

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News 31 Jan 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

- Feb 01** Wed 'Zoom' meeting.
- Feb 08** Wed 'Zoom' meeting.
NABC Speaker at RVYC - VAdm Topshee 'Update on the RCN' See poster section
- Feb 09** Col (Ret'd) Nishika Jardine, Veteran Ombud. Town Hall Meeting- see poster section
- Feb 15** Wed 'Zoom' meeting.
- Feb 18** BCR Regimental Whiskey Tasting- see poster section.

Paratrooper's Reunion – Edmonton the Airborne Story

The Airborne Social Club (Edmonton) will host a Paratroopers Reunion in Edmonton on June 2nd - 4th, 2023. This reunion's theme has been established as **"Paratrooper's Reunion – Edmonton the Airborne Story"**. The reunion will highlight parachuting units and activities as they existed in the Edmonton area over the years. *See poster section.*

PK75 - A Peacekeeping Anthology

On behalf of the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA), I would ask that you take a few minutes to read this message and the attached note (*see poster section*) about our project, which we have entitled *PK 75: A Peacekeeping Anthology*.

We hope you will consider participating in this worthy endeavour by writing your own, personal story to be included in the Anthology. If you think you might be interested, the attachment to this message explains the project, and contains the specific details you will need to develop your own

contribution. Our website (CPVA.ca) also provides several examples from other Peacekeeping Veterans. If you still have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Finally, if you are in contact with others who might be interested in contributing their stories, please feel free to send me their contact information, or you can forward this message directly to them, along with the attachment. We welcome all contributors, but are especially interested in recruiting more civilians, police, and military NCMs, as we want to represent a broad, representative spectrum of Peacekeeping Veterans from across Canada.

Thank you again, and best regards,

BGen (Ret'd) Gregory B Mitchell, CD BA MPA MPS rmc plsc pcsc ndc
Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association, Special Advisor, Peacekeeping
+1-705-930-9230 CPVA.Anthology@gmail.com

RCA Reunion - Shilo 29-02 July 2023

From Tom Tomaso

You will find attached (*see poster section*), the 2023 JIs for The RCA Reunion in Shilo. I'm asking for your assistance in getting the word out. Please spread these as far and wide as possible. Post them on Facebook, email them out.....whatever you like. We are not mailing them out to people anymore due to cost (and it was impossible to keep an up-to-date mailing list). It's going to be a blast. Hope to see you there!

The Military Should Focus on Protecting Canada

Canada should reorganize its Armed Forces to focus more on its first two missions: first to defend Canada and second to defend North America. *A commentary by a retired naval commander who lives in Victoria.* Roger Cyr, OMM CD Times Colonist 21 Jan 2023



Roger Cyr writes that the Canadian Armed Forces should be reorganized to focus more on defending firstly Canada and secondly North America. Jeff McIntosh, The Canadian Press

The Canadian Forces should focus on protecting Canada. The mission of the Forces is to provide combat-effective, multi-purpose forces at home and abroad to protect Canada and Canadians, the first element is to defend Canada, the second is to defend North America, and the third is

contribute to international peace and security. Defending Canada includes assisting civil authorities in responding to a wide range of threats, from natural disasters to terrorist attacks.

Canada is not a major military-oriented country, it supports a rather modest level of military forces that are somewhat diffidently equipped. This has always been the norm in the past, except when world situations required nations to boost their military involvement for the common good. Canada's military then came to the forefront in situations such as the Second World War, the Cold War, and various United Nations and NATO peacekeeping initiatives. The country then went on a military build-up that was truly astonishing, given the rather diminutive size of its regular military and defence industries.

Looking at the Second World War, at the start in 1939, the Royal Canadian Navy consisted of 13 combat ships. But when the war ended six years later, it had more than 450 ships. Of course, the ships of those days do not reflect the superior technology of today's ships. But then again, the shipyards that built them did not have the industrial capabilities of today's yards. After the war, the Canadian military and defence industries shrunk to their peacetime levels. Over the past numerous decades, Canada has relied on a relatively small military force during normal times, but when situations required a buildup, this was undertaken readily. However, the country does not appear to be facing a world crisis at this time and would not appear to need to go to a catastrophic acquisition of combat-capable systems. The North Warning System upgrade is a normal defence and surveillance action that needs to take place to ensure the protection of Canada and the United States. The NWS is a joint American and Canadian early-warning radar system for the atmospheric air defence of North America. It provides surveillance of airspace from potential incursions or attacks from across North America's polar region. It replaced the Distant Early Warning Line system in the late 1980s.

The NWS consists of both long-range and short-range surveillance radars, operated and maintained by NORAD. There are 13 long-range sites and 36 short-range sites. In Canada, the station sites are owned or leased by the government of Canada, which also owns most of the infrastructure. Canada should curtail acquiring major weapon systems at this time since there are no global requirements. This would happen, as it did in the past, when a need materializes. It should now reorganize its Armed Forces to focus more on the first two missions, first to defend Canada and second to defend North America. The first mission should include responsibility for aid to the civil authorities, such as search and rescue, and the physical protection of the homeland from a law-and-order perspective. The structure and resource allocation of the Forces should emphasize the first and most vital mission, which is to defend and protect Canada. In past years, when disaster struck Canadian regions, some military personnel were seen helping as best they could to provide assistance to local authorities. For floods, we saw some members filling sandbags with a shovel, or we may have seen some rescuing people with inflatable boats. These military rescues should be seen as a true military operation. The rescue missions should reflect military might and should be shown as resourceful, effective and precise. After all, this is really Canada's last effort against disasters and unrest and should be attacked by the military in that context. The Forces must accordingly structure and resource itself to cover its critical home front role.

