

## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News 31 Oct 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](mailto: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](http://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**

**80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour – see poster section**

- Nov 01** Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting.
- Nov 04** Bay Street Armoury Museums Open House - See poster section
- Nov 08** Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting.
- Nov 09** **(Thursday)** Lunch in the Mess followed by a presentation in lecture room.  
 US Army Field Band and RCN Naden Band free concert at Chan Centre  
 Band of the 5<sup>th</sup> (BC) Field Regiment RCA - Concert of Remembrance
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day  
 AFOA Dawn Patrol (details sent separately)
- Nov 16** Left Coast Lancers - Battle of Leliefontein Luncheon
- Nov 22** Mess Lunch and presentation – History of the VPD.
- Nov 25** Fraser Highlanders, Fort Fraser Garrison, Feast of St Andrews Dinner
- Dec 02** Save the date! 15 Fd Offrs Mess St Barbaras's Day Dinner



**Canadian Gunner News / Les Nouvelles des artilleurs canadiens**  
**26 October 2023 / 26 octobre 2023**

Click here to (Open in your browser)

## Lunch and Speaker

Our next two Mess lunches have been arranged by the Regimental Society with speakers again arranged by RUSI Vancouver.

Menu	
Thursday, Nov 9	Wednesday, Nov 22
fresh baked buns & butter	
deluxe mixed greens salad	Tossed salad and beans salad
Chicken Cacciatore, mashed potatoes, steamed veggies with garlic butter	Baked ham with mustard glaze, Scalloped potatoes, Glazed carrots
Dessert	Veggie tray or meat and cheese tray
Tea and coffee	Assorted desserts, Tea and coffee
<b>Reservations required by 2 Nov</b>	<b>Reservations required by 15 Nov</b>
Vegan/vegetarian options available, but you must make your preference known when you make your reservations.	

**RUSI Presentation in lecture room following lunch.**

### Nov 2

You've been reading about the Canadian Forces missions providing ongoing NATO deterrence in Latvia and training for the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the UK, Latvia, and Poland. Here's a chance to hear about it from those directly involved. This is a presentation you do not want to miss!

Please join us on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> to welcome our guest speakers Lieutenant Colonel Jesse Van Eijk and Major Jürgen Miranda. (see bios in poster section) They will speak to us about their experience with Operation Unifier, the military training and capacity building mission in support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and with Operation Reassurance, Canada's contribution to NATO assurance and deterrence measures in Latvia and Central and Eastern Europe. These operations are one of Canada's top defence priorities and are critical to NATO's collective defence and deterrence. Thanks to **Captain Jamie Blois** of the Regional Public Affairs Office for making this possible..

### Nov 22

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

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

Note that the **Nov 9** presentation is on a **Thursday**, not our normal Wednesday, we've had to adjust to accommodate our presenters' availability.

Prepayment for lunch tickets required by **2 November and 15 November**

Those wishing to attend must RSVP HLCol Don Foster at [dgfoster60@gmail.com](mailto:dgfoster60@gmail.com)

E-transfer may be made to: [15rcal00th@gmail.com](mailto:15rcal00th@gmail.com)

If you cannot make an e-transfer, please make payment arrangements with HLCol Don Foster. There will be no cash or credit card option available at the door.

For further information, contact HLCol Don Foster at (604)809-6242 or [dgfoster60@gmail.com](mailto:dgfoster60@gmail.com) or – Colonel (Retired) Keith Maxwell at (604)865-0612 or [kdmawell@gmail.com](mailto:kdmawell@gmail.com)

## **CDS Says Military Must Switch Gears in Increasingly Chaotic World**

*Sean Kilpatrick & Sarah Ritchie The Canadian Press Oct 26, 2023*



*Chief of the Defence Staff Gen. Wayne Eyre talks to his troops as he takes part in an announcement in Petawawa, ON on Thursday, Oct 19, 2023. In a new message to military members, the chief of the defence staff says China and Russia don't differentiate between war and peace.*

