

## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News – 16 April 2024

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 – see poster section for details.

### Commemoration Cyprus 2024

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

- Apr 17** Wednesday Zoom -**No meeting.** Open house prep at Armoury  
**Apr 20** The 2024 BC Military Gala  
15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, RCA Open House  
**Apr 24** Wednesday Zoom lunch meeting  
**May 01** **RUSI Vancouver AGM** Live meeting in lecture room at 1100hrs  
**Lunch and speaker 1200hrs**  
**Jun 06** Screenings of *Gino - A Child of War*

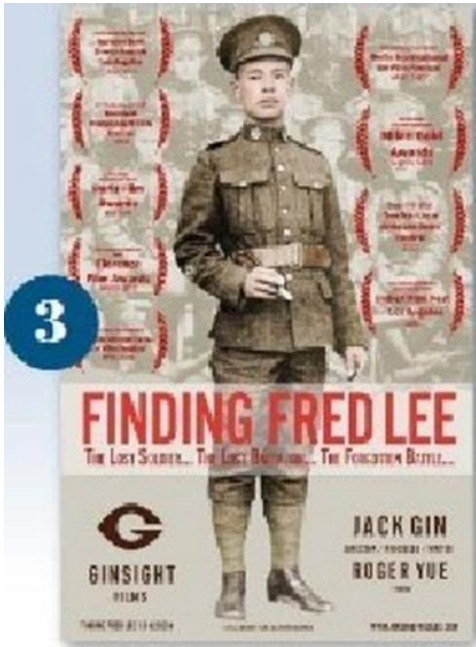
## 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, RCA Open House - April 20, 2024

2025 W 11th Ave, Vancouver, BC, Canada, British Columbia V6J2C7

On April 20, 2024, 15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, RCA will be hosting an open house at Bessborough Armoury! Armoury will be open to the public from **1000 - 1400 hrs.** **Everyone welcome.** Displays of all things Arty - Command Post, FOO operations, etc. The Museum will be open for touring and will display their vehicle and weapons collection on the parade square and outside.

## Next Wednesday Lunch and Speaker – 1 May 2024

Please join us on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> to welcome our guest speaker, Lunch starts at 1200hrs, and the presentation will take place in the lecture room at 1330hrs.



We don't have menu details yet, but our featured speaker will be Jack Gin (showing his documentary about a WWI soldier named Fred Lee). Jack was astonished to learn that a Chinese Canadian kid named Fred Lee volunteered to fight for Canada during the first World War. "As a child who grew up in Canada and educated here, we never heard these stories"; says Jack. So, the engineer and entrepreneur went in search of Fred's story, and he created an award-winning documentary in the process.

*Finding Fred Lee* is told through Gins eyes as he journeys to Lee's hometown of Kamloops to uncover traces of this forgotten son. Lee was an honour roll student and the son of a pioneer businessman. He signed up with the Rocky Mountain Rangers at a time when Chinese Canadians couldn't vote. Most could not hold a traditional job. He left town on the CPR—the railway that his father supplied with timbers and that thousands of Chinese men helped build. Lee survived Vimy with the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion but was killed during the battle for Hill 70. The hill was captured but 1,877 Canadians lost their lives. His remains were never found.

The documentary takes viewers to a recently commemorated Hill 70 Memorial Park at Lens, France. A walkway emblazoned with maple leaves, named after Fred Lee, who is remembered on a panel dedicated to him. Jack Gin located Fred Lee's nephew, and the search continues for other family members. The film has screened in Kamloops, at the Canadian War Museum, and at the Asian Film Festival in Vancouver, and it has won the best short documentary award at the International Art Festival in Berlin. Private Fred Lee is no longer forgotten,

Cost is \$35 per person. Reservations and payment in advance are required. Those wishing to attend must RSVP HLCol Don Foster @ [dgfoster60@gmail.com](mailto:dgfoster60@gmail.com) **Prepayment for lunch tickets required by 26 April.** E-transfer may be made to: [15rca100th@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:dgfoster60@gmail.com) or Colonel (Retired) Keith Maxwell at (604) 865-0612 or [kdmawell@gmail.com](mailto:kdmawell@gmail.com)

Menu
Caprese spinach salad with balsamic reduction
Pork Milanese with lemon garlic sauce
Herbed mashed potatoes
Roasted vegetable medley
Assorted dessert squares
Coffee and Tea
<b>Reservations required by 26 April</b>

## **Screenings of Gino - A Child of War**

**GREATER VANCOUVER PREMIERE: Il Centro Italian Cultural Centre 'Screening of 'Gino: A Child of War 2:00 pm' FOR CADETS, CADET FAMILIES, SENIORS AND CIC/MILITARY MEMBERS on JUNE 2, 2024**

This is a heartwarming, family friendly true story to please all audiences. We have organized a special **AFTERNOON MATINEE** for a reduced price of **\$16.00 for Cadets, Cadet families, Seniors, and CIC/MILITARY Members**, I would very much hope that the Associations who support cadet corps would consider sponsoring some tickets for their local cadet corps, with tickets also available for interested families to attend as well.

