broke out, severe losses have weakened Russia's forces. Ukraine meanwhile is receiving a variety of Western vehicles, including Leopard 2 tanks, and Bradley infantry fighting vehicles.

US Military is Developing Artificial Blood to Treat Combat Injuries

Fake blood could have real benefits. David Roza | Published Feb 10, 2023



A US Army Ranger Combat Medic conducts routine medical training during 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment's task force training August 2019. (US Army).

Combat medics could have a revolutionary new tool for saving lives if a recently-announced military research program is successful. Late last month, the Defense Advanced Research Projects

Agency announced it had selected a team of experts to combine artificial blood, platelets and plasma into a single “whole blood equivalent” that service members and civilians will hopefully be able to use to keep patients alive in an isolated environment or when the genuine article is in short supply. The four-year, \$46.4 million research project is administered by DARPA, though the research itself will be conducted through a collaboration between more than a dozen biotech companies and universities. If it leads to a safe and effective product, it could be a major step forward for emergency medicine. “About 20,000 Americans each year bleed to death before they can be brought to the hospital,” said Dr. Mark Gladwin, dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, in a press release about the research project. “Transfusion at the point of injury is required to stabilize them and limit other organ injury.”

Bleeding is the most common cause of potentially survivable death in trauma in both military and civilian settings, wrote the University of Maryland. Whole blood transfusions can save a patient’s life, but that blood has to come from donors, it requires cold storage, and it has a shelf life of around 40 days. If scientists develop an artificial blood product that lasts a long time and can be moved easily to the point of injury, it could be a game-changer. “We have assembled an outstanding team to develop a bio-synthetic whole-blood product that can be freeze-dried for easy portability, storage and reconstitution,” said Dr Allan Doctor, a professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine who is the principal investigator for the study. “It will be designed for easy use in the field by medics at the point of injury, and will perform like a traditional blood transfusion to, for example, stabilize a patient’s blood pressure or facilitate blood clotting.” That kind of technology could be a godsend for military medics such as Air Force pararescue men, who are trained to provide lifesaving first aid to the injured, oftentimes while under fire. That is, if the concept of fake blood does not freak anyone out too much. “First off, it sounds scary as shit!” retired Chief Master Sgt Ivan Ruiz, a former Air Force pararescue man who received the Air Force Cross and served throughout the Global War on Terror, told Task & Purpose. “But if it works and doesn’t cause cancer, it would depend on the size and weight of the package and the mission being supported,” Ruiz added. “If everything was ideal, absolutely I would carry it if it could save a life.”



US Air Force Pararescue men from the 38th Rescue Squadron treat patients during a Mass Casualty Full Mission Profile exercise at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, Jan 19, 2023.

(Airman 1st Class Courtney Sebastianelli/US Air Force)

Blood transfusion has saved soldiers’ lives since at least World War I, but viable supplies of blood can be difficult to find on the battlefield itself. During a firefight in

Afghanistan in 2019, after running through the supply of whole blood units they had brought with them, a pair of Army Ranger medics pulled blood from their fellow soldiers in order to treat injured Rangers. The procedure lasted about 10 minutes, much faster than the average 36 minutes it takes for a medevac to arrive, according to the Marine Corps. It could take even longer for a

medevac to arrive in a possible conflict with China, where experts fear US troops will not enjoy the same air superiority they had during the Global War on Terror. Scientists hope the artificial blood would give troops in that scenario a greater chance at survival. “It’s not designed to replace blood where blood is available, but to make blood therapy or transfusion therapy available where blood is not an option,” Doctor said in a University of Maryland video on Monday.

Donated human blood requires cold storage, but scientists hope to design artificial whole blood so that it can be stored at room temperature. That way, it will be more available for military or civilian medics in the field, where heat or air conditioning is not always an option. As it turns out, artificial red blood cells, platelets and plasma have already been developed. Now it’s just a matter of combining those products “to create a safe and effective freeze-dried blood product,” according to the University of Maryland video. “Medics can carry this in an ambulance ... for months. And then the moment they need it, they reach for the bag and the expectation is that we would be twisting it to shake it up and release some water,” Doctor explained in the video. “It would mix and they would hang it right away and so they would be able to give a transfusion even inside a car before somebody was even extracted.”