The chief of the defence staff said in a recent message to Canadian military members that China and Russia are expansionist powers

that don't differentiate between war and peace, and that the two states are the most significant threats to the world's democracies. Gen. Wayne Eyre released a document called a pan-domain force employment concept to Canadian Armed Forces members, which he says will form the foundation for changing the military's operations. "We are in a time of profound change, with the world more chaotic and dangerous than at any time since the end of the Cold War," Eyre wrote in the foreword to the 45-page document. He singled out Russia and China, saying they aim to rewrite the rules-based international order and will act "just below the threshold of armed conflict." "The CAF will continue to respond to crises of all kinds, foreign and domestic, but our clear priorities are deterrence, defence and countering the sub-threshold actions of our adversaries," Eyre wrote. He described the concept as a driver of change in the Armed Forces - one that "directs the implementation of a campaigning approach" -- and said it will have broad-ranging implications over the course of years. "Rather than conducting operations as discrete, reactive, episodic and relatively static activities, campaigning orients the CAF towards a holistic, proactive and sustained approach," it says.

The military has sometimes been slow to respond to hostile actions, the document says, and it calls for strengthening Canada's ability to "compete below the threshold." It also calls for the military to integrate its operations in all battlespace domains -- air, land, maritime, space and cyber -- from the outset, rather than grouping them together in an ad hoc way. Right now, the military is configured to counter overt military actions on land, at sea and by air -- but other countries are adapting more quickly, the document reads. "These authoritarian powers draw on all instruments of national power -- diplomatic, information, military, and economic."

Information is being used to sow confusion, it goes on, and the military needs to work more closely with what the document calls "other instruments of national power" and other parts of government. At the same time, climate change also increases the risk of armed conflict, it notes. "Climate change causes humanitarian crises, intensifies competition over scarce resources and exacerbates existing problems, particularly in fragile states that are already facing pronounced economic, political and societal challenges."

The concept makes mention of evolving the Armed Forces' culture and the way the military recruits, trains and employs members. Eyre was not made available to answer questions about the document on Thursday. The pan-domain force employment concept notes that it is not meant to be read as a policy or strategy but is instead intended to guide the Armed Forces as it adapts and evolves. The military is still waiting for a defence policy update from the federal government that was initially set to be released in fall 2022. It is not clear why the policy has been delayed, and the government has not provided a timeline for its release.

## **RN Drops Custom of Employing Chinese Servants on Warships**

over fears they may spy for Beijing. Comes after MI5 spy chief warned China is trying to steal Britain's nuclear technology secrets from Britain.

*James Callery, Rebecca Camber    The Daily Mail    22 October 2023*



*Royal Navy aircraft carrier  
HMS Queen Elizabeth (File Photo)*

The British Navy has dropped the custom of employing Chinese laundry workers on warships over fears they may spy for Beijing, according to a report. Hundreds of Chinese laundrymen have worked on British ships since the 1930s, but the majority were taken on from Hong Kong to wash and press sailors' uniforms and

officers' white tablecloths. However, they are being replaced by Nepalese Gurkhas as fears mount that Beijing could threaten the loved ones of laundrymen in China in order to force them to pass on Navy secrets, The Sun reports. Three Chinese nationals were prevented from joining HMS Queen Elizabeth, the Navy's largest and most powerful vessel, on her carrier strike group journey to the contested South China Sea. A fourth Chinese laundryman was let go this month after 39 years of service because his family live in Hong Kong, the newspaper reports.



Former First Sea Lord Admiral Lord West told The Sun: 'If it is a question of security, the Navy has no choice. 'But it's sad as Chinese laundrymen have fought wars with us, some have died for us.' It comes after MI5 spy chief Ken McCallum warned China is trying to steal nuclear technology secrets from Britain. Mr McCallum said that it was a 'high priority' for Beijing to 'disrupt' the AUKUS security partnership between the UK, America and Australia to build a new fleet of nuclear-powered submarines. Britain is building a fleet described by defence officials as the 'largest, most advanced and most powerful attack submarines ever operated by the Royal Navy', featuring 'world-leading sensors, design and weaponry'. Earlier this month contracts worth a combined £4billion were handed to three British firms for the design and manufacturer of the SSN-AUKUS subs, said to be undiscoverable to enemies. Britain's nuclear technology, cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and undersea systems are also being shared with its allies as part of the trilateral pact. When the agreement was signed in 2021 it was announced that there would be a new era of collaboration on security and defence-related science, technology, industrial bases and supply chains.