As for the defence of the continent, this should be handled in co-operation with the United States and the NWS. The US has the resources and capabilities, Canada does not. A treaty should be

concluded with the US to that effect. It is ludicrous to think that Canada could provide for the defence of its territory from a major power such as Russia and China. Especially now that the Arctic is becoming a sought-after territory by these two world superpowers. The US is also interested in the Arctic, but it would certainly not be confrontational to Canada. The third mission, contribute to international peace and security, will continue as in the past with participation in NATO and United Nations taskings. If the world situation dictates a major buildup of weapon systems, then it will occur as it has always done in the past.

A Tank Is Not a Howitzer

Sergio Miller Wavell Room January 18, 2023



What has happened to the Russian tank fleets? Ukrainian commander of combined tactical group ‘Adam’ Yevhen Mezhevikin, a twice decorated Hero of Ukraine and

People’s Hero of Ukraine, has had a busy war. In February 2022 he fought against the Russian armoured columns that descended on Kyiv. His unit then re-deployed to Zaporizhzhia and was involved in the forlorn hope attempt to open a corridor to Mariupol. In April he served on the Kharkiv front. Group ‘Adam’ subsequently fought in the Severodonetsk pocket and today the unit is committed to the contest for Bakhmut.

Mezhevikin offers many interesting observations on a Russian Army he has come to know well. On the use of armour and combined arms tactics he says: “The most extreme massive use of armour was near the Lysychansky Oil Refinery. There they went in battalions for an assault. Tanks, BMP. A lot burned. And here [Bakhmut]... In the last month, we noticed one MTLB that brought ammunition. It was destroyed”. No more equipment was seen. Basically, they use funny cars [assorted customised vehicles]...’ According to Russian defence journal *Voennoye Obozreniye* (‘Military Review’) the Russian Army fielded around 2,600 operational tanks on the eve of the invasion. At the time of writing (December 2022), the Oryx database records 1,579 Russian tank combat losses. 921 have been destroyed. 124 have been damaged or abandoned. And as many as 534 tanks have been captured as ‘trophy tanks’, including fourteen T-90 series vehicles now in service with the Ukrainian Army. Combat losses account for the overwhelming majority of tank losses. But there is a hidden, non-combat reason why Russian tanks have become scarcer: they are not being used as tanks. Instead, tanks are being used as howitzers to lob shells at Ukrainian positions. This article explains why this is a problem. All

Russian tanks can fire high-explosive fragmentation shells, known as OFS shells. There is a variety of these shells but a common shell used on T-72 series tanks is the 3VOF36 round matched with the 3OF26 (HE/FRAG-FS) projectile.

Russian tank HE-Frag and APDS shells

Source: TV Zevda.ru



These shells are used against fortifications and defensive positions. Due to the cylindrical shape and design, ‘the largest number of fragments scatters perpendicular (or so) to its axis, therefore, when a projectile hits a surface (the ground, and so on), a significant part of the lethal elements goes either into the ground or up.’ Dependent on angle of incidence, lateral scatter may be as wide as 60 metres. Scatter on the strike angle may be as much as 20 metres. OFS shells are not considered efficient. According to Russian military journalist Edward Perov, “The author does not have detailed information about the shells consumed by our troops, but even offhand, the consumption of high-explosive ammunition in tank units exceeds the rest of the ammunition ten times, if not more.”



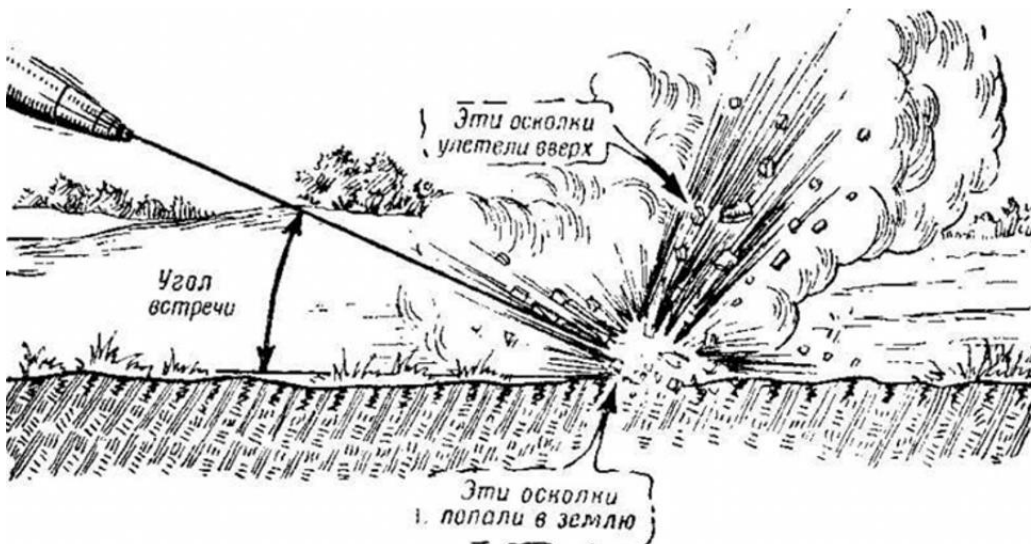
A Russian Army 2S19 on parade.

By Vitaly V. Kuzmin –

The use of HE-Frag shells by Russian Tank Troops is not new. Their use was widespread in Afghanistan and the Chechen Wars. However, employment and effectiveness are not synonymous. In May 2018, the

Russian Army conducted trials at Prudboy training area in Volgograd (the westernmost point held by the trapped German 6th Army in the Battle of Stalingrad). The results of these trials were examined in the August 2020 edition of the Russian MOD’s house journal *Voennaya Mysl’* (‘Military Thought’). The author of the article ‘Shooting from tanks from closed firing positions, pros and cons’ was AP Edemsky, Candidate of Technical Sciences. In his introduction Edemsky noted that in WW2 “tanks were involved in the artillery preparation of the offensive as a reinforcement of field artillery to increase the fire effect on the enemy before the attack.” Post-war, instructions for the use of tanks in indirect fire mode appeared in a 1958 manual and later in

the 1970 *Manual on the control of ground artillery fire* and 1974 *Rules for firing from tanks*. Subsequently, the practice was abandoned as ineffective. However, the practice did not go away (Afghanistan/Chechnya) and ‘a sharp decrease in the fire potential of artillery...a natural result of a decrease in the quantitative composition of artillery’ – fewer guns at least by Russian standards – has encouraged recent resurgence.



