

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News - 14 Nov 2023

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com to let me know you didn't get your copy.

Newsletter online. This newsletter and previous editions are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>. Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars

Commemoration Cyprus 2024 – see poster section

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

- Nov 15** Wed ‘Zoom’ lunch meeting.
- Nov 16** Left Coast Lancers - Battle of Leliefontein Luncheon
- Nov 22** Mess Lunch and presentation – History of the VPD.
Wed ‘Zoom’ lunch meeting.
- Nov 25** Fraser Highlanders, Fort Fraser Garrison, Feast of St Andrew Dinner
- Dec 02** **15 Fd Offrs Mess St Barbaras’s Day Dinner**
- Dec 10** **Commanding Officer’s Christmas Tea**

Lunch and Speaker

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

Menu
Wednesday, Nov 22

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

Reservations required by 15 Nov

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

RUSI Presentation in lecture room following lunch.

Nov 22

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

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

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

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

E-transfer may be made to: 15rca100th@gmail.com

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

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

Lunch and Speaker 9 November 2023

Ted Hawthorne BCR Regimental Secretary 10 Nov 2023



Happy diners

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."

(L-R) Maj Jürgen Miranda, Col(Ret'd) Keith Maxwell, HLCol(15 Fd) Don Foster, HLCol(39 Svc Bn) Alexa Loo, LCol Jesse van Eijk, fmr HCol (BCR) Ted Hawthorne.



An informative Q & A followed to conclude the detailed presentation on a very important and timely subject. Thanks to Captain Jamie Blois of the Regional Public Affairs Office for making this top-notch presentation possible.



Keith Maxwell introducing the presenters in the lecture room.

The presentation was preceded by a luncheon (roast chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, salad, buns, cake for dessert, tea and coffee)...another sell out!! Congratulations to 15 Fd Regimental Society for another excellent lunch and RUSI Vancouver for another excellent presentation in their

highly popular “Speakers Series”.

DND Receives Largest Cut in First Wave of Federal Spending Review

Bill Curry Deputy Ottawa Bureau Chief Globe & Mail 9 Nov 2023



Canadian troops of NATO enhanced Forward Presence battle group attend meeting with Canadian Defence Minister Anita Anand in Adazi, Latvia, on Feb. 3, 2022. The \$500-million spending reduction for this year matches the target set in the March federal budget, with the Department of National Defence responsible for 42 per cent of that amount.

INTS KALNINS/REUTERS

Treasury Board President Anita Anand released the first wave of promised federal spending reductions Thursday, and National Defence, her former department, will receive the largest cut. Spending documents tabled in Parliament show that of a \$500-million reduction this fiscal year from previous spending plans, the Department of National Defence is responsible for \$211.1-million, or 42 per cent of that amount. The \$500-million for this year matches the target set in the March federal budget, which laid out a plan to shave \$15.4-billion from existing spending plans over five years. The spending reductions must come from department budgets allocated for travel and outsourcing on consulting and other professional services. In an interview, Ms Anand said she is committed to reducing the government’s use of outsourcing and the policy will not impact the operations of the Canadian Forces. “We aren’t reducing the spending on our armed forces operations. This is asking government departments to look at their budgets and see where there is unnecessary spending,” she said, adding that the \$211 million will come from travel and outsourcing in the department. Ms Anand was procurement minister during the early days of the pandemic and then minister of National Defence from October, 2021, until this summer’s cabinet shuffle. “Since I have been in this seat, I have done whatever I can to reduce discretionary spending,” she said.