But Mr McCallum said China is determined to thwart the partnership and steal data and accused Beijing of engaging in espionage on an 'epic scale'. Director general Ken McCallum said it was a 'high priority' for Beijing to 'disrupt' the AUKUS security partnership between the UK, America and Australia to build a new fleet of nuclear-powered submarines. Speaking in California at the first joint conference by the Five Eyes intelligence alliance – comprising the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States – the MI5 chief added: 'If you saw the wider public Chinese reaction when the AUKUS Alliance was announced, you can infer from that they were not pleased. 'Given... the way in which Chinese espionage and interference is taking place, it would be safe to assume it would be a high priority for them to understand what's happening inside AUKUS and seek to disrupt it if they were able to.' Beijing has strongly criticised the AUKUS deal, accusing the three nations of embarking on a 'path of error and danger'. China already has a substantial number of nuclear-powered submarines of its own. The Pentagon assessed in its 2020 China Military Power report that China has the largest navy in the world, with a battle force of some 350 ships and submarines, including more than 130 major surface combatants. To combat the threat in the Indo-Pacific, Australia is building a stealthier fleet over the next decade. It will be faster and can stay under water longer, covering a greater distance without expelling traceable exhaust gases. The last time Britain and the US formally agreed to collaborate to build nuclear submarines was in 1958. Although the UK has operated nuclear-powered submarines for over 60 years, Australia has never built any of its own and it is seen as essential to counter China's regional influence, especially in the contested South China Sea. The first SSN-AUKUS submarine is due to be delivered in the late 2030s. Both the UK and Australia will use the vessels, which will be based on a British design.



# US Army EOD Technicians Train with Allies During Ex Ardent Defender

Walter Ham 20<sup>th</sup> CBRNE Command Oct 27, 2023



*Participants conduct explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training during a multinational exercise, Oct 22, 2023 at Base Gagetown, Oromocto, NB, Canada. Ardent Defender is a Canadian training exercise where over 300 multinational participants, soldiers from nine allied nations: Canada, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States of America, take part in training that is designed to hone their skills to counter and dispose of explosive threats. (CAF photo by Cpl Brian Watters)*

5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada – US Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians are training with military personnel from eight partner nations during Exercise Ardent Defender at 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown in New Brunswick, Canada, Oct 20 – Nov 2. EOD techs from the Fort Liberty, North Carolina-based 192<sup>nd</sup> Ordnance Battalion (EOD) are participating in the counter explosive threat exercise with EOD troops from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The 192<sup>nd</sup> EOD Battalion is part of the 52<sup>nd</sup> EOD Group and 20<sup>th</sup> Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command, the US military's premier multifunctional CBRNE command.

Canadian Armed Forces LCol Ben Aho, the Exercise Ardent Defender director, said the scenarios are focused on explosive threats, primarily based on what has been observed in Eastern Europe conflict zones. “The types of scenarios are built to exercise Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams, high risk search teams that investigate large areas or buildings, as well as route clearance teams,” said Aho, who serves as the director at the Canadian Armed Forces Joint Counter Explosive Threat organization in Ottawa, Ontario. Aho said the scenarios are developed from real-world events and change every year to take into consideration the ever-evolving threat situation. “Once these scenarios are designed, the explosive threat is incorporated with the appropriate level of technical complexity required to challenge the exercise participants for their tasks,” said Aho. “This entire process allows us to expose our operators to new and emerging devices that are being found globally.” The exercise director said that all recovered evidence and material, regardless of which scenario it was collected from, are then entered into an exploitation and analysis center that then injects their findings back into the development of the intelligence picture for the exercise.

Aho said analysis and exploitation are key capabilities that the Canadian Armed Forces has developed to not only counter explosive ordnance when discovered but also to disrupt their use and neutralize threats in future areas of operations through intelligence gathering. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> iteration of Exercise Ardent Defender and the second year that the

exercise has taken place at 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown. The New Brunswick base is home to the 4<sup>th</sup> Engineer Support Regiment and Canadian Army Combat Training Centre, as well as the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering, which supports the majority of Explosive Ordnance Disposal training for the Canadian Armed Forces and supports the exercise with their staff, instructors and facilities. “These reasons are just some examples of the advantages of hosting Exercise Ardent Defender at 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown now and into the future,” said Aho. A native of Montague on Prince Edward Island, Canada, Aho has served as a military engineer in the Canadian Army for 26 years.