US Army Sgt James Wright, a medic assigned to 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division prepares a blood bag during a blood transfusion training at Trzebien, Poland, April 14, 2022.
(Spc Hassani Ribera/US Army National Guard)



That kind of product could also come in handy during a natural disaster, which might knock out the power systems that keep blood banks refrigerated. Navy medics prepared for such an occasion last year during the exercise Bloodnado 2022. Though that exercise involved packing up the blood bank and moving it somewhere with power, a room temperature artificial blood product might make such movement unnecessary. The artificial blood study will be conducted using machine learning software and advanced simulations in order to test the prototype in computer-based scenarios. The goal of the first phase of the study is to examine how the prototype can deliver oxygen, stop bleeding and replace lost volume of blood, which the University of Maryland described as the “key therapeutic functions of whole blood in resuscitation.” The goal of the second phase of the study is to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the prototype “in increasingly complex and realistic trauma models,” the press release said.

The University of Maryland press release pointed out that Doctor co-founded KaloCyte, the company that produces ErythroMer, the artificial blood product that will be tested in the study. Doctor’s interest in the company “has been reviewed in accordance with the university’s conflicts of interest policy to ensure objectivity in the research,” the press release said. “This project will utilize cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence to predict interactions among the blood components in various trauma model systems, which would not have been possible a decade ago,” said Gladwin. Though the blood may be artificial, the benefits of a technology like this would be very real. Let’s just hope they don’t call it “True Blood.”

Operation Underworld

The US Government teamed up with the Mafia to fight Fascists during World War II.

Ellen Gutoskey Mar 24, 2021



"Lucky" Luciano (third from left) during his trial in August 1936.

Apic/Getty Images

In the early 1940s, Joseph “Socks” Lanza—nicknamed for the knockout power of his fists—cut a formidable figure at downtown Manhattan’s Fulton Fish Market, which he oversaw for crime boss Charles “Lucky” Luciano. But Luciano

was several years into a 30-to-50-year prison sentence for running a prostitution ring, and Lanza himself had recently been indicted on charges of conspiracy and extortion. So assistant district attorney Murray Gurfein and Lanza’s lawyer, Joseph Guerin, thought the bulldoggish gangster might be open to a more lawful project for a change. Around midnight on March 26, 1942, the three men huddled on a bench uptown in Riverside Park to discuss a secret plan. The Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) needed a well-connected informant to feed them leads about any pro-Nazi or fascist sabotage along the waterfront—anything that could threaten the Navy’s ships or submarines off the East Coast. Though it was made clear to Lanza that the government wasn’t offering him immunity or any other compensation, he agreed to help. About one week later, Lanza met with ONI Commander Charles Haffenden, who was heading the mission, in Haffenden’s off-the-record office suite at the Hotel Astor to put the plan in motion. “You let me know where you want the contacts made, or what you want, and I’ll carry on,” Lanza told him. With that, Operation Underworld had officially begun.

Just months after entering World War II, the US Navy was already feeling vulnerable. Enemy submarines were picking off vessels along the East Coast with alarming ease, and many believed that German saboteurs had set the massive fire that sank a French ocean liner, the SS *Normandie*, that was being converted into a warship in the Hudson River on February 9, 1942. The ONI suspected that longshoremen must be ferrying supplies to Axis watercraft stationed in the Atlantic, and they were desperate to root them out. Not only did the Mafia pretty much run the docks, but they were also Italian—and therefore more likely to know which Italians might sympathize with Benito Mussolini’s Fascist regime. Lanza’s cooperation initially seemed promising. With the help of trusted truck owners and dock workers, he kept the ONI informed about questionable detritus that fishing vessels brought to shore, from flares and airplane scraps to human body parts. He also set up some ONI operatives with their own trucking gigs. But Lanza’s indictment hung like a black cloud over his credibility; some people withheld full cooperation, wary that he was conspiring with the district attorney’s office rather than supporting the war effort. So Lanza suggested the ONI bring in an even bigger gun. “The word of Charlie [Luciano] may give me the right of way,” he said.