Schematic of a Russian tank HE-Frag shell strike. The majority of the scatter is to the left and right of the shell. Fragmentation is also lost into the ground or up.

Source: Voennoye Obozreniye

The trial at Prudboy attempted to answer the question of effectiveness by testing the best against the best: a battery of 2S19 self-propelled guns against a company of T-90A tanks. The crews conducted four fire missions, two from static prepared positions and two in dynamic scenarios. As expected, tank distributions were significant. In the first trial against targets at medium ranges (not stated but assumed to be at least 5,000 metres) the tank shells landed in an area measuring 1,750 by 500 metres. The nearest shell was 100 metres from the target. Not wishing to test the reader with more detail, all the subsequent shoots displayed the same gross errors. In Edemsky's words, ‘Thus, the conducted experimental shooting showed a low efficiency of firing from tanks.

A militia operated gun.

Credit and location unknown.



Edemsky raises a number of other technical issues relating to tank gun fire in indirect mode and especially notes the question of barrel wear: Another technical issue is the survivability of the gun barrels. According to the technical characteristics, the survivability resource of the tank gun barrel when firing high-explosive fragmentation shells is about one thousand rounds. For modern artillery pieces, this figure is much higher and amounts to 5-7 thousand shots. In the last ten months, Russian tanks have likely fired off 100,000s of HE-Frag shells, hitting nothing and wearing down barrels. In what may be judged another historic

design flaw in Russian tanks, barrel changes can only be carried out *by removing the turret*. The reader may legitimately question: but isn't this a problem given manifestly poor equipment support evident in the 'special military operation'. The answer is: yes. In the most recent diatribe from Igor Strelkov ('Girkin') – recently returned from a two-month visit to the Donbass – he warns the LPR militia is reaching a point where it will have no tanks at all: “the survivability of the barrel of a tank gun, it is much less than that of a rifled howitzer. And the tanks that are doing all this are no longer new, the barrels have already worked well [limited remaining barrel life].” And the guns on the old T-64/72/80 tanks, the old models of the 2A46 gun, they don't change without dismantling the turret. That is, we are now methodically putting out of action the last surviving tanks of the People's Militia Corps.” In the summer, all artillery systems were taken away from the militias for the same reason (excessive use leading to barrel wear coupled with lack of resources to carry out barrel changes). If the situation persists the militias will be without tanks or artillery or become infantry cannon fodder.

The predicament of the Donbass militias raises questions over the Russian Army tank fleets – Russian crews have been behaving in the same profligate ways. And suspicious, unexplained puzzles hang over the Russian tanks. Why has Belarus transferred 122 T-72A tanks to the Russian armed forces? Why has the Russian MOD reportedly placed a contract to restore to service as many as 800 T-62M tanks? There are in the order of 7,500 T-72s in storage. Why are these tanks not withdrawn from storage? Have the T-72s in storage been cannibalised over many years? Are spare barrels, in fact, limited? Can Uralvagonzavod (UVZ) and its subsidiaries meet the demand for new barrels? Or the turret changes that require transporting the tanks 100s of kilometres by rail to equipment repair depots? Ukrainian commander Yevhen Mezhevikin may not be mistaken. Russian tanks are becoming scarcer. Stout Ukrainian defence has accounted for the majority of losses. But Russian misuse of tanks as howitzers may also have resulted in a significant, self-inflicted degradation of the tank fleets.

Russia Has Expended a Lot Ammo in Ukraine

It's now dipping into 40-year-old stockpiles. “*You load the ammunition and you cross your fingers and hope it's going to fire, or when it lands that it's going to explode.*”

Jared Keller Task & Purpose Dec 13, 2022



*Russian 2S19 howitzers from the Western Military District's 138th Motorized Rifle Brigade fire during a training exercise at the Luga training area in Leningrad in this undated photo.
(Russian Ministry of Defense).*

Russia is not even a year into its invasion of Ukraine and its military is already running low on ammunition, forcing commanders to dip into stockpiles of munitions produced more than four

decades ago, a senior US military official said on Monday. Speaking during a background briefing on the Defense Department's assessment of the ongoing war in Ukraine, the senior military official was asked to elaborate on comments from Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines earlier in December, who said that Russia was depleting its munitions stockpiles "quite quickly" and turning to allies in North Korea and Iran to replenish its arsenal. "It's really pretty extraordinary, and our own sense is that they are not capable of indigenously producing what they are expending at this stage," Haines said during an event at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on Dec 4. "That's why you see them going to other countries, effectively, to try to get ammunition."

The senior military official echoed Haines' comments, stating that Russia's stockpile of "fully serviceable and rocket ammunition" is "rapidly dwindling" and that the military would only be able to sustain its current rate of fire until "early 2023" The resulting munitions drain "is probably forcing them to increasingly use ammunition in what we would consider degraded conditions," the senior military official said, adding that the US military has seen evidence that Russian forces are utilizing "older" ammo, "some of which was originally produced more than 40 years ago." This shortage "essentially puts Russian forces in a position to have to make a choice about what risks it's willing to accept in terms of increased failure rates, unpredictable performance and whether or not these degraded munitions would require any type of refurbishment," the senior military official said. "You load the ammunition, and you cross your fingers and hope it's going to fire, or when it lands that it's going to explode."