Aho said the interoperability forged during the multinational exercise is essential to prepare allied Explosive Ordnance Disposal units for high stakes missions overseas, adding that defeating new devices require new ideas. “The ability to train together, discuss lessons learned, demonstrate new tools and equipment and to share operational experiences, all within a training environment, allows the EOD community to develop best practices for new and emerging explosive threats and hazards,” said Aho. “These lessons, and the teamwork that is built during Exercise Ardent Defender 2023, helps to create a collaborative network among the Explosive Ordnance Disposal operator community that is global and robust.”

## **Israel Defence Forces Take Lessons From Ukraine War**

*Stephen J Thorne Legion Magazine October 25, 2023*



*An Israeli Merkava IV tank sports a drone cage.*

**Israeli forces** massing on the Gaza border have apparently taken a lesson from the war in Ukraine, installing anti-drone cages atop their tanks as they prepared for an anticipated assault on Hamas fighters taking refuge in the Palestinian territory. The so-called “cope cages”—sheets of improvised armour mainly designed to protect troops

against bombs dropped from hovering unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones—were evidently installed after Hamas launched a sweeping surprise attack on Israeli soft targets, including almost a dozen kibbutzim and a music festival. “My assumption is that the Hamas attacks gave Israel the impetus to install the cages more widely,” Mark Cancian, a senior adviser with the DC based Center for Strategic and International Studies, told *The Washington Post*. “It was probably something they had been thinking about before since everyone is watching the war in Ukraine closely.” The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says some 1,400 people have been reported killed in the Hamas attack and since—more than triple “the cumulative number” of Israelis killed in the ongoing conflict since it began recording casualties in 2005. Six Canadians and 31 Americans were known to be among the dead. Israeli authorities say least 212 people were taken hostage.



*Tanks have been covered against drone attacks since early in the Russia-Ukraine war at least.*



Israel has since launched multiple missile strikes on the 365-square-kilometre coastal territory at its southwest corner, home to more than 2.3 million Palestinians. On Oct 23, the UN reported the number of Gaza residents killed since the Hamas raid at 5,087, more than 62 per cent of whom were women and children. It said at least 15,273 Gaza residents had been injured. All the numbers came from official sources in Israel and Gaza respectively and have not been independently verified. “The problem for the Israelis, however, is that the Merkava’s new cage is a modest one.” Quadcopters and first-person-view (FPV) racing drones operated by “pilots” working some distance from their targets have played an unprecedented role in the Russia-Ukraine war, now approaching its third year since Vladimir Putin’s forces launched what the Russian president at the time called a brief “special operation.”

The term “cope cages” was popularized when photo and video of improvised defensive screens started appearing on Russian tanks in the war’s early days. *Vice* reports the technique was first used in 2020 during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It was initially meant as a pejorative, but multiple militaries have since adopted the improvised armour. Explosives-laden drones pose a growing threat to tanks and other armoured vehicles. Relatively cheap, off-the-shelf grenade-dropping quadcopters and the self-exploding racing, or suicide, drones have knocked out hundreds of multimillion-dollar tanks on both sides of the Ukraine war. Now, Hamas is deploying them against Israel. During its Oct 7 attack, Hamas struck Israeli outposts along the 65-kilometre border wall separating the Jewish state from the Gaza Strip. Quadcopters dropped improvised explosives on four communication towers along the border and hit tanks, too. Seventy-tonne Merkava tanks, with four Israeli crew, routinely patrol the border using precise optics and 120-millimetre main guns. Hamas struck several with grenade-dropping drones, their videos depicting at least two successful strikes on what were reportedly mainstay Merkava Mark IVs. Both burned.