\* Partial Ticket proceeds in Support of the Army Cadet League of Canada and Canadian Youth!!

Tickets are limited so get them early, so you won't be disappointed. The Premieres in other cities have been SOLD OUT well in advance of the screening so get yours today.

*Gino: A Child of War 2 min trailer:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCTi9C5jWvM>

FOR AFTERNOON SCREENING - cut and paste this link:-

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/gino-a-child-of-war-tickets-866984392657?aff=oddtcreator>

### **For more information and Tickets:**

Cathy Bach, National President

Army Cadet League of Canada 778-995-2306

**For tickets sold in a block (10 or more)** we would prefer an etranfer directly to Karen Storwick. That way we don't pay the Eventbrite ticket fee and the donation to the ACLC will be greater!!! Karen will then produce 'a ticket' and send it to me. I will have them printed and delivered either in person or by mail to you. This is the email info to use for etranfer to Karen directly for block purchases.

Karen Storwick [karenstorwick@combinedforces.ca](mailto:karenstorwick@combinedforces.ca) (403) 478-0435

**Evening Showing** - An evening showing has also been arranged, an '**adult only**' showing including a reception after. Doors open at 6:30 for 7:00 show. Tickets \$27.50.

Dress - Business Casual. \* Partial Ticket proceeds in Support of the Army Cadet League of Canada and Canadian Youth!! At Il Centro Italian Cultural Centre, 3075 Slocan Street, Vancouver, BC.

*Gino: A Child of War 2 min trailer:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCTi9C5jWvM>

FOR EVENING SCREENING - cut and paste this link:-

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/gino-a-child-of-war-tickets-866984392657?aff=oddtcreator>

Or contact Karen Storwick 403-478-0435

See news story: <https://globalnews.ca/video/10029175/calgary-made-film-tells-story-of-soldiers-who-rescued-orphan-in-second-world-war-in-italy>

**See Poster in poster section.**

## **MND Introduces Legislation to Modernize Military Justice System**

The Minister of National Defence introduced legislation in an effort to modernize the military justice system and advance cultural change. *Canadian Military Family Magazine April 2024*



*Minister of National Defence  
visiting National Defence  
Headquarters on August 1, 2023.  
Image courtesy of MND Twitter.*

On March 21, 2024, Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence, introduced legislation to amend the National Defence Act (NDA), proposing targeted changes to modernize the military justice system. The proposed amendment addresses eight recommendations: 2, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, and 16 from former Supreme Court Justice Fish’s Third Independent Review of the National Defence Act report in 2020. The amendments also address recommendations made in independent and external reviews by former Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour. “Members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) are always there to keep Canada safe – and it is also our obligation to keep them safe from harassment and misconduct. This landmark legislation would transform military justice in Canada and address external recommendations received by former Supreme Court of Canada Justices Arbour and Fish. Through these measures and our ongoing efforts, we will build a diverse, inclusive, and supportive institution that can attract and retain talented people across our country,” said Blair in a press release.

*Madam Justice Louise Arbour.*

*Image courtesy of Madam Justice Louise Arbour.*

Addressing Justice Arbour’s Independent External Comprehensive Review Recommendation 5, the proposed legislation would definitively remove the CAF’s jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute Criminal Code sexual offences committed in Canada. The proposed legislation would provide exclusive jurisdiction to civilian authorities to investigate and prosecute such offences committed in Canada. “The introduction of this legislation reflects our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of accountability and fairness, crucial for the integrity of the military justice system. By modernizing our processes, we’re strengthening the fundamental foundation of trust and confidence, which is indispensable for fostering discipline, efficiency, and morale within the CAF,” said General Wayne Eyre, Chief of the Defence Staff. The legislation also seeks to expand the eligibility criteria for military judges to include non-



commissioned members, which the press release noted “would help diversify the pool of potential candidates.” “The amendments aim to bolster the trust and confidence of Canadians in the military justice system,” stated the press release.

Along with the amendments mentioned above, the proposed legislation seeks to amend the NDA further by:

- Excluding military judges from the summary hearing system and expanding access to Victim Liaison Officers, under the Declaration of Victims Rights, to individuals acting on behalf of a victim.
- Aligning sex offender information and publication ban provisions with the amendments made to the Criminal Code in An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Sex Offender Information Registration Act and the International Transfer of Offenders Act. The amendments are necessary to ensure the military justice system remains constitutional and aligned with the Criminal Code and the civilian criminal justice system.

