

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News - 28 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 29	Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting.
Dec 02	15 Fd Offrs Mess St Barbaras's Day Dinner
Dec 04	Coast to Coast Toast (on Zoom)
Nov 29	Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting.
Dec 10	Commanding Officer's Christmas Tea

Nov 22 Lunch



Another successful lunch to close the year. Looking forward to more in 2024.

Canadian Army Training in Kitsilano

Warning - gunfire might be heard. *The Canadian Press Nov 23, 2023*



*Molson Coors brewery site in Vancouver.
(CityNews Image)*

The Vancouver based infantry unit of the Canadian Army is asking residents to not be alarmed if they hear automatic gunfire this weekend around the site of the former Molson-Coors brewery in Kitsilano. The Seaforth Highlanders says it will be

conducting urban operations training on Saturday and Sunday at the old brewery site and at the unit's nearby armoury. Major Brennan MacLachlan with the Seaforth Highlanders says developer Concord Pacific gave the regiment permission to use the brewery as of last year, and the property creates a more comprehensive training environment. "Everything should be inside," he said. "The buildings are pretty soundproof ... so there shouldn't be too much coming out. But otherwise, you may hear some automatic sounds coming out, but otherwise, there really shouldn't be too much."

The former brewery is right next to Vancouver's Burrard Bridge and along False Creek, where thousands of residents live in condominiums and townhomes. "Having an environment that has lots of different, unexpected things that you might not be used to ... it's just more stuff for the soldiers to juggle and adapt to as they go through, which is really good training," MacLachlan said.

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



Russian troops launch a Lancet.

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 anti-tank—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.

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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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.

Military Training Efforts for Ukraine Hit Major Milestones

even as attention shifts to Gaza. John Leicester, The Associated Press 12 Nov 2023



Ukrainian infantrymen train with French soldiers to learn combat skills, in France, Tuesday, Nov 7, 2023. With the full-scale war grinding into a second winter, and casualties already counted in the hundreds of thousands continuing to mount on both sides, the training has become crucially important for Ukraine's chances of victory.

(AP Photo/Laurent Cipriani)

Battle cries pierce the smoke and rat-a-tat-tat of gunfire as Ukrainian soldiers fight through and take enemy trenches and

dugouts that hide gruesome, bloody remains. “Grenade!” one screams in Ukrainian. Another yells: “Let’s go, let’s go, let’s go, let’s go!” This time, no lives or limbs were lost. Because this time, the rounds fired were blanks and the “enemy” troops were, in fact, French soldiers whose intention was not to kill the Ukrainians but instead to help shape them into better, more lethal warriors. But soon, the war games these troops played in the mud in France will become all too real, when the Ukrainians return home and are sent to the front lines against Russia’s forces. As the Russian invasion grinds into a second winter and casualties — already estimated in the hundreds of thousands — continue to mount on both sides, combat training programs provided by Ukraine’s allies are helping it hold out and its odds of eventual victory. By continuing to prepare Ukrainian troops for battle even as the Israel-Hamas war diverts global attention, Ukraine’s backers also are making concrete their promises to stick with it for the long haul.

France is on course to have trained 7,000 Ukrainians this year — some in Poland, others at French bases — as part of a European Union military assistance mission for Ukraine that launched a year ago this week. The French army granted The Associated Press access to a training base in rural France last week to observe the latest class of Ukrainian infantrymen being put through its paces at the tail end of a four-week course. The EU mission’s initial goal was to train 15,000 soldiers, but it has far exceeded that target and now expects to hit 35,000 by the end of this year. All but three of the EU’s 27 member countries, plus non-member Norway, have provided training courses or instructors, the EU Commission says. The United States has trained about 18,000, mostly in Germany, with an additional 1,000 in the pipeline, the Pentagon says. In Britain, 30,000 have learned soldiering in the past 17 months, a training program the UK government says is unprecedented since World War II. As well as basic training with weapons, battlefield first aid and other skills, instructors are also imparting specialized military know-how, ranging from clearing mines and launching waterborne attacks aboard small boats to equipment repair, officer training and even help for Ukrainian military chaplains.