With the Merkava and other vehicles, it’s largely a case of simple, more primitive technology outperforming sophisticated new systems. A cope cage is designed primarily to deflect drone-dropped grenades or an explode-on-impact racing drone before it hits its target. “The problem for the Israelis, however, is that the Merkava’s new cage is a modest one: it only covers a Merkava’s turret, and leaves exposed the front of the hull and the turret bustles,” reported David Axe for *Forbes*. “The front of the hull is where the engine is. The bustles, which hang off the back of the turret, contain spare ammunition for the main gun. Both the engine and the bustles are weak spots in the Merkava’s design. It’s not for no reason that, when Hamas prepared a handbook on the Merkava’s vulnerabilities, it highlighted the bustles and the engine compartment, albeit the sides of the engine compartment.” The Merkava has relatively thick



armour on its turret roof, a lesson the IDF painfully learned during past encounters with Arab anti-tank missiles. Axe predicts future iterations of Israeli cope cages will cover the whole vehicle. With the Merkava and other vehicles, it's largely a case of simple, more primitive technology outperforming sophisticated new systems designed to defend against more advanced weapons.

The Merkava's Trophy defence system tracks incoming rocket and missile attacks, then fires a small spread of explosive projectiles to intercept the munition and detonate it before it hits the tank. "Using them against approaching drones...would need at least software and configuration changes—assuming that is doable without exceeding the number of false detections, which would result in Trophy wasting its limited ammo," Jakub Janovský, an open-source intelligence analyst, told *Vice*. Older tanks such as the T-80s and T-64s that Russia has deployed in Ukraine have inferior armour and are especially vulnerable to airborne attack. Weapons like the shoulder-fired Javelin missile have made quick work of some Russian armour.

## **Band of the 5<sup>th</sup> (BC) Field Regiment RCA - Concert of Remembrance**

Thursday, 9 Nov, 7:30 pm (see poster)

During Remembrance week, the Band of the 5<sup>th</sup> (BC) Field Regiment RCA, under the direction of Captain Dan Moses CD, is again teaming up with the "Canadian College of Performing Arts" (CCPA) on Thursday, the 9th Nov at 7:30pm at the Dave Dunnet Theatre - 2121 Cadboro Bay Road, Victoria BC - near Oak Bay High School, to present a Concert of Remembrance. Doors open at 7:00pm. Admission is by donation in support of the Military Family Resource Centre and the Canadian Heritage Arts Society.

In the first half of the concert, the band is playing music drawn from a wide range of traditional and contemporary brass-reed band music sure to please young and old alike; to be followed, after a brief intermission, by a Remembrance themed performance by the Canadian College of Performing Arts.

The concert is in part, assisted by the District of Oak Bay, with proceeds of donations at the door going in support of the Military Family Resource Centre and the Canadian Heritage Arts Society. The Dave Dunnet Theatre is a new building, has the second largest stage in the Capital Regional District, uses state of the art technology and has comfortable seats. A map of convenient parking locations is attached.

We look forward to seeing you and your friends join us for the annual Concert of Remembrance.

The Dave Dunnet Community Theatre info link is at: <http://davedunnet.ca/theatre/>  
The Band of the 5<sup>th</sup> (BC) Field Regiment RCA facebook link is at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Bandofthe5th.MusiqueDeLa5e/>

The Canadian College of Performing Arts facebook link is  
at: <https://www.facebook.com/canadiancollegeofperformingarts> and  
www link at <https://www.ccpacanada.com/concert-of-remembrance-2023/>

## Vancouver Gunners Website Update

**RCA Association AGM** - Additional Photos have been uploaded!

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/rcaa-agm-2023.html>

**BC Historical Arms Collectors Society** - The BC Historical Arms Collectors Society will be holding their bi-monthly show at Chilliwack's Evergreen Hall, 9291 Corbould Street, on Saturday 18 (9-4) and Sunday 19 (9-2) November 2023. Would you like to volunteer to sell off some of our surplus items? Buy them now, before the show! Contact [president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/quartermaster-stores.html>

**Wednesday Lunch** - Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies. Click on this link. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71810323784?pwd=ehLJDhj9zlqI0HvnBlMCYmw0p6ZDwe.1> or use <https://zoom.us/j/71810323784> or use Meeting ID 718 1032 3784 and the secret passcode is 6L6qz0 (fourth digit is a lower case Q and the last digit is a Zero)

**Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!**

## Who (or What) Is It?



**Last Week:** There was much discussion about the gun in this picture as it and the gun that replaced it (the 90mm MAA gun) look very similar. This is the **3.7-inch HAA Gun**. It was an anti-aircraft weapon introduced into the British Army in 1938 and adopted by the Canadian Army during the Second World War. The 3.7-inch Gun weighed 20,750 lbs in action; the barrel alone weighed 3,830 lbs (and was 155 inches long). The effective ceiling of the gun was 39,500 feet. This gun was photographed at the old "Firepower" Museum in Woolwich, which sadly has closed forever. After the First World War, anti-aircraft guns became a large concern of many of the world's armies. Not only had aircraft operated tactically during the war, but strategic airpower also was developed, including both dirigibles and multi-engine aircraft used to drop bombs on cities. Initial development of a 3.6-inch gun was abandoned as other ideas were pursued, and in 1928 a specification was set forth calling for a 3.7-inch gun firing a 25-pound shell. It was not until 1933, however, that a firm specification was set out, and both Vickers and Woolwich put forth competing designs in 1935. In April 1936, Vickers, who won the competition, had their pilot gun pass acceptance tests, and production guns began delivery in Jan 1938. Production continued in the UK until 1945. Initial orders with Canadian firms were placed in 1941 for the creation of 206 mobile 3.7-inch guns, and production in Canada eventually reached 300 guns a month.

The guns were technically advanced, incorporating the possibility of electric data transmission. The gun was heavy, but some initial resistance by British gunners used to the 3-inch guns in existence was soon overcome by the increased performance. Another feature of the gun was an automatic fuze setter; instead of setting each shell's time fuze (which determined the altitude at which the shell would explode) by hand, the round was dropped on to a tray, where an operating flap (called a "pig's ear" due to its shape) was depressed, then the fuze setter slid over the nose of

the shell, set the fuze, then retracted allowing the tray to move the round into place where an automatic rammer put the gun in the breech, which closed automatically.

**This Week:** We were overwhelmed with correct answers to last week's quiz, with over three responses, the most in many moons. Partially, that was because the gun shown was once in use by the Royal Regiment, from the Second World War until the mid-1950s. Thus, it was easily within the memory of over 90% of our readers, even if most had to have their nursing home caregivers do the reading for them. So, given the popularity of large, green things that make a lot of noise, we thought we'd follow up with another, similar object. This one is even more impressive, coming with its own set of wheels, and lots of bits and bobs that mark it as something quite advanced.



The drum on the breech area might be of interest to some of you, although it has nothing to do with music. Similarly, those with keen eyes, both of you, might notice a cabin-like structure on the right side of the gun. The pointy bit in front of that has nothing to do with our gun; it's just another piece of ordnance squeezed into a small space. In fact, it's a gun that was featured in our quiz a few weeks ago.

All of that, as well as the condition of the storage room, should be enough for you to guess the nationality of this beast, at the very least. We will give you extra points if you can give us its colourful name and tell us what happened to it. What was it that killed off this interesting development in the art of artillery? Turn on your thinking caps, and send your answers either to the editor, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com)), or the author, John Redmond ([johnd.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd._redmond@telus.net)). Happy Hallowe'en.

### **From the 'Punitary'**

What did one elevator say to another? I think I'm coming down with something.

### **Murphy's Other Laws**

When both sides are convinced they're about to lose, they're both right!

### **Quotable Quotes**

Humanity is acquiring all the right technology for all the wrong reasons. *R Buckminster Fuller*





**LCol Jesse van Eijk**  
 Commanding Officer  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

LCol Jesse van Eijk was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. He was raised in Mount Currie and Victoria, British Columbia as well as Regina, Saskatchewan until graduating High School. He joined the Canadian Army as an Infantry Officer in 2001 and attended the Royal Military College of Canada, graduating with a degree in mechanical engineering in 2005. Following the completion of phase training in the fall of 2005 he was badged into Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and posted briefly to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in Shilo, Manitoba before moving to Edmonton, Alberta and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in early 2006. At 1 PPCLI he had the privilege of leading 5 Platoon for three years, culminating in a deployment on Op ATHENA to Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2008. Following extra-regimental employment which included completion of the Land Force Technical Staff Program and a posting to the Infantry School he returned to 1 PPCLI in 2012. This commenced an extended period of regimental employment where he served as Second in Command of Administration Company, Operations Officer, Officer Commanding Charlie Company, Officer Commanding Administration Company, and Deputy Commanding Officer. In 2017 he deployed to Poland as commander of the Op REASSURANCE Land Task Force.