Despite leaning on Iran and North Korea for additional munitions support, the Russian military "will very likely struggle to replenish its reserve of fully serviceable artillery and rocket ammunition through foreign suppliers, increased domestic production and refurbishment," the senior military official added. While news of the Russian munition shortage may appear a telling detail in the context of an invasion marred by poor logistics and low morale, the rapid rate of ammo consumption is not unique to the Russian military in the conflict. According to US officials, both Russia and Ukraine are burning through ammo "at a rate not seen since the Korean War" as NBC News reported in November. Speaking anonymously to NBC News, a senior defense official stated that while the Russian military was firing off 20,000 artillery rounds each day, the Ukrainian military was also running through 4,000 to 7,000 rounds daily, so far that the official cautioned that Ukraine "still needs a significant amount of artillery going forward."

While the Ukrainian military has managed to augment their tanks and howitzers with ammo left behind during a rapid retreat of Russian forces in the country's Kharkiv region in September, how much ammo the US and its allies can continue to supply remains an ongoing question given the tens of billions in military equipment and security assistance that the US has already provided. As of Dec 9, the US had provided more than 1 million 155mm artillery rounds, 180,000 105mm artillery rounds, 135,000 120mm mortar rounds, 1,500 TOW missiles, 8,500 Javelin missiles, 46,000 "other" anti-armor systems and munitions, and more than 100 million rounds of small arms ammunition to Ukrainian forces since the start of the Russian invasion of the country, among other weapons, according to the State Department. The latest details on Russian and Ukrainian munition stores come months after a US defense official told the Wall Street Journal that the

Pentagon was running “uncomfortably low” on 155mm artillery rounds after the US had supplied the Ukrainian military with 800,000 of them back in August, indicating that the DoD sees these weapons transfers as a potential drain on readiness ahead of, say, a possible war between the US and China. While chief Pentagon spokesman Air Force Brig Gen Patrick Ryder told reporters that he was “not aware of any specific shortages” in US military weapons due to Ukraine-related aid packages, another spokesman noted that Congress had also appropriated \$600 million to kick munitions production up a notch at the time.

As our colleagues at The War Zone noted, the fiscal year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act passed by the House earlier this month calls for a far-reaching \$2.7 billion procurement roadmap to help the Pentagon replenish its existing stocks of artillery, rockets, and anti-tank weapons to ensure that these critical munitions are available for “allies and partners” amid the ongoing war in Ukraine. “We recognize that the [DoD] would benefit from temporary acquisition flexibilities to increase the Department’s stocks of critical munitions, provide material and related services to allies and partners that have supported Ukraine, and provide material and services to Ukraine,” the House and Senate Armed Services Committees said in a joint statement on Dec 6.

Dues 2023

As of Jan 1, 2023, dues for both the Vancouver Artillery Association and RUSI Vancouver are payable.

Vancouver Artillery Association members:- Dues payments for VAA 2023 are payable on 1 Jan 2023. Dues are **\$35**. Payment may be made by:- etransfers to the treasurer at dj4loney@shaw.ca or by cheque (made to Van Arty Assoc) to:-

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

RUSI Vancouver members:- Dues for 2023 are payable as of 1 Jan 2023. Dues are \$50 for regular members and \$25 for student members. Payment may be made as follows:-

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

Richard Dunn
1998 Ogden Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 1A2

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

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

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

Anyone interested in Italy? Check out the OP Husky pages for an exciting opportunity coming up this summer. <https://www.facebook.com/OperationHusky2023/>

RCA Association Recognition Pages

part of the Lest We Forget project, the RCA Association has been revising the recognition pages on the rca-arc.org website. Make sure that your award hasn't been missed. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/artillery-recognition-awards>

RCA Association Volunteers

The RCA Association is looking for assistance with their Lest We Forget Project. There are several tasks that need some capable volunteers to scour the internet and report back with some historic Artillery information.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/rca-association-volunteers-needed>

Peter Moogk Photo Collection

Peter has forwarded a few more photos from his personal collection. Check them out here. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/peter-moogk-collection>

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: This is a Renault R35 tank, built by the French, captured and put into service by the Germans and finally liberated by 3 Canadian Highlanders. The



R35 was produced from 1936, the type was intended as an infantry support light tank, equipping autonomous tank battalions, that would be allocated to individual infantry divisions to assist them in executing offensive operations. To this end it was relatively well armoured but slow and lacking a good antitank capacity, fitted with a short 37 mm gun. At the outbreak of the war, the antitank role was more emphasized leading to the development and eventual production from April

1940 of a subtype with a more powerful longer gun, the Renault R40. It was planned to shift new production capacity to the manufacture of other, faster, types, but due to the defeat of France the R35/40 remained the most numerous French tank of the war, about 1685 vehicles having been produced by June 1940. At that time, it had also been exported to Poland, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia. For the remainder of the war Germany and its allies would use captured R35's, some of them rebuilt into tank destroyers.

This Week: Many of our readers once built models, and some still do. The more elderly of our readers (which is probably most of you) may remember, between sips of Geritol (other brands may be available at the nursing home), the days when a “kit” consisted of blocks of roughly shaped balsa wood, one small leaflet of instructions, and a sheet of sandpaper. The more youthful, those in their 70s, may remember when plastic models were all the rage with spotty-youths, and

one looked forward with keen anticipation to spending 98 cents on a kit at a local hardware or drug store on Saturday morning.

Well, move the price digit a few slots, and you have the cost of today's kits, which, to be honest, are light-years ahead of their ancestors in terms of accuracy and detail. It is also rare to find a kid who has the interest, or the patience and motor skills to indulge in the hobby, it being an adults-only sphere of interest now. Mind you, it is still rare to find a woman who builds models. Have they not heard that it's a cool thing to do?