With their return to Ukraine just days away, the grimness of the future that awaits the trainees at the French base was perceptible in the men’s determined, unsmiling looks. Civilians not long ago, they now carried themselves like soldiers. They addressed each other with nicknames. There was liberal swearing as the men caught their breaths after storming trenches with fake grenades and blank rounds. French instructors left animal remains in the complex of dugouts and ditches to harden the troops to battlefield bloodshed. Only the officers had previous front-line experience, the chief French training officer said. He said Ukraine is looking to France for tactics and know-how that could help its forces bust through Russian defenses. Because of French military concerns for the base’s security, the officer, Lt Col Even, could only be identified by his rank and first name. “One can clearly see in Ukraine that the front line is relatively frozen, with two belligerents who employ very similar doctrines,” he said. “So today, one of the keys being sought in an attempt to break this inertia is to try to develop maneuvering schemes that can bother and even shake up the adversary.”

As well as seeing their assault on freshly dug trenches, the AP also observed Ukrainians vigorously defending a mock-up village against a French “enemy” attack and concealing themselves in rain-drenched woodlands. Translators bridged the language gap between the

soldiers and their French hosts. French trainers said they've learned through experience that it's unwise to get too friendly with the trainees — because some of them are sure to be killed back home. Despite sharing the bonding discomforts of long days and nights in the French wilds, they sever ties when the training is done, with soldiers under orders not to swap phone numbers or other contacts. “You have to burn bridges because otherwise you ask yourselves too many questions. When you find out that this or that person is dead, you're bound to ask yourself what you did wrong: ‘Did we work enough on this or that tactic? Should I have insisted more on this point?’” said one of the instructors, Capt Xavier. “We're doing our utmost,” he said. “Asking yourself afterward what you did wrong or could have done better is torturing yourself for nothing.”

Second Depth Gauge Saved UK Vanguard Nuclear Sub

diving dangerously low, defense minister says. *James Heappey, UK armed forces minister, offered the latest comments about the incident that reportedly happened more than a year ago but has been shrouded in secrecy.* Tim Martin Nov 22, 2023



The Royal Navy's HMS Vanguard nuclear capable submarine leaves HMNB Devonport, England, after a more than seven year refit. (UK MoD)

BELFAST — A senior UK defense minister told lawmakers today that a Royal Navy Vanguard-class submarine carrying

Trident nuclear missiles was saved from sinking to a dangerously low depth after its crew used a back up depth gauge to keep the vessel diving within safe limits. James Heappey, UK armed forces minister, said during a defense committee hearing today that the second depth gauge “was able to avert what was reported to be imminent.” His comments confirm a report from the BBC that the second depth gauge was critical to preventing a potentially catastrophic incident that purportedly took place more than a year ago. Officials have revealed little about the incident in which the main depth gauge on the sub reportedly failed while the boat was preparing to go out on patrol and diving, potentially endangering the crew. The BBC also reported that the Royal Navy launched an investigation into the incident. Heappey went on to reassure lawmakers that the safety of the Vanguard vessel is in hand, appearing to double down on British maritime readiness with a thinly veiled warning to Britain's potential adversaries. “The commander of the Russian Northern Fleet should have absolute confidence that the armed patrol bomber is ready,” he added.

The UK operates four Vanguard class submarines, but the name of the individual vessel to have been put at risk has not been shared publicly. As a rule, Britain's Ministry of Defence does not comment on nuclear submarine operations. Each Vanguard submarine carries 48 Lockheed Martin-made Trident 2 D5 nuclear warheads, capable of striking targets out to a range of 4,000