Meyer Lansky at a New York City police station in 1958. New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division //

Gurfein phoned Moses Polakoff, Luciano's lawyer from the case that landed him in prison, and asked to discuss his infamous former client. Polakoff wasn't keen on having anything

else to do with Luciano; they hadn't been in contact since Luciano's appeals had wrapped up in 1939, and it's possible Polakoff was hoping to distance himself from the underworld. (In the 1950s, he actually won a libel suit against the New York World-Telegram Corporation for printing a newspaper article claiming he was connected to other “notorious hoodlums.”) Nevertheless, once Gurfein stressed the importance of the matter, Polakoff relented and went to hear the details in person. But he was still hesitant to speak for Luciano. “I told him that I did not know Luciano well enough to broach this subject to him on my own, but I knew the person whom I had confidence in and whose patriotism, or affection for our country, irrespective of his reputation, was of the highest; and I would like to discuss the matter with this person first before I committed myself,” Polakoff later said. That patriot was Meyer Lansky, fondly known as “the Mob’s Accountant.” Lansky, Polakoff, and Gurfein met for breakfast at Longchamps in Midtown Manhattan, where Gurfein explained the deal and reiterated that Luciano would in no way be compensated for his involvement. Lansky said he thought Luciano would be interested in participating; Polakoff suggested that they transfer him to a closer prison to make it easier to communicate. Government officials agreed. On May 12, 1942, Luciano was moved from Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York, to Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Comstock, New York, about 225 miles north of Manhattan. Nobody seemed to have told Luciano why he was being relocated—when Lansky, Lanza, and Polakoff showed up in early June, Luciano greeted them with a friendly “What the hell are you fellows doing here?” Once they filled him in, Luciano accepted the mission.

A bar near Fulton Fish Market in February 1943. Bert & Richard Morgan/Hulton Archive/Getty Images



Lanza’s hunch soon proved spot-on: Practically the entire New York underworld bowed to the name of Charles Luciano. For roughly two years, the boss sat holed up in prison giving directives to his goon squad. Johnny “Cockeye” Dunn and Jerry Sullivan manned the West Side waterfront, Joe Adonis and Frank Costello monitored the Brooklyn side, and Mike Lascari oversaw the New Jersey piers. Union cards were procured for undercover ONI operatives, who were then hired by hotels, restaurants, bars, piers, truckers, factories, cabarets, and other key businesses. The mobsters even brought Sicilian expats to

Haffenden so he could mine their memories for useful information about Sicily in order to plan an invasion. Lansky helped connect Haffenden with contacts in every sphere, and Polakoff acted as a somewhat reluctant chaperone during prison visits to Luciano. (His request to stop attending the meetings was denied, so he usually passed the time reading a newspaper in the corner of the room.) It didn't take long for Luciano to feel like he had done enough for the war effort to justify a sentence reduction, and he petitioned for one in February 1943. The judge didn't approve it, but he essentially told Luciano to keep up the good work and try again later. On May 8, 1945—V-E Day—Luciano filed another petition. This time, after an investigation, the parole board recommended that New York governor Thomas E. Dewey commute Luciano's sentence on the condition that the gangster immediately be deported back to Italy. Dewey did, and Luciano sailed to his homeland on February 9, 1946.

*The beginning of the Allied invasion of
Sicily in July 1943.*

Hulton Archive/Getty Images



Dewey's decision to set such a notorious criminal free was harshly criticized, largely because it wasn't clear if Luciano's contributions to the war effort even made a difference. It was also suggested that Dewey had accepted a payoff in exchange for releasing him. In 1954, Dewey commissioned state investigator William Herlands to launch an investigation into Operation Underworld. Herlands interviewed dozens of people involved in the program, many of whom claimed that Luciano's help had been useful—especially all the intel provided by Sicilian immigrants, which officers used after they landed on the island in the summer of 1943. “We gained an insight into the customs and [morals] of these people—particularly Sicilians—the political ideology and its mechanics on lower echelons, the manner in which the ports were operated, the chains of command together with their material culture, which enabled us to carry out the findings and purposes of our mission,” one Naval officer testified. In his final report [PDF], Herlands concluded that “there can be no question about the value of this project” and that Luciano's liberty had been well-earned. But that sentiment didn't earn the Mafia any brownie points among the general population. The ONI asked that the report be kept under wraps, lest it “jeopardize operations of a similar nature in the future” or cause “embarrassment to the Navy, public relations-wise.” For more than two decades, Operation Underworld remained a secret. Herlands's report was finally released in the mid-1970s at the request of Rodney Campbell, who was writing a book on the subject. As for whether the ONI has launched any “operations of a similar nature” since then, your guess is as good as ours.