On return to Canada LCol van Eijk was posted to Toronto, Ontario to attend the Joint Command and Staff Program. In 2018 he was again posted to Edmonton, to 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters, serving as the G3 and subsequently the Chief of Staff. LCol van Eijk returned to Regimental duty as CO 2 PPCLI in 2021 and was appointed CO of the Op REASSURANCE eFP Latvia Battle Group in 2022. An avid fan of soldiering, in his leisure hours LCol van Eijk enjoys pretending he is still at work and spending time in the woods with his truck, guns, and friends.



**Major J.A.E. (Jürgen) Miranda, CD**  
 Officer Commanding Combat Service Support Company  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

Born in 1988, Major Jürgen Miranda joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 2005 as a Private with the 75<sup>th</sup> Mississauga Company, Toronto Scottish Regiment (Reserve). He later transferred to Buron Company, Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada (Reserve) in 2007 before pursuing a Component Transfer to the Regular Forces under the Regular Officer Training Program. Major Miranda attended the University of Waterloo from 2007-11 graduating with an Honours Degree in Geography and Environmental Management, with a Minor in French Studies. Upon

completion of his officer training in 2011 he was posted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), where he served as a Platoon Commander and Company 2<sup>nd</sup>-in-Command in Alpha (Mountain) Company, deploying to Southern Alberta to assist in the flood response under Operation LENTUS in 2013.

Posted to Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School in Saint-Jean, Quebec in 2015, he served as a Training Instructor and Platoon Commander, before assuming the role of Training Division 2<sup>nd</sup>-in-Command until he was posted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion PPCLI in 2018. Major Miranda initially served as 2<sup>nd</sup>-in-Command of Alpha Company before deploying to Latvia on the NATO deterrence mission, Operation REASSURANCE, as the Battle Group S1 / Adjutant in 2019. Upon return from deployment Major Miranda served as the unit Adjutant then later as 2<sup>nd</sup>-in-Command Combat Service Support (CSS) Company, supporting numerous domestic deployments within Manitoba. Promoted to his current rank in 2022, he has been privileged with commanding Bravo Company with whom he deployed to the United Kingdom under Operation UNIFIER, where he served under the British Armed Forces as the Training Element Commanding Officer for the Canadian Contingent. Upon redeployment, Major Miranda assumed his current role commanding CSS Company. Major Miranda is married with two children, who all reside in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

## **Wednesday Digital Video Lunch**

No need to worry about COVID-19 when you go digital. Pop into our video lunch **at noon** on Wednesdays and say hi. All you need is a laptop, tablet or smartphone. These sessions are being hosted by the Vancouver Artillery Association and are **open to all – especially those who attended our Wednesday lunches.**

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

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71810323784?pwd=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)



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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.

## Bay Street Armoury Museums Open House



The Regimental Museums and Archives  
of the

5th (BC) Field Regiment RCA  
and the

Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess  
Mary's)

INVITE YOU TO AN OPEN HOUSE

Artillery Displays, Recruiters on site  
Museums, Armoury Tours

1000 - 1500 hrs Saturday, November 4,  
2023

at the

Bay St Armoury 715 Bay Street (Bay at  
Blanchard)  
Victoria

Free Admission - Wheelchair Accessible



# Band of the 5<sup>th</sup> (BC) Field Regiment RCA - Concert of Remembrance



## CONCERT OF REMEMBRANCE

NOVEMBER 9, 2023 | 7:30PM | DAVE DUNNET COMMUNITY THEATRE



CANADIAN HERITAGE  
ARTS SOCIETY



Presented by

**Canadian College of Performing Arts,  
Band of the 5th (BC) Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery**  
in partnership with **the District of Oak Bay**

*Don't miss this moving evening of remembrance; a celebration of the hard earned peace we Canadians enjoy and our duty to protect it wherever we can. Let the power of music, song and poetry unite us, in a spirit of gratitude, as we honour service and nurture a future where bravery and sacrifice inspires generations to come.*