And all that brings us to this week's photo, borrowed, apologies, from the cover of model box. The author was perusing the

offerings at a local model hobby shop (I think there is only one left in Vancouver, and an equal number in Burnaby and Richmond), when he saw this kit. Many of you might recognize the aeroplane portrayed, and the markings, although use by the latter was fairly rare. What you may not know is that, given the 1930s was a period of many aviation "firsts", this aircraft did something no other 'plane had done before, and none was to do again for several years. What, dear readers, was this achievement?

Please airmail or electronically post your ideas to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Keep 'em flyin'.

From the 'Punitary'

How do bees communicate? They use buzz words!

Murphy's Other Laws

If it ain't broke, it hasn't been issued to the infantry.

Quotable Quotes

The less you talk, the more you're listened to. *Pauline Phillips*

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



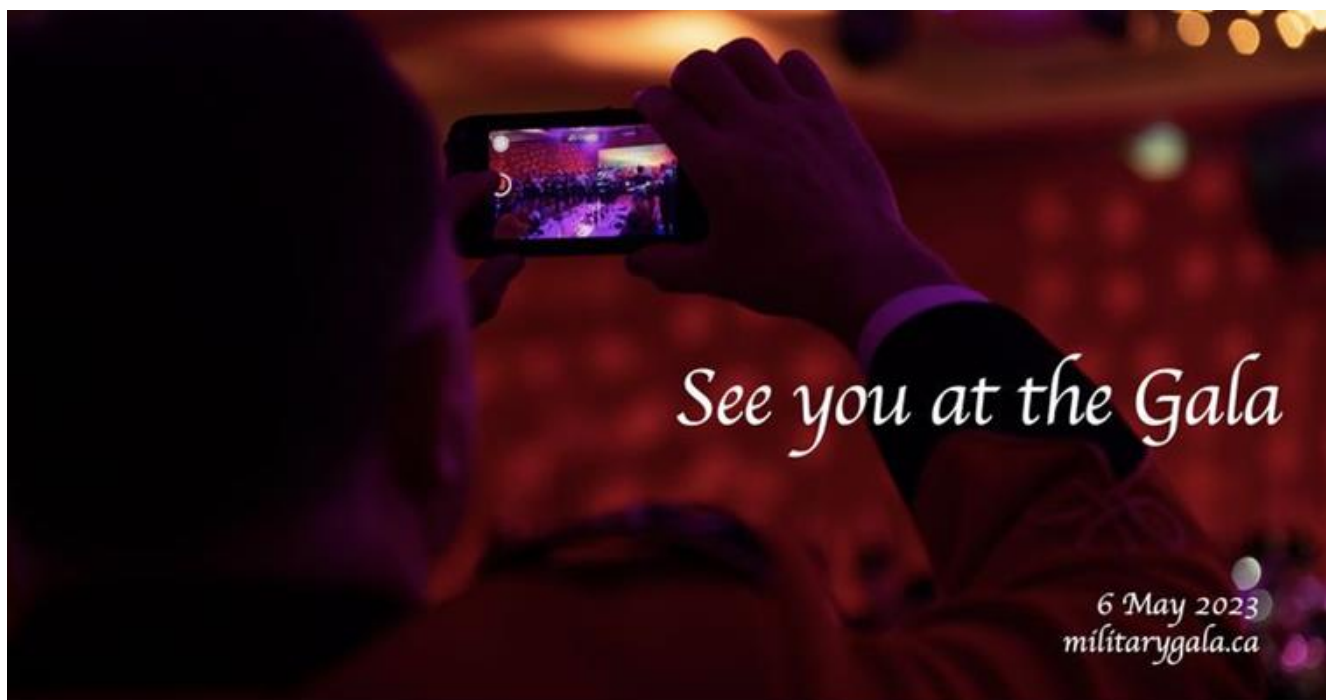
Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars across mobile, desktop, and room systems. Zoom Rooms is the original software-based conference room solution used around the world in board, conference,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





The Naval Association of British Columbia
Founded 1919

Wednesday, February 8, 2023
Royal Vancouver Yacht Club
3811 Point grey Road, Vancouver, V6R 1B3

Lunch at 1200 noon
Presentation starts at 1300 hrs

Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee, OMM, MSM, CD
Commander, Royal Canadian Navy

“Update on the Navy”

Speaker’s biography



Vice-Admiral (VAdm) Topshee’s career in the Royal Canadian Navy has been a combination of sea-going appointments and staff officer positions throughout his 32 years of service. He started his career at the Royal Military College (RMC) of Canada, being awarded the Canada Memorial Scholarship on graduation. Following RMC, VAdm Topshee completed a Master of Literature in Strategic Studies from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland.

Vice-Admiral (VAdm) Topshee joined his first ship, Her Majesty’s Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Winnipeg*, in 1997. Over the next several years, he completed several tours as the ships’ Navigating Officer, Operations Officer, and Combat Officer. VAdm Topshee served as the Executive Officer of HMCS *St. John’s* in 2006 and then HMCS *Toronto* in July 2007. Following these postings, VAdm Topshee was posted

to the Directorate of Maritime Strategy at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa, and thereafter returned to sea as the Commanding Officer of HMCS *Algonquin*, in 2009.

Notably in 2010, Vice-Admiral Topshee was deployed to the NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan (NTM-A) where he spent a year based in Kabul as the Director of Afghan National Police Training Operations.

Vice-Admiral Topshee served as the Base Commander of Canadian Forces Base Halifax between 2012 and 2015. Following this, was posted to Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado as the Deputy Director of the Strategy, Policy and Plans Directorate North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). He returned to the Pacific coast in 2018, as Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific, and was appointed in 2021 to Commander Maritime Forces Pacific and Joint Task Force Pacific. Vice-Admiral Topshee assumed command of the Royal Canadian Navy in May 2022.

**If you plan to attend the lunch* and presentation please respond to Jody Doll
by Friday, February 3, 2023**

At either jody.mint@gmail.com or text her at 604-848-9055 so that she can advise the caterer.