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

Have you checked out the petition for the Domestic Operations bar on the Special Service Mission? Serving members are ineligible to sign but you can get your family to sign up. The petition needs 500 signatures in order to be presented in parliament. It's only been up less than a week and currently sits at 81 signatures. Forward it to your non-military friends.
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/house-of-commons-e-petition>

Canada Day Salute 2022

Check out the photos from the sunny Canada day salute in 2022.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/canada-day-2022.html>

OP PALACI

Members of the unit are participating on OP PALACI – Avalanche control in the Roger's Pass

Check out the photos. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/op-palaci-2023.html>

Royal Canadian Artillery Association Membership Cards

Have you paid your 2023 dues? Find your deceased Gunner to remember from the RCAA [Lest We Forget](#) page and send the name to president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

Our zoom channel will be open on Wednesday from noon at <https://zoom.us/j/6802412956> and the secret passcode is pFPey6. **Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!**

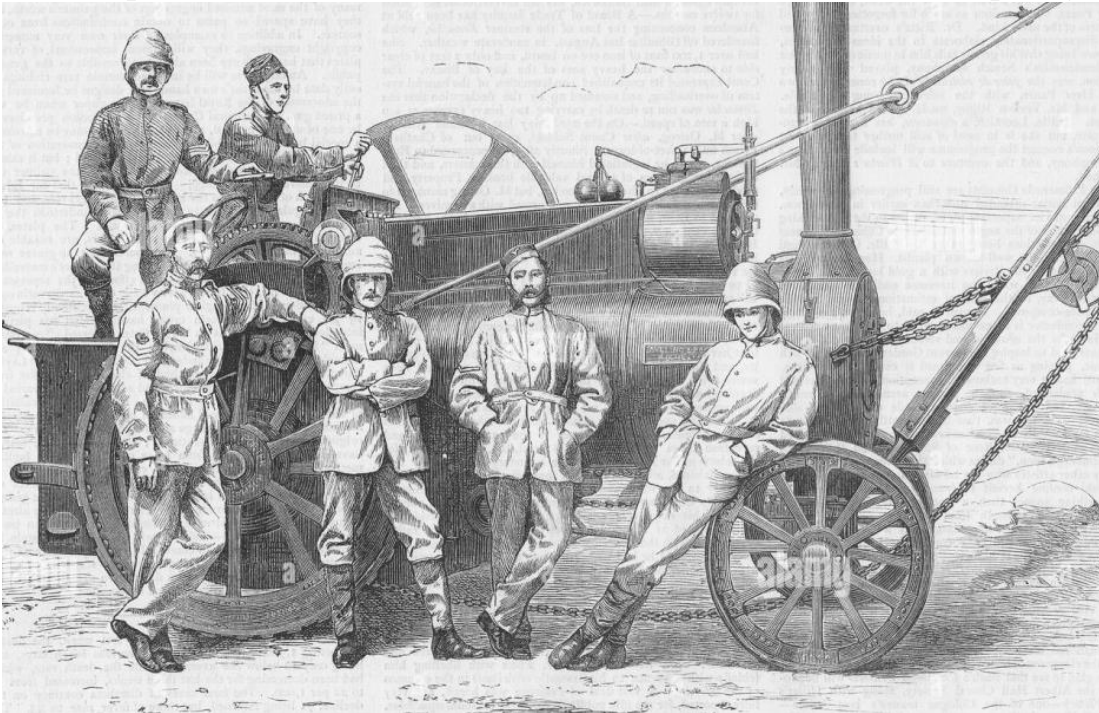
Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: Ro'em L-33 / M-50. The Soltam L-33 "Ro'em" (which is Hebrew for thunder maker) met the Israeli need for an indigenous Self-Propelled Artillery system. The L-33 155 mm Self-Propelled Gun/Howitzer was developed by Soltam and consists of a rebuilt Sherman M4A3E8 chassis fitted with a Cummins diesel engine, all welded fully enclosed fixed armoured superstructure and a Soltam 155 mm M-68 gun/howitzer. The result was a serviceable 10-ton vehicle mounting a powerful 155mm howitzer. The L-33 has a crew of eight men and a loaded weight of 41500 kg. It featured a Soltam Systems-developed 155mm M68 field gun with the weapon modified to fit in to the L-33 vehicle scheme. The mounting hardware allowed for traversal of 30 degrees left and right from centerline as well as +52 to -4 degrees elevation. It lacked a turret, so the entire vehicle was turned to face target areas outside the traverse reach of the weapon proper. The gun had a range of 12.4 miles unassisted and projectiles and charges were handled separately with 60 x 155mm projectiles carried aboard (16 "ready-to-fire"). The gun had the ability to fire standard NATO munitions including High-Explosive (HE), Flechette, illumination, and smoke.