After National Defence, the second-largest reduction is at the Department of Public Works, which must find \$34.5 million in savings. Foreign Affairs is third at \$27.6 million, followed by \$25.7 million at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and \$20.4 million for Citizenship and Immigration. The budget plan said the target for reductions in those categories will increase to \$1.65-billion next year and the three following years. It also said savings would be found at Crown corporations and through realigning previously announced spending. Bill Matthews, the deputy minister of National Defence, told the Commons defence committee in September that the department is expected to find about \$900-million in savings over four years. Chief of Defence Staff Wayne Eyre raised concerns about the process during that same meeting. “There’s no way that you can take almost a billion dollars out of the defence budget and not have an impact, so this is something that we’re wrestling with now,” he told MPs. A budget provides a high level outline of planned federal spending. The government also presents documents called spending estimates that contain the detailed funding amounts for each department. These reports must be approved by Parliament.

The details announced Thursday are contained in supplementary estimates for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Altogether, the estimates represent \$479.4 billion in total budgetary spending for 2023-24. The budget said total spending for this fiscal year would be \$490.5 billion. However, it is possible that the government will table another round of supplementary estimates before the end of the fiscal year. The biggest source of new spending in Thursday’s document is \$9 billion for the Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs. That amount includes \$5 billion in funding for the Restoule settlement agreement with 21 First Nations in Ontario. The spending review exercise has been criticized by some economists, such as Queen’s University adjunct professor Don Drummond, as “accounting sleight of hand.” The criticism is that the reductions are not in comparison to the previous year’s spending, but rather a reduction from planned future spending. Even as Thursday’s document shows reductions in outsourcing, it also includes \$1.2 billion in new spending in that category above what had previously been presented to Parliament. Ms Anand said that is for “non-discretionary” spending, such as engineering costs. Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland announced Thursday that she will release the government’s fall economic and fiscal update on Tuesday, Nov 21. Ms Freeland’s 2023 budget said the continuing spending review “will focus on targeting these reductions on professional services, particularly management consulting.”

The budget also said reductions would not impact direct benefits and service delivery to Canadians, direct transfers to other orders of government and Indigenous communities, and the Canadian Armed Forces. Conservative MP Kelly McCauley questioned the focus on defence. “It’s incomprehensible that the Liberals are further cutting defence spending at a time when our forces are already hobbled by a combination of incompetent Liberal defence procurement and cuts,” he said. Documents recently tabled in Parliament show Ottawa hired KPMG consultants at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars for advice on how to save money on consultants. Specifically, the Department of Natural Resources approved \$669,650 for KPMG to provide managing consulting advice as part of its contribution to the government wide spending review effort. Thursday’s report shows the Department of Natural Resources will cut \$8.7 million from this year’s budget for travel and outsourcing.

Official March Unveiled for Canadian Rangers

composed by RCA Band musician. June 13, 2022



To honour the Canadian Rangers and celebrate their 75th anniversary, the Canadian Army has approved an official march for the Canadian Ranger Corps, which was unveiled on May 23, 2022. Photo: By Canadian Ranger Lindsay Chung, 4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group. ©2022 DND/MDN Canada..

“Vigilans,” which is Latin for “The Watchers,” is the motto of the Canadian Rangers, and this year, as the Canadian Rangers celebrate their 75th anniversary,

it has also become the name of their official march. Master Bombadier (MBdr) Julien Simard, Second In Command Operations of the Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) Band, composed the march after winning an internal competition. “Essentially, what happens sometimes is the Music Branch of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) will be approached by the Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH) with a request for new music to be written,” he explained. “In this case, the Canadian Rangers requested a new march for the corps, so DHH will then send out a request to all the Commanding Officers (COs) of the bands asking for volunteers to write this march. If composers are interested, it then becomes an internal competition.”