miles away and are fitted with CK51 search and CH91 attack periscopes, according to the Royal Navy. For the Tridents, expanding gas pressure is used to launch the missiles from a launch tube, with the munition entering a boost phase when making contact with service water, the point at which it then expands first, second and third stage rocket motors, states the US Navy. In 2016, UK lawmakers voted in favor of keeping the UK's nuclear deterrent out to the 2030s, since leading to procurement approval of four Dreadnought-class ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) to replace the Vanguard class. BAE Systems is the lead contractor and shipbuilder for the next generation Dreadnought subs, which it says will each measure 153 meters long and have a displacement of 17,200 tonnes (19,000 tons). The new vessels will also be armed with Trident missiles. The UK currently participates in the US-led Trident life extension program so the weapon can be updated and in service until the 2040s or beyond. James Cartlidge, UK minister for defence procurement, disclosed to parliament in June that the UK spent £321 million (\$400 million) to enter the project. That figure rises to over £820 million (\$1 billion) when other supporting nuclear submarine modernisation efforts are accounted for, including missile programs addressing component sustainment and rocket motor life cycle extensions.

US Army Says Supplying Ukraine, Israel with Artillery Will Cost \$3B

Army acquisition chief said the US produces about 28,000 rounds per month. New funding would help make that 100,000. *Patty Nieberg Nov 8, 2023*



Congress is considering a \$3 billion supplemental that would increase 155mm artillery round production.

Photo by Spc Micah Clare.

The US has sent more than two million 155 mm artillery rounds to Ukraine, and will be sending more to Israel, the Army acquisition chief said Tuesday. Army acquisition chief Doug Bush called for Congress to pass a \$3 billion supplemental bill to ensure that the Army can meet its artillery production needs and the US can continue to “serve as the arsenal of democracy.” More than two million 155 mm artillery rounds from US and allied stockpiles have been sent to Ukraine. The US has also sent rounds to Israel from its own stockpiles but Bush declined to say how much. A plan to route artillery stockpiles from Israel to Ukraine was canceled, Bush said, after war broke out between Israel and Hamas. “While it is in either the Israel or Ukraine support category, most of it is spent here in the US because we’re making weapons with American workers at American facilities,” Bush said at a roundtable with reporters Tuesday.

The \$3.1 billion supplemental is under consideration by Congress which is currently running under a continuing resolution while they hash out disagreements over a fiscal year 2024 budget. The supplemental would fund 155-mm artillery production, Bush said. Bush previously said the Army's goal is to produce 100,000 rounds per month by fiscal 2025. Current US production is 28,000 rounds a month up from 14,000 per month when the Ukraine war first started, Bush said. Funding would also supply upgrades to M6 propellant to shoot artillery and 155 metal parts for the body of artillery shells. The US is also seeking to increase production of IMX-104 explosives and to double tank ammunition production capacity from 10,000 to 20,000 per year. It also includes \$600 million to bring back TNT production to the US instead of relying on allies like Poland. Funding would also go to construction and recommission of black powder. Funding also applies to buying the artillery itself like 600,000 artillery projectiles, 10 million charges to shoot the shells with and foreign military financing given to allies to buy US equipment. "That funding as well would come back largely to the United States," Bush said. "That overall number is split between Ukraine and allies supporting them, Israel and INDOPACOM allies."

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

Perkopolis Affinity Program

Did you receive your announcement email from the RCA Association (RCAA) regarding Perkopolis? All paid up members of the Vancouver Artillery Association are also members of the RCAA, and you can benefit from thousands of discounts by signing up with the Perkopolis group using your RCAA membership number.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/affinity-partner-perkopolis>

Saint Barbara's Special Guest Night

Looking forward to seeing everyone on 2 December 2023!

Christmas Tea

Mark your calendar for 10 December at 1400 hrs!

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

Gunner Passing Second Lieutenant David Russell Harvey

A former member of the 43rd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, RCA has recently passed away. His obituary has been placed in the 2023 yearbook. Lest We Forget.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2023.html>