Due to limited space on a first come first serv basis, you may be put on the wait list for lunch but can still attend the presentation after lunch at 1300 hrs. in the Fire Place room. The bar will be open prior to the presentation.

***Credit card payment for lunch and bar service will be accepted.**

If you’re are unable to reach Jody, please let King Wan at king.r.wan1@gmail.com know if you wish to attend.

Town Hall Meeting with the Veterans Ombud in British Columbia

ANNOUNCEMENT

Town Hall with the Veterans Ombud in British Columbia

Thursday, February 9, 2023, 17:00 - 18:00 (PST)

hosted by:

Billy Bishop/Kerrisdale Legion, Branch 176

1407 Laburnum St, Vancouver, BC

Website: <http://www.billybishoplegion.org/> Ph: (604) 738-4142 Email: billybishoplegion@gmail.com

Veteran and serving CAF and RCMP members, and their families, are invited to join Veterans Ombud, Colonel (Ret'd) Nishika Jardine and team members at the town hall in Vancouver.

They look forward to hearing about the issues that impact local Veterans and their families, to ensure the work they do can best serve you.

Please join us.

*Veterans
Ombud
des vétérans*



Regimental Whiskey Tasting



Hosted by:

*The British Columbia
Regiment*

*Officers' Mess
&
Sgts' & WOs' Mess*



- Date:** Saturday, February 18, 2023
- Time:** Bar Open from 6:00pm - Late.
Whiskies presented 7:30-10pm.
- Location:** Upstairs Messes of the British Columbia Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
- Dress:** Casual Dress/Kilt Encouraged (No Jeans Please)
- Price:** \$65/person (Includes Selection of 5x Whiskies)
- RSVP:** Tickets are limited and available by presale only
on a first-come-first-served basis!

For more information or to purchase tickets, email:
Maj Adam McLeod, at "adammcLeod@gmail.com"

Payment via e-transfer, no cash sales at the door.
No cancellations after February 4, 2023



PK75: A Peacekeeping Anthology **of Personal Peacekeeping Experiences**

Background

The year 2023 will mark two peacekeeping milestones - the 75th anniversary of the first United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operation (UNTSO), and the 35th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize for UN Peacekeepers. Both anniversaries offer an ideal opportunity to recognize and celebrate Canada's amazing contributions to world peace, and especially the personal contributions of the thousands of Canadians who participated in peacekeeping operations around the globe, with the UN, MFO, AU, OSCE, or other peacekeeping missions.

The Project

To that end, the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA) is developing ***PK75: A Peacekeeping Anthology***, a collection of the personal experiences of representative Canadian peacekeepers. It will focus on Canada's historic contributions to peacekeeping through the eyes of individual Canadian peacekeepers. The Anthology will be a high quality, bilingual, digital publication containing short biographies, photographs and experiential anecdotes written by, or about, ordinary Canadians with peacekeeping experience, whether they be military, police, or civilian.

To be completed in early 2023, the anthology will be distributed freely with the intent to educate young people as well as to enhance public awareness of Canada's longstanding contribution to peacekeeping. As such, schools and universities will be key target audiences and recipients of the anthology, as will institutions, media outlets, government Departments, military and police organizations, relevant humanitarian organizations, public figures of influence, and industries with a connection to peacekeeping.

Your Contribution

It will be you, as a Canadian peacekeeper, who will help form the essential heart of the project, as it will be your writings and photographs that will bring the Anthology to life. Specifically, we will be devoting a two-page spread devoted to you and your story, one side a factual, narrative biography stressing peacekeeping experience, with the second, facing page being an anecdote telling something interesting, educational, and fascinating about your peacekeeping experiences. Each set of biography and anecdote should be accompanied by at least three photographs, preferably including a recent head and shoulders shot, and two other photographs of you, the peacekeeper, preferably while on one or more peacekeeping missions. Please visit our website, CPVA.ca and scroll down to PK 75, where you will find some examples.

Here are the details you will need to know about writing your personal stories:

1. Due dates for submission of all your material — the earlier the better, but please not later than 28 February 2023, to allow time for editing, translation, and design.
2. Biography — your biography should not exceed 750 words and should be written in narrative format that is understandable and interesting for civilian readers of all ages, especially students — our primary target audience. Please avoid acronyms or military slang, and focus on your career highlights, especially as they pertain to peacekeeping.
3. In addition to your bio, please tell us your hometown where you currently reside, and list all the peacekeeping missions in which you have participated.
4. Personal anecdote — the anecdote should not exceed 700 words. It can be funny or serious, good, or bad, positive, or negative, personal, or professional, but hopefully will help readers learn and understand more about what an individual peacekeeper experiences on deployment.
5. Photos — we need at least three photos, and more if you have them, to give our production team several to choose from. One should be a recent head and shoulders shot, and the others would preferably be of you while serving on peacekeeping missions. The better the quality, and higher the resolution, the better.
6. Captions — each photo must be accompanied by a description of it, providing the where, what, who, and when. If there is a special significance, especially if it relates directly to your anecdote, please also explain that.
7. Language — you may provide your contributions in either French or English (or both). The final version of the Anthology will be bilingual.
8. Technical Instructions:
 - a. All written contributions should be done in Microsoft Word, Times New Roman 12-point font.
 - b. Photos should be scanned and sent electronically as attachments to an e-mail that should also include the caption information. Be sure to clearly identify which photo links to which caption information.
 - c. Everything should be sent by e-mail to Greg Mitchell, preferably all together attached to one message, at CPVA.Anthology@gmail.com.
 - d. Due date — as early as possible, but not later than 28 February 2023.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a contributor to PK75: A Peacekeeping Anthology, and we at the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association thank you for your peacekeeping service.