MBdr Simard, who has been composing since he was in high school, had done a similar competition in 2018 when the RCA Band was asked to provide a march for the 3rd Canadian Division Support Group formation, and his march, “Westward Winds,” won that contest. For this march, MBdr Simard was very motivated, and he wrote the first draft in just two weeks. “Essentially what happens when I start composing and start writing is that I’ll start thinking about melodies,” he said. “I really try to stay with things that are whistleable or singable because when I think of a march, I think of the old-style World War I, World War II marches where they have a super simple melody and then the soldiers would end up writing their own lyrics to it and sing it for morale. I don’t have lyrics for these marches; I think of a simple melody that I can then create something out of it.” Once the draft is done, MBdr Simard will spend another week or so formatting the music so it’s legible for the musicians. “It’s almost like writing a novel, I think – well I’m not an author so I guess I can’t speak for them, but I feel like when they’re on a roll, they have a frame for their novel ... and with writing a march and writing music, you have to sort of also fit within that frame,” he said. “Marches have a typical format that you follow, so it’s going to be like the first phrase, second phrase; the first phrase will sometimes repeat; in this case, I didn’t. Sometimes, there is an introduction; sometimes there are little bridges here and there. There’s always a second part to a march that’s called the trio, where it modulates and changes it up a little bit, changes the feeling.” MBdr Simard says he had no prior experience with the Canadian Rangers, so he read about what the Canadian Rangers do and tried to incorporate it into the march. “The beginning starts off in kind of a minor feeling, almost dark, because one of the

definitions I see from the Canadian Rangers is working in remote or secluded areas of the country, and that often can make you feel excited but scared, but also being at one with the nature that's around you," he said. "In the trio, I completely change the mood, and I make it more of a major mood to lighten up the march. That's when I added another simple melody, something you can sing about, because I also think of the Canadian Rangers as people who work in teams and do things together, kind of having that unit cohesion, so I have a melody that has more of like a Western feel meets a Highlands Scottish feel, once again something that connects to the wilderness. In that trio section, I added a little bridge that was more of a call and response, which not only serves well musically, but it also represents the call and response of the wilderness."

MBdr Julien Simard, Second In Command Operations of the Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) Band, had his composition chosen as the official Canadian Ranger march after winning an internal competition.

Photo: Submitted. ©2022 DND/MDN Canada.



4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (4 CRPG)'s Honorary Lieutenant Colonel (HLCol), Major General (Retired) Ed Fitch, spearheaded this initiative. HLCol Fitch knows how important marches are to military units, and he is excited for the Canadian Rangers to now have their own march. "People who aren't into music or don't know anything about music, they don't always realize how powerful it is," he said. "Music goes back to ancient times, it has been used to direct the unit in the field, but it evolved into identifying the unit wherever they are, and in modern times, particularly while marching, each unit is identified by its march." In the Regular Force and the Primary Reserves, every unit has its own march past, which is the music that is played when the unit is formed up and marching past a saluting base with a dignitary or special guest, explained HLCol Fitch, adding a unit's march is also played when the unit is recognized during formal Mess Dinners. HLCol Fitch says it is not well known, but the Canadian Rangers are a Corps of the Army, although the Corps of the Canadian Rangers fell out of use. In the last 10 or 20 years, the Canadian Army has been reviving the use of the term Corps, he explained. "We're expecting as part of the 75th anniversary, we'll bring back into use the title of the Corps of Canadian Rangers, and along with that, if you have a Corps, what is the march past for that Corps – they need music," he said.

HLCol Fitch recalls it was soon after he became 4 CRPG's Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in 2019 that he asked what the Canadian Rangers' march past was. "People sort of looked at me like I had two more heads," he said. "With Canadian Rangers, there's so much business, there is hardly any time for ceremony and you don't usually see Canadian Rangers on a parade square all spit and polished. I figure that's a good thing because units that are really good on parade squares, they're probably not that good on the land. But the idea caught on." Last year, a survey was created asking Canadian Rangers to share words that describe the Canadian Rangers. HLCol Fitch met an honorary Canadian Ranger from Ontario who is a composer and author, and she took those words and created a march for the Rangers, although it didn't end up being the official

march. “This was deep in COVID-19 at this point, and there were no bands actually sitting together playing music, so we got a computer to play her music, and we recorded it and sent it out to the COs and said 'how about this for a march,’” said HLCol Fitch. “They said 'we like the idea of a march' – the COs all come from the Canadian Army where they know about unit identity and the power of music and music as an identifier for a unit. They said 'we like the idea of having a march, but we don't want one just kind of pushed on us, so it has to be a competition.’” So the Canadian Rangers approached the DHH, and through that process, the COs of all five Canadian Ranger Patrol Groups across Canada listened to a selection of marches composed by CAF musicians, including MBdr Simard's march, and together chose a favourite, explained HLCol Fitch.