Wednesday Lunch

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

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71810323784?pwd=ehLJDhj9zIqI0HvnBIMCYmw0p6ZDwe.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: This is a **Russian Ekranoplan** a ground effect vehicle. A considerable number of



variant prototypes were produced. The **Lun-class ekranoplan** (shown in photo, also called Project 903) is the only ground effect vehicle (GEV) to ever be operationally deployed as a warship. It was designed by Rostislav Alexeyev in 1975 and used by the Soviet and later Russian navies from 1987 until sometime in the late 1990s. It

flew using lift generated by the ground effect acting on its large wings when within about four metres (13 ft) above the surface of the water. Although they might look similar to traditional aircraft, ekranoplans like the *Lun* are not classified as aircraft, seaplanes, hovercraft, or hydrofoils. Rather, craft like the *Lun*-class ekranoplan are classified as maritime ships by the International Maritime Organization due to their use of the ground effect, in which the craft glides just above the surface of the water. The ground effect occurs when flying at an altitude of only a few metres above the ocean or ground; drag is greatly reduced by the proximity of the ground preventing the formation of wingtip vortices, thus increasing the efficiency of the wing. This effect does not occur at high altitude. The name *Lun* comes from the Russian word for the harrier.

The *Lun*-class ekranoplan was developed on the basis of the experimental KM ekranoplan, which was nicknamed the "Caspian Sea Monster". The *Lun* was powered with eight Kuznetsov NK-87 turbofans, mounted on forward canards, each producing 127.4 kN (28,600 lbf) of thrust. It had a flying boat hull with a large deflecting plate at the bottom to provide a "step" for takeoff. It had a maximum cruising speed of 550 kilometres per hour (340 mph). Equipped for anti-surface warfare, it carried the P-270 *Moskit* (Mosquito) guided missile. Six missile launchers were mounted in pairs on the dorsal surface of its fuselage with advanced tracking systems mounted in its nose and tail. The only model of this class ever built to completion, the **MD-160**, entered service with the Soviet Navy Caspian Flotilla in 1987. It was retired in the late 1990s

Class overview	
Name	<i>Lun</i>
Operators	 Soviet Navy  Russian Navy
In service	1987–late 1990s
General characteristics	
Type	Attack/transport ground effect vehicle
Displacement	Displacement n/a, weight 286 tonnes unloaded
Length	73.8 m (242 ft 2 in)
Beam	(Wingspan) 44 m (144 ft 4 in)
Height Draught	19.2 m (63 ft 0 in) (2.5 m (8 ft 2 in))
Propulsion	8 × Kuznetsov NK-87 turbojet engines , 127.4 kN (28,600 lbf) thrust
Speed	297 knots (550 km/h; 342 mph)
Range	1,000 nmi (1,900 km; 1,200 mi)
Capacity	100 tonnes (220,000 pounds)
Complement	six officers and nine enlisted men
Sensors processing systems and	Puluchas search radar
Armament	6 × fixed-elevation P-270 Moskit anti-ship missile launchers 2 × twin 23 mm PI-23 turrets

This Week: Some of our dedicated readers are of the artillerist persuasion; a group sometimes considered the intellectual elite of any armed force. Their roots go back quite far, first appearing in the Mother Country (the Grand Duchy of Leutonia) around the 13th century, so well within the memory of many of our readers. But you ask, what good is an artillerist without his or her cannon? The answers will vary, and most are not printable in this erudite newsletter. In general, however, the two are in a symbiotic relationship. And that brings us to our Dominion, and the history of ordnance pieces used by our gunners. Some, the more earnest and dedicated amongst you, will have at hand the excellent tome, “Guns of the Regiment”, by Doug Knight. In it, you will note the great number of types of guns used by this nation.

Many reading here will remember the fabled 25 pounder, which was followed in service by first the C1, then the longer C3 105mm howitzers, both of American origin. The Regular Force, however, has used the larger 155mm calibre for many decades, but the current war in Ukraine has shown that even the most modern of those guns are sometimes wanting in destructive power. Enter our enterprising Canucks! This week’s photo shows what could become our next weapon of choice, larger and more powerful than anything Ivan Ivanovich can field. In fact, it has been rumoured that Putin is seeking to find the source of this inventive device so that he can field it



with his own demoralized rabble. However, so far he has been unsuccessful.

Nonetheless, we, too, have been unsuccessful in tracking down the origins of this behemoth. Can you help us (and not the

opposition)? If so, send your encrypted answers to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the equally trustworthy author, Ivan Redmondovich (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Danka.