Best regards, Greg Mitchell
Project officer for *PK75: A Peacekeeping Anthology*.
CPVA.Anthology@gmail.com (705) 930-9230

Paratrooper's Reunion – Edmonton the Airborne Story



Airborne Reunion 2023
PO BOX 71034 Northtown Post Office
9308 – 137 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5E 6J8

“Edmonton - The Airborne Story”



The Airborne Social Club (Edmonton) will host a Paratroopers Reunion in Edmonton, June 2nd-4th, 2023. This reunion's theme has been established as **“Paratrooper's Reunion – Edmonton the Airborne Story”**. The reunion will highlight parachuting units and activities as they existed in the Edmonton area over the years.

This reunion is open to any/all paratroopers, former and current, regular and reserve, allied paratroopers whether or not they have served in an active parachute role or not.

In addition to the above members themselves, a grateful welcome is extended to all Honorary Club members, wives, spouses and partners and family of members no longer with us.

Airborne kit shop, military displays, 50/50 draws, silent auction and more will be available throughout the reunion. As in past reunions, a Reunion 2023 Serialized Commemorative Coin will be available for purchase.

All those who make an early registration will have their name entered into a draw for a chance to have their registration reimbursed (max of two persons they have registered). The draw will take place during the Saturday scheduled reunion dinner.

Although we are endeavouring to reach as many as possible via all means, it is requested that you pass on this information to those you are in contact with who we may not have contacted. When doing so please include the attached info sheet and registration form.

Additional information will be announced as it happens. In the meantime check the links provided below.

Registrations and queries may to be addressed to the undersigned, at email address provided.

Hope to see you here, Airborne!

Dave R. Paris

Communications/Registration

E: airborne-reunion-2023@shaw.ca

www.airbornesocialclub.ca

FB : Canadian Airborne Reunion



**REGISTRATION FORM
PARATROOPER'S REUNION
"EDMONTON - THE AIRBORNE STORY"
JUNE 2ND - 4TH, 2023**



NAME: _____
(Preferred Name To Be Used)
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE #: _____ / EMAIL: _____

**REGISTER EARLY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN BACK YOUR REGISTRATION
(MAX OF TWO PERSONS FROM YOUR REGISTRATION)
DRAWING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE SATURDAY DINNER**

Early Registration: \$150.00 Per Person (Prior to April 1st, 2023)

\$175.00 PER PERSON AFTER APRIL 1ST, 2023

Number of registrations required: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Name Of Spouse (Or) Accompanied Person(s): _____ / _____ / _____

**NOTE: PAYMENT BY
CREDIT CARDS
NOT AVAILABLE**

**MAIL REGISTRATION
AND MAKE PAYMENT TO:
PARATROOPER'S REUNION 2023
BOX 71034
9308 - 137 AVE NW
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5E 6J8**

**E-TRANSFER THRU:
Sharon Skwarchuk
sharonskwarchuk@gmail.com**

**Reunion Location:
Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre Hotel
11834 Kingsway NW, Edmonton, AB T5G3J5
<https://www.edmontoninn.ca>
Toll Free: 1-888-747-4114 / Local Tel: 780-454-5454 /
Fax: 780-453-7360
E: reservations@edmontoninn.ca**

The hotel has established a per night reunion rate of \$99 Standard / \$109 Deluxe for June 1st to 4th inclusive.

Advise you are making reservation for "AIRBORNE REUNION - JUMPER"

ANY PERIOD PRIOR TO OR AFTER THESE DATES TO BE NEGOTIATED INDIVIDUALLY WITH THE HOTEL



Email: airborne-reunion-2023@shaw.ca

Web: <http://www.airbornesocialclub.ca>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/552488172635068>



Airborne kit shop items will be available for sale,
including a Reunion 2023 Serialized Commemorative Coin



RCA Reunion

PO Box 214
Shilo MB R0K 2A0

January 2023



ROYAL CANADIAN ARTILLERY REUNION 2023 **29 JUNE-2 JULY – JOINING INSTRUCTIONS**

To All Members of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery Family,

Believe it or not, five years have passed since the last Regimental Reunion. So, it is that time once again to gather together for the 2023 Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) Reunion at the Home Station of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, Canadian Forces Base Shilo, Manitoba. The aim is to renew close friendships and relive the fine and lasting memories that we have forged over our many years of service to Canada and The RCA.

We continue to update the program based upon your feedback, so we have:

- the golf tournament on Saturday to allow more people to attend;
- kept the change from last Reunion that had an adjusted fee schedule to allow those who only wished to attend the Dinner and Dance to do so;
- kept the change from last Reunion that has a menu for Sunday's departure to road type food for your convenience.
- kept a live firepower demonstration as part of the event; and
- opened the RCA Museum free of charge to Reunion guests.

We are only in the initial planning stages, and while we are still firming up the exact schedule, attached at ANNEX B you will find what we have planned to date. That said, there may be some minor changes in times and events before the Reunion, but we will endeavour to keep everyone up to date as changes occur. As you see by the attached schedule, we have a fun filled and exciting Reunion planned for you and hope that you can make it to sunny Shilo to meet old friends and maybe make some new ones as you reminisce about "the good old days".

This year, and going forward, we will not be doing a mass mail out for the Reunion Joining Instructions. One reason is cost, and the other is with Artillery Reunions being three years apart (in this case five years) we are just not able to keep up to date mailing lists. That said, if you or anyone you know wishes to have a package mailed out we will do mailings on a request basis only. Please pass this along to anyone you know who may be interested but do not have email or access to a printer. The Joining Instructions will be available on multiple media platforms and pushed out to Gunners via electronic means. Requests can be sent to the contacts below at any time. If your call is outside of normal working

hours or the contact person is not in the office when you call, just leave a message on their voice mail with a contact number or email address to get back to you.