The barrel was clamped against the vehicle by way of a brace found along the glacis plate when in travel mode. Rectangular doors along the sides of the boxy superstructure gave the gunnery crew entry and exit into the main fighting cabin. The driver was positioned at front-left of the hull. Roof hatches provided further access to the outside as well as management of the included 7.62mm air defense / anti-infantry machine gun fitted at front-right. 1,000 x 7.62mm rounds of ammunition were typically carried for the roof machine gun. The vehicle power pack was a Cummins VTA-903 V8 diesel-fueled engine of 460 horsepower at 2,600rpm. This provided the L-33 with a road speed of 36kmh and range of 260km. Dimensions included length of 6.5 meters, width of 3.27 meters and height of 2.46 meters. It entered service in 1973 and first saw action in the same year during the Yom Kippur War and additional service in the 1982 Lebanon War. It is estimated that some 200 vehicles were produced in all though they are no longer in active service with the Israeli military.

This Week: Logistics plays an essential role in warfare, but doesn't receive the publicity that armoured fighting vehicles and artillery do. Quite simply said, a truck just doesn't seem to have the panache that a tank has. That said, the tank would simply be a lump of steel were it not for what the trucks can provide, such as fuel, ammunition, and, most importantly, tea. Many of you will fondly remember the famed Deuce-and-a-half of the Cold War, and the older readers will remember when most service stations in the Dominion had an ex-service CMP vehicle being used as an improvised wrecker. Those lorries had character, as well as quality.



That can also be said of this week's image of a military...er...thing. It probably predates even the oldest of our readers, save possibly the editor. The gentlemen around it appear a bit too relaxed for the tastes of former RSMs, with two chaps displaying what in pre-woke days were called

“Yankee gloves”! Well, if you could shift your ire to the machine, you might be able to identify it as a pioneer in the realm of military motor transport. However, that might be a long shot as it was used long, long ago, in a war that is all but forgotten, in a land that has used a different name for several generations.

So, dear aged readers, what is this large thing, and in what war did it serve? As a bonus, can you name any Canadians who were in that conflict (one or two were there, far from home). Send your ideas to the editor, Bob “Steam Punk” Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John “The Tractor” Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Chug along!

From the ‘Punitary’

What do you call a silly pickle? A daffy dill.

Murphy’s Other Laws

It's only too many weapons if they're pointing in the wrong direction.

Quotable Quotes

I never lose. I either win or learn. *Nelson Mandela*

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.

<https://zoom.us/j/6802412956> and the secret passcode is pFPey6



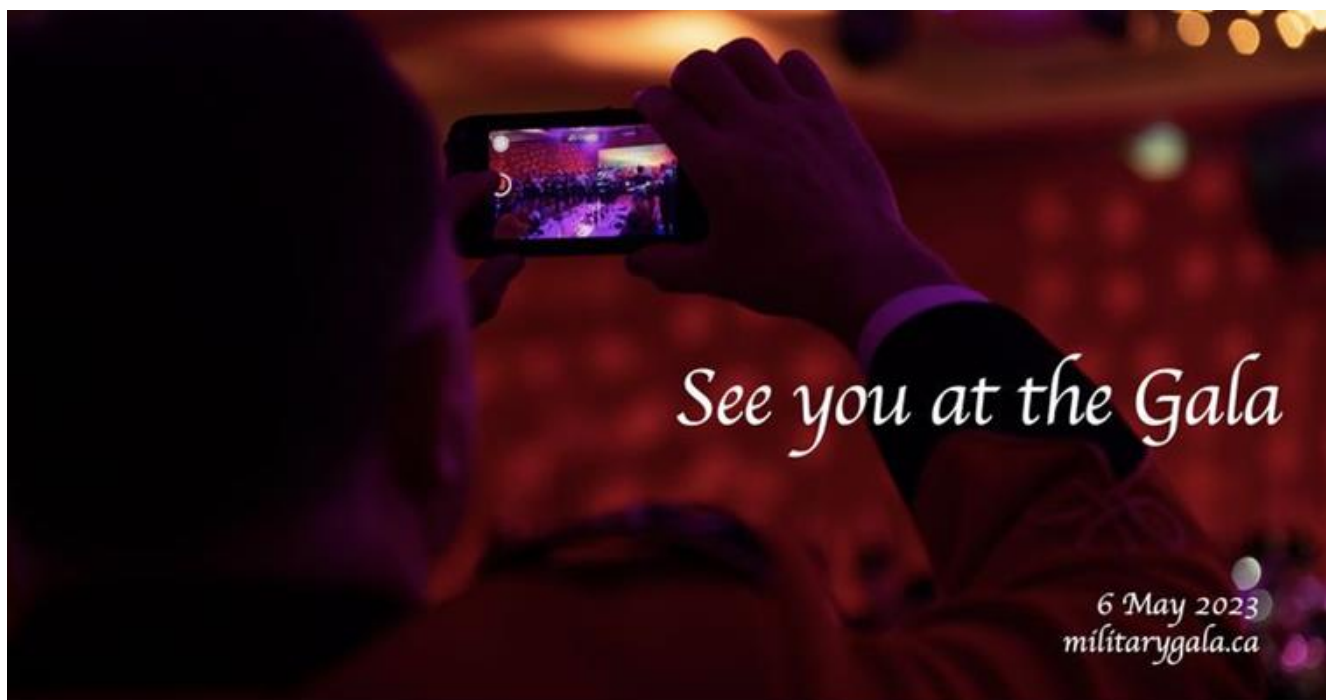
Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars across mobile, desktop, and room systems. Zoom Rooms is the original software-based conference room solution used around the world in board, conference, 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.