HLCol Fitch hopes this march will help Canadian Rangers feel connected to each other and to the Canadian Army. “The Commander of the Canadian Army has been pushing this down for years that we are One Army,” he said. “That's a very powerful concept, and I hope to see Canadian Rangers take their place in that Army. There are 5,000 Rangers, so that's got to be one of the biggest Corps in the Army. It's a big deal.” It means a lot to MBdr Simard to have composed the march that will be played at parades and events for the Canadian Rangers from this point on and for the RCA Band to have played and recorded the march. “The fact that it's going to be forever etched in CAF's history and in this case in the Canadian Rangers' history is just almost overwhelming, knowing that there are pieces of music that we play from hundreds of years ago that the bands hundreds of years ago would have been playing for their units, now this is something that 100 years from now is also going to be one of those things,” he said. “It's an overwhelming feeling that I never thought I'd be able to do. I'm lucky to be surrounded by musicians who can play the performances and then see what the thoughts and ideas in my head sound like in real life, and to be able to get feedback from them as well. I'm always going to be honoured to have my name attached to the Canadian Rangers.”

New Sleeping System Covers All the Bases

from Iraq to the Arctic

Steven Fouchard, Canadian Army Public Affairs February 28, 2023



The new Multi-Purpose Sleeping Bag System (SSCP) allows Canadian Army troops to stay warm and comfortable in a wide range of environments, from deserts to the Arctic.

They may not be the first thing that comes to mind when we think about a modern military force, but sleeping bags are vital equipment, and the Canadian Army (CA) is introducing a new type that will keep

soldiers warm and healthy in all kinds of weather. The General Purpose Sleeping Bag System (GPSBS) is replacing its Cold War era predecessor, known as the Sleeping System Outfit, Extreme Cold Weather (SSOECW). “The SSOECW is a down and feather bag,” explained Alexandre Legault, a member of the GPSBS project team. “It actually had some really good, interesting design characteristics but we really needed to modernize.” As the old system’s name suggests, it was more than suitable for the cold. The GPSBS, explained Mr. Legault, is suited to a much wider range of conditions. “The down bags are great for the cold winters here but we’re not always in Canada,” he said. “We’re all over the planet. Not every theatre or operational environment is in Northern Alberta.” While the GPSBS is already quite versatile, Mr Legault noted, further enhancements are being explored, including an add-on component for extreme cold. “It’s about making sure we have everything the soldier needs to be able to perform in Iraq in the summer all the way to the high Arctic in the winter.”

The lightweight GPSBS, which includes synthetic insulation in place of down, covers all those bases with a design that essentially offers the user three configurations in one package. “You have the outer insulating bag, which is a warmer weather bag,” said Mr. Legault. “It’s for really hot, humid climates. It’ll keep you warm when the temperature starts to dip later in the night because the GPSBS synthetic insulation retains more warmth than down when wet, and also dries faster.” “The inner bag is a little beefier,” he added. “It’s more suitable for below zero. We’ve all seen that winter weather where you still have slush on the ground even though it’s below freezing. It’s able to handle getting some of that moisture in it. And then you can use the two together for the coldest conditions.” Warrant Officer Duane Gyuricska another member of the GPSBS project team, explained just how dangerous a wet sleeping bag can be. “Down does not perform when it’s wet,” he said. “And it becomes a safety issue, really. You can get hypothermia in the dead of summer if you’re wet. I’ve seen it; you can have a 35-degree day but at night you get wet and you’re cold and hypothermia kicks in.”