From the ‘Punitary’

What do you call a chicken crossing the road? Poultry in motion.

Murphy’s Other Laws

Never stand when you can sit, never sit when you can lie down, never stay awake when you can sleep.

Quotable Quotes

Proper listening is the foundation of proper living. – *Plutarch*

Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

The Zoom logo is displayed in white lowercase letters on a solid blue rectangular background.

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=ehLJDhj9zlgI0HvnBlMCYmw0p6ZDwe.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.

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

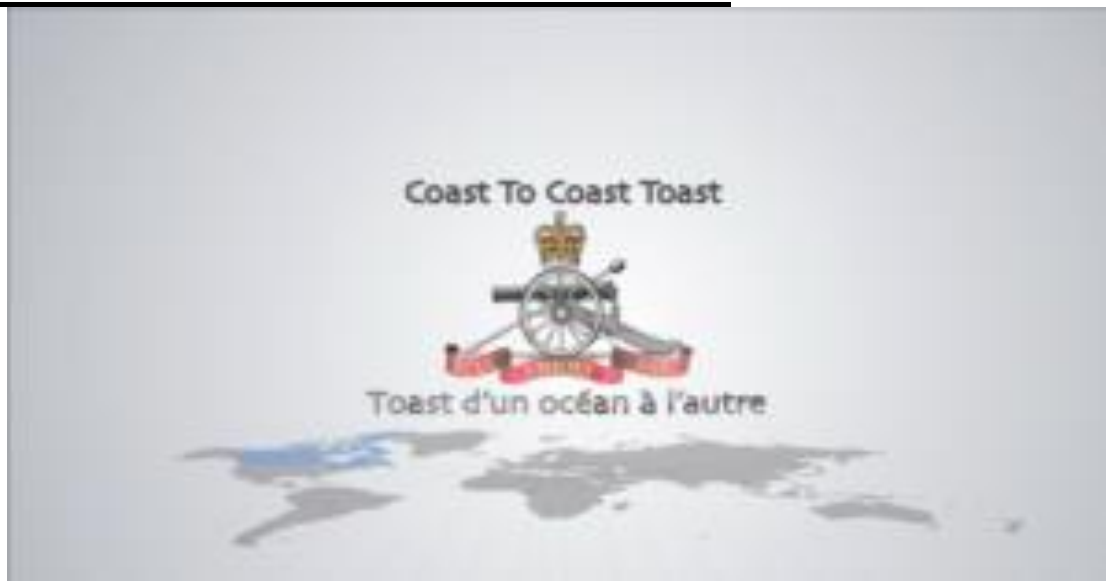
Dress. Mess Kit or Formal attire, with decorations.
*Retired members are authorized to wear Mess Kit.

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.

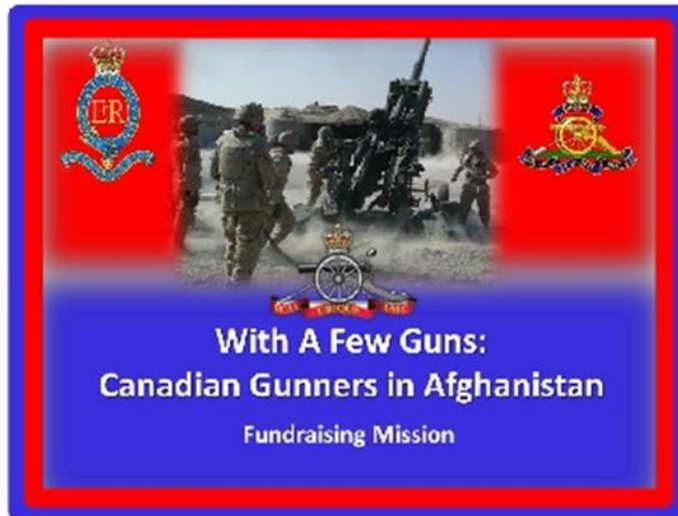
Ubique!

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/>

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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](#)