BC Military Gala 2023

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023, 1800 for 1900hrs - Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel



LCL Battle of Moreuil Wood Luncheon 30 March 2023



Situation

It is time again for the Left Coast Lancers **BIG** Spring luncheon. This will be the usual format with sit down dining and exhilarating conversation. The menu is confirmed, inflation is a fact as we increase the price to \$38.00 per person from our previous fee of \$35.00. We will continue with Covid Protocols as part of our ongoing vigilance.

I will not venture into the mine field of current affairs, suffice to say the world is fraught with problems (ever has it been so) but on this occasion we will gather, exchange platitudes and do what the LCL does best, have a luncheon with no speeches.

Please see the attached formal invitation.

Execution

Convene at the Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club, Sidney BC at 1130hrs, we will meet the ferry at Swartz Bay to collect the Main Land contingent. The Moreuil Wood Luncheon is an All Ranks function and spouses are more than welcome.

Timings

1130–1400hrs 30 Mar 2023
Meet Ferry on arrival TBC

Dress

Dress of the Day, Crew Suit or Black Coveralls are quite acceptable; however, we encourage jacket and tie, the tie design left to individual preference.

Signals

Ack.

David Scandrett
LCL Operations Officer and Maitre de
Tangol4@outlook.com
778–245–2800



Left Coast Lancers Luncheon

30 March 2023
1130-1430hrs

At

Sidney North Sannich Yacht Club
Swartz Bay, British Columbia, Canada

You and your guests are most cordially invited to attend the 105th commemoration of the Battle of Moreuil Wood and a gathering of Royal Canadian Armoured Corps personnel, serving and retired, attached and those who are friends of all things Armoured.

The Battle of Moreuil Wood

Dress

Regimental Blazer and tie
Recommended

Tariff

\$38.00 pay at the Bar

RSVP

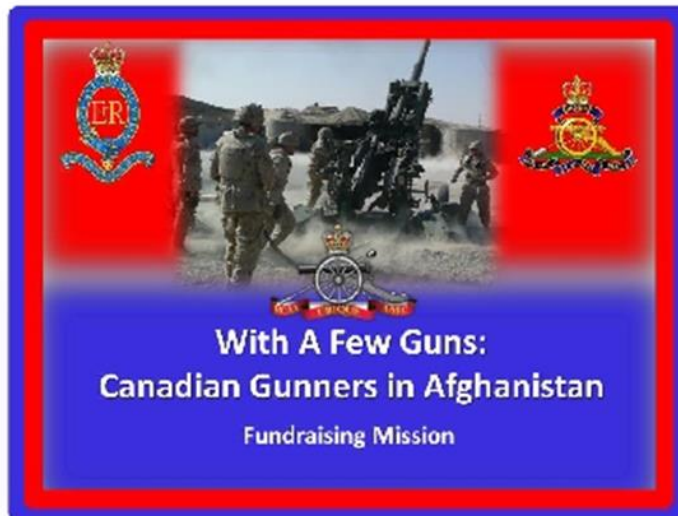
DAVID SCANDRETT

30 March 1918

On that auspicious Saturday, the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Lord Strathcona's Horse (royal Canadians) and the Fort Garry Horse supported by the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery conducted the last great cavalry charge of World War One.

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](#)