That high level of moisture resistance is also important for those times when soldiers have to move quickly. “Something might happen,” said WO Gyuricska, “and you have to pack up quick. So everything just gets stuffed into a bag and away you go. There isn’t always going to be time to air out and clean your kit. That’s just the way it is. This bag will bounce back better from that.” That said, project team member Captain Jun Bae added that it’s important for users to maintain their bags when not in the field. “When we come back, we should be taking the bag out, making sure it’s dry and in good condition before we put it back in the sack,” he said. “People are tired and they’re just going to shove their entire valise that now has this very moist sleeping bag into their lockers. And they forget about it until the next exercise.” “This equipment is good for us. It’s modernized, it works. But only if you take care of it.” Improvements were made to the GPSBS version now being fielded in response to early user feedback. “We were able to interrupt some things that weren’t as functional as we would have liked and improve on them,” said Mr. Legault. “Several of the parts are second generation.” “And we’re going to take a bigger round of feedback this year,” he added. “We did a bit of an alpha release and now we have more people using it to support that process; we’re doing a bigger rollout and taking their feedback. When we were in recently, we heard good things.

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

We've been negligent in our updating of the promotion list and Honours and Awards! Congratulations to the following:

Promoted to the following ranks

Captain Jiyeon Lee	Master Bombardier Guan	Master Bombardier La Haye
Master Bombardier Cavanagh	Master Bombardier Alikhani	Master Bombardier Findlay
Bombardier Cornelis	Bombardier Haussmann	

Commissioned

Lieutenant ESH Wong

Qualified Gunner

Gunner Blacklock	Gunner Fazl	Gunner Mohanathas
Gunner Myung	Gunner Young	Gunner Ho
Gunner Lassen		

Awarded Canadian Forces Decoration

Master Bombardier Alikhani CD	Sergeant Sumpton CD	Master Bombardier CM Wong CD
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Awarded Bar to the Canadian Forces Decoration

Master Bombardier Gal CD	Bombardier Veenstra CD	Bombardier Fujii CD
Lieutenant ESH Wong CD		

Remembrance Day 2023

The guns were back at Hallelujah Point in Stanley Park for the 21 gun salute to commemorate the fallen. Some of our retired Gunners were in the Aldergrove parade. Thanks to Ralph Webb for some great photos. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/remembrance-day-20232217055>
Have you got any that you would like to share? Send them to president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

Christmas Tea

Mark your calendar for 10 December at 1400 hrs!

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

BC Cemeteries

A list of BC Cemeteries where Gunners are buried can be found here.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/remembrance-day-2023>

Military Medal

Another Military Medal was awarded to a member of the 31st Battery in World War 1.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/military-medal3878873>

Lest We Forget - Corporal Alfred (Fred) Gaston Gaspard MM

Another story of a Military Medal winner. Corporal Gaston only had a slight connection to our Regiment but his story is certainly interesting!

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/lest-we-forget-corporal-alfred-fred-gaston-gaspard-mm>

Wednesday Lunch

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

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71810323784?pwd=ehLJDhj9zIqI0HvnBlMlMCYmw0p6ZDwe.1> or

use <https://zoom.us/j/71810323784> or use Meeting ID 718 1032 3784 and the secret passcode is 6L6qz0 (fourth digit is a lower case Q and the last digit is a Zero)

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: The SNCAC NC.1070 was a piston engined attack and torpedo bomber designed



and built in France shortly after World War II. The second prototype, the NC1071, was the first French multi-jet turbine powered aircraft. The NC.1071 made its first flight on 12 October 1948. It suffered damage to its undercarriage on 27 April 1949, flew again in 1950 and was modified the following May after significant structural distortion appeared in flight. Though both an all weather fighter variant

(NC.1072) and an attack bomber (NC.1073) were considered, they were not built and development was abandoned at the end of NC.1071's flight tests.