For those wishing to register early we are accepting forms and payment now and right up to 28 June. For planning purposes, we ask that people register early, but for those who do not we will still be accepting “walk-ins”. Everyone is welcome.

As in the past, your 2023 RCA Reunion Organizing Committee is made up of volunteers and it is my pleasure to introduce them to you.

- President/Event MC – Maj Lindsay Jackson (Regimental Major RCA);
- Vice President – Maj (ret’d) Chuck Larocque;
- Secretary RCA & Registration Coord – Patsy Murphy (Mess Manager);
- Treasurer – CWO (Ret’d) Mike McEwan;
- Events Coord – Bill Lee;
- Publicity – Jules Xavier (Shilo Stag);
- OPI Sam’s Trailer Park (Base Campground) – MWO Jay Power assisted by WO (Ret’d) Paul Dolomont & Sgt Art Fleming;
- Golf Tournament Rep – Jim Mackenzie;
- Shilo Service Club Bar Mgr – Ken Wells;
- Shilo Service Club Chief Cook – WO (Ret’d) Tom Rushton;
- 1 RCHA Rep – CWO S. McGowan;
- NCO I/C Work Party – TBC; and
- RCA Museum Rep – Mr Andrew Oakden (RCA Museum Director).

You will be given a welcome package on arrival. As well, you will find some further details in the Annexes at :- <http://www.artillery.net/beta/canadian-gunner-associations/>

List of Annexes:

- A. Registration Form
- B. Outline Schedule of Events
- C. Motels/Hotels in the Brandon/Shilo Area
- D. Local Services

Location. The RCA Reunion will be “hubbed” at Building L-25, the old drill hall. Most activity will take place there. A map of the Base will be included in your welcome package to assist you in navigating the Base.

Transportation. Travel to and from Shilo is the responsibility of those attending. We are **aiming** to provide shuttle service for the evening events, but with Knightline Bus Services closing permanently during COVID, this is still a work in progress. An update will be sent to all attendees as we continue to “work the problem”.

Accommodation. There are numerous hotels/motels available in the Shilo/Brandon area, listed at ANNEX C. Those attending the reunion are asked to book accommodations in advance and indicate if possible, where they will be staying on the Registration Form, ANNEX A. This will assist us when

arranging transportation. There are also a limited number of rooms available on Base and the contact information for Base Accommodations is also found at ANNEX C. Sam's Trailer Park on Base is also available for use. It is a permanent full-service campground augmented with a temporary site that will also have water and power. There will be approximately 30 sites with allocation on a first to book basis so book early to avoid disappointment. The best way to do that is to register early and request a spot on the registration form found at ANNEX A. You will be contacted with confirmation of your booking. General Strange Hall will be open for showers during normal operating hours (see ANNEX D). Finally, you should also ask local hotels/motels if they offer a military discount because retirees and serving members are now eligible for one in most places.

Dress. Dress will be discretionary "within the limits of good taste". There will be a GUNNERS Memorial Service on Sunday 2 July to which medals may be worn if desired. Normal relaxed dress is acceptable throughout the Reunion, and we **all** wear denim out here in The West! Just a reminder that the Shilo Country Club and the Messes have a dress code, so please adhere to them if you attend one.

Rations. Registration fees will cover the cost of:

- BBQ supper on Thursday 29 June at the Meet & Greet, Building L-25;
- Banquet Supper on Friday 30 June, Building L-25;
- Brunch at the farewell on Sunday 2 July, Building L-25; and
- Coffee and tea service throughout the event.

NOTE: Other dining establishments are available at various locations on or near the Base. See ANNEX D for details.

Medical. Shilo has an on-base 911 ambulance service. They will provide on-site medical services but due to recent restrictions they cannot transport to Brandon but will arrange transport to Brandon General Hospital if required. To contact them simply dial 911.

RCA Tours and Souvenirs. The RCA Museum will be open daily, free of charge to all Reunion guests. The RCA Kit Shop will be open during the reunion for members to stock up on GUNNERS GEAR. Pop up kit shops will also be on site at the evening events. See ANNEX D for details. The RCA Kit Shop has arranged a special-order GUNNERS Under Armour Golf Shirt. These are pre-order only and must be ordered with your registration when you send it in if you wish to receive one. To receive a golf shirt, your request must be received by **31 May 2023**.

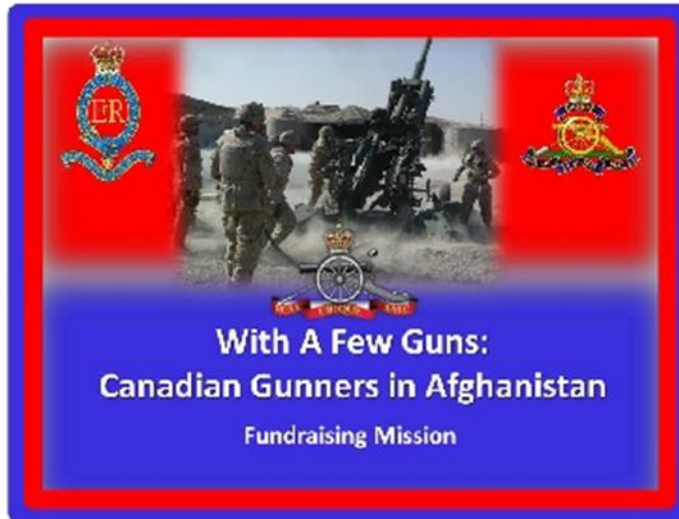
In closing, I want take this opportunity to express, on behalf of, the Commanding Officer 1st Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, LCol J O'Donnell, your Reunion 2023 committee and indeed all members of the Home Station community, our sincere hopes that you can attend the RCA Reunion 2023. Please rest assured that we will be here working tirelessly to ensure that your visit is a memorable one.

Sincerely,

Major Lindsay Jackson
President
2023 Reunion Committee

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](#)