**Proceeds to support the Military Family Resource Centre  
& the Canadian Heritage Arts Society**

Pay by donation at the door | [boxoffice@ccpacanada.com](mailto:boxoffice@ccpacanada.com) | 250-595-9970 ext.104



Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



[ccpacanada.com](http://ccpacanada.com)

[tickets.ccpacanada.com](https://tickets.ccpacanada.com)

[boxoffice@ccpacanada.com](mailto:boxoffice@ccpacanada.com)

1701 Elgin Rd, Victoria BC V8R 5L7

[@CanadianCollegePerformingArts](https://www.instagram.com/CanadianCollegePerformingArts)



## **Royal Canadian Armoured Corps (Cavalry)**

### **(The Left Coast Lancers)**

# **Battle of Leliefontein Luncheon 16 November 2023**

**You and your guests are most cordially invited to attend the  
annual Leliefontein Luncheon to commemorate  
the Royal Canadian Dragoon's battle in South Africa on 7 November 1900**

**The Luncheon will commence at 1115hrs and conclude at  
approximately 1400hrs to meet ferry schedules.**

**All Left Coast Lancers, Black Hats and Supporting Arms Welcome**

**At  
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club  
1949 Marina Way  
North Saanich, British Columbia, Canada**

**Dress**  
Suggested - jacket and tie  
Mask, Vaccinations

**Tariff**  
\$40.00 (TBC)

**RSVP**  
David Scandrett - [Tango14@outlook.com](mailto:Tango14@outlook.com)



# 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:15rca100th@gmail.com)  
Credit card payment is also acceptable at the door.

RSVP by 22 November, 2023 to  
[15fdofficersmess@gmail.com](mailto: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).



# 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour

*The  
Royal Canadian Artillery  
Association*



*L'Association de  
l'Artillerie royale  
canadienne*

13 October 2023

## **RE: 80<sup>th</sup> 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 80<sup>th</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> 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*



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### **Concept and Scope**

- Conduct a ten-day battlefield study immediately prior to and during the 80<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> of October by notifying Major (R) Richard Gratton at [rgratton1534@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:rgratton1534@gmail.com).

Ubique!

*Bill Kalogerakis*

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

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Brampton, Ont. L6S 5Y6*



## Fort Fraser Garrison

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

# *Feast of St. Andrew*

## **Mess Dinner**

**Saturday, 30 November, 2023**  
in the Officers' Mess,  
15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC  
1800 for 1900hrs  
RSVP by Tuesday, 21 November  
to [jobarb100@gmail.com](mailto:jobarb100@gmail.com)

*Proceeds of our Christmas Bottle Raffle will go to support the Union Gospel Mission's food program.*



The traditional turkey dinner will be provided.

Tariff: \$80.00 per person. \*RSVP requested [<jobarb100@gmail.com>](mailto:jobarb100@gmail.com) or 604-522-5766

Dress: Highland Evening Dress,  
Mess Kit or Business Attire.  
Ladies equivalent.

**Yours Aye,**

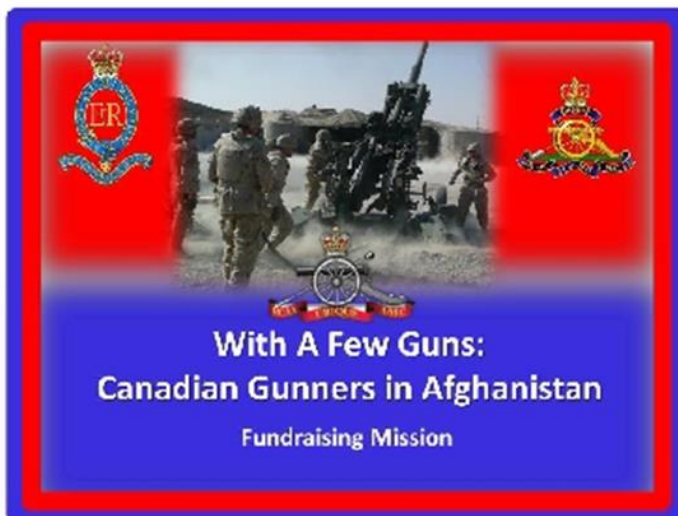
James Barrett CD, Major  
Officer Commanding the Garrison





## 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](mailto: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 50<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