This Week: Our quest for obscurity continues with a foray into the world of armoured fighting vehicles. About a generation ago, a noted member of the Canadian Army declared that the role of tanks within the armed forces was at an end, and that their task could be done more easily (code for “cheaper”) with the US Army Stryker family of armoured thingies. Sadly, events in Afghanistan proved him wrong, and we are again a nation fielding main battle tanks. Nonetheless, events in the unfortunate military operation by Russia in Ukraine have shown that modern anti-tank weapons, from lowly suicide drones to sophisticated top-penetrating missiles are often a match for heavily armoured tanks. Witness the endless videos on YouTube and other platforms of mostly Russian vehicles losing their turrets. Thus it goes, tit for tat, and thus it has always been, and probably always will be. We all know that the very first tank, Willie, was spared the

ordeal of war by virtue of its being purely experimental, leaving the badge of first in action to the Mark I tank. Or, is that true? Recently, there have been claims that other nations, from Austria to Australia, were the first to field, or at least build a tank.



Can that be so? Well, this week's photo shows a vehicle that looks very much like an early tank. It even has a turret, something the first British tanks lacked. The quality of the photo doesn't help much, but can you identify this supposed pioneer of panzers? If so, send your guesses to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Tanks.

From the 'Punitary'

Teacher: "What does it mean when the smoke alarm goes off?"

Student: "In my house, it means dinner is ready."

Murphy's Other Laws

The only constant in the universe is time until it's slowed down by bureaucracy.

Quotable Quotes

A life spent making mistakes is not only more honourable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing. - *George Bernard Shaw*

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=ehLJDhj9zqlqI0HvnBlMCYmw0p6ZDwe.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.

Lunch and speaker – Nov 22.

Rising From the Ashes: The History of the VPD



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

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

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



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



Feast of St. Andrew- 25 Nov 2023



Fort Fraser Garrison

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

Feast of St. Andrew

Mess Dinner

Saturday, 25 November, 2023

in the Officers' Mess, 15th Field Regiment RCA

2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

1800hrs for 1900

RSVP by Tuesday, 21 November to

jobarb100@gmail.com

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



The traditional turkey dinner will be provided.

Tariff: \$80.00 per person. *RSVP requested jobarb100@gmail.com 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



CO's Christmas Tea 2023

YOU ARE INVITED!

COMMANDING OFFICER'S TEA

December 10, 2023

2 pm to 4 pm

Bessborough Armoury
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver BC V6J 2C7

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

St Barbara's Day 2023



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

request the pleasure of your company
at their annual

ST BARBARA'S DAY
SPECIAL GUEST NIGHT

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

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

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

Tariff. \$135 - Pre-payment is preferred: e-transfer to
[*15rca100th@gmail.com*](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).

80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour

*The
Royal Canadian Artillery
Association*



*L'Association de
l'Artillerie royale
canadienne*

13 October 2023

RE: 80th Anniversary Liberation of Holland Commemorative Battlefield Tour, May 2025

Dear Sirs, Commanding Officers, et al

I am writing this letter to solicit your interest in participating in a May 2025 Battlefield tour to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Holland. The organisation of a trip of this magnitude involves a lot of time and resources and we, at the RCAA, would like to ensure that we have sufficient interest from all the units across the country before we start planning. For those of you that participated in the last significant commemoration, the 75th Anniversary of D-Day in 2019, we would like to build on it's success and use the lessons learned to make this trip better.

Why

- The 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland will be a major event – the very last major event while veterans of the Second World War are still with us. These commemorative events in Holland every fifth year are always a big deal – but this one will be special.
- The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery played a major role in the Second World War, especially in the Liberation of Holland.
- Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) will be the lead Department for Canada in official ceremonies, and the Department of National Defence (DND) will support the VAC efforts (typically a multi-service Guard, Band, Logistics support, Security, VIPs, airlift, etc.). Elements of the Gunner community will most certainly be involved in the VAC-led events, but so will all elements of the CAF be represented.
- Separate from the "official" GOC activities, many Branches/Corps, Regiments, Associations, and travel companies will be organizing commemorative trips to participate in the 80th Anniversary of Liberation of Holland.

Mission

- To enhance cohesion, morale, and esprit de corps of the Royal Regiment by commemorating and celebrating the accomplishments of our predecessors during the Liberation of Holland 1945.

Rationale

- Remember and commemorate those Gunners who served in WWII, and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.
- Build cohesion and morale amongst serving members, Regular Force and Reserve.
- Connect the serving generation of the RCA with retired members
- Support and reinforce the goals and objectives of the RCA Association.
- Supplement the professional development of serving members.
- Re-learn lessons of the Artillery at war in a theatre of operations in North-West Europe.

*Administration
27048 35B Avenue
Langley, B.C. V4W 0C3*

*Au service des artilleurs canadiens depuis 1876
Serving Canadian Gunners Since 1876*

*Finance
10 Lancewood Crescent
Brampton, Ont. L6S 5Y6*

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Concept and Scope

- Conduct a ten-day battlefield study immediately prior to and during the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands.
- Aim for 30 to 40 deserving Non-Commissioned Members and Junior Officers representing every Regular Force and Reserve Artillery unit, who will be sponsored through raised donations.
- Invite other serving, retired Gunners and their families, Association members and others, who will pay their own way.
- Aim for two bus loads of participants (80-90 pax).
- Engage a professional company that specializes in battlefield studies, with professional historians.
- Arrange all travel activities (flights, land travel, hotels, meals, insurance, etc.) through a professional travel agency.
- Conduct with the assistance of the RCAA, a major Non-Public fundraising campaign at national, local, and unit level to raise approximately \$6,000-6,500 per person. Ideally each participating member should contribute \$500 towards the trip.
- Identify a point of Contact per unit that will engage with the national organising committee.

Conclusion

The RCAA want to ensure the participation of serving gunners and we are willing to put the time and resources however, this trip cannot happen without your support and commitment. Please advise us of your interest in supporting and participating in this trip by the 31st of October by notifying Major (R) Richard Gratton at rgratton1534@gmail.com.

Following the returns, timelines and more information will be coming your way. If you have any questions, please also contact Maj (Ret'd) Richard Gratton at rgratton1534@gmail.com.

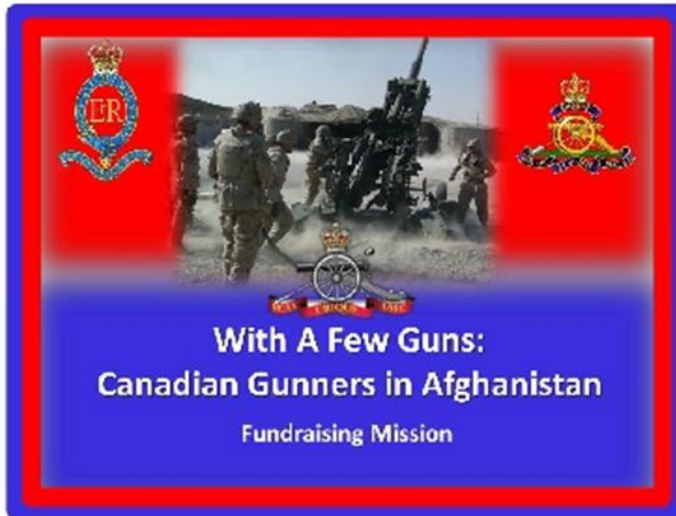
Ubique!

Bill Kalogerakis

B. (Bill) Kalogerakis, CD
Colonel (Ret'd)
President
The Royal Canadian Artillery Association
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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



Commemoration 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](#)