Section 273.601 of the NDA requires the Minister of National Defence to generate an Independent Review of specified provisions of the Act and its operation and present a report of the review to Parliament. The First Independent Review was by the late Right Honourable Antonio Lamer, retired Chief Justice of Canada (report tabled in 2003), and the Second Independent Review was by the Honourable Patrick LeSage, retired Chief Justice of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (report tabled in 2012). The proposed amendment addresses eight recommendations: 2, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, and 16 from former Supreme Court Justice Fish’s Third Independent Review of the National Defence Act report in 2020.

On November 5, 2020, Harjit S Sajjan, then Minister of National Defence, appointed former Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada Morris J Fish, as the Independent Review Authority (IRA) to conduct an Independent Review of specified provisions of the NDA, including those related to military justice, military policing and police oversight, military grievances and external review of grievances. The report contained 107 recommendations, most of which dealt with the military justice system, including how issues of sexual misconduct are addressed, military policing, and police oversight—the remainder of the recommendations concerned military grievances and the external review of grievances.

**The eight recommendations addressed in the proposed legislation include:**

- **Recommendation #2:** The National Defence Act should be amended to allow the Governor in Council to appoint to the position of military judge anyone who is a barrister or advocate of at least 10 years’ standing at the bar of a province and who has been an officer or a non-commissioned member of the Canadian Armed Forces, including the Reserve Force, for at least 10 years.
- **Recommendation #7:** The Director of Military Prosecutions and Director of Defence Counsel Services should be appointed by the Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of National Defence. The Director of Military Prosecutions and Director of

Defence Counsel Services should hold office during good behaviour for a term of seven years, subject to removal by the Governor in Council at any time for cause with the support of a resolution of the House of Commons to that effect. They should not be eligible to be reappointed for a further term of office.

- **Recommendation #8:** Subsections 165.17(3) to 165.17(6) of the National Defence Act should be repealed. If a power to issue directives in respect of a particular prosecution is to remain, this power should, at a minimum, be granted to the Minister of National Defence personally and not the Judge Advocate General. Any directive issued to the Director of Military Prosecutions should be required to be in writing and to be published in the Canada Gazette. The Minister of National Defence or the Director of Military Prosecutions should be authorized to direct that the publication be delayed at the latest until the completion of the prosecution or any related prosecution if either considers this delay to be in the interests of the administration of military justice.
- **Recommendation #10:** Section 9.2 of the National Defence Act should be amended to clarify the meaning of the Judge Advocate General's "superintendence of the administration of military justice in the Canadian Forces". At a minimum, the National Defence Act should expressly provide that the superintendence must respect the independence of military prosecutors, military defence counsel and other statutory actors within the military justice system.
- **Recommendation #13:** Section 18.3 of the National Defence Act should be amended to provide that the Canadian Forces Provost Marshal be appointed by the Governor in Council and hold office during pleasure. The Chief of the Defence Staff should accordingly have no authority to remove the Canadian Forces Provost Marshal. The Canadian Forces Provost Marshal should be responsible to the Minister of National Defence in the performance of his duties and functions. References to the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff in section 18.5 of the National Defence Act should consequently be replaced by references to the Minister of National Defence. Moreover, section 18.6 of the National Defence Act should be amended to provide that the Canadian Forces Provost Marshal report annually to the Minister of National Defence on the activities of the Canadian Forces Provost Marshal and the military police during the year.
- **Recommendation #14:** The National Defence Act should be amended to restyle the Canadian Forces Provost Marshal as the Provost Marshal General and to provide that the Canadian Forces Provost Marshal holds a rank that is not less than brigadier general.
- **Recommendation #15:** Subsections 18.5(3) to 18.5(5) of the National Defence Act should be repealed. For greater clarity, section 18.5 of the National Defence Act should be amended to provide that the general supervision and authority of the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (or of the Minister of National Defence if Recommendation #13 is implemented) to issue general instructions or guidelines do not include a power to give directions regarding specific law enforcement decisions in individual cases.

- **Recommendation #16:** Subsection 250.19(1) of the National Defence Act should be amended to provide that “any person, including any officer or non-commissioned member, who believes on reasonable grounds that any officer or non-commissioned member or any senior official of the Department has improperly interfered with a policing duty or function” may make an interference complaint to the Military Police Complaints Commission.

## **Blast Overpressure Getting Attention from US Lawmakers**

A new bill demands more oversight for troops injured from heavy weapon blasts, TBIs and the Army is developing a tool for troops to check their blast exposure risk.

*Patty Nieberg Task & Purpose Apr 12, 2024*



*The physical and mental effects on troops exposed to blast overpressure from weapons are getting attention from the Army and Congress.*

*(Photo by US Army, Staff Sgt Arturo Guzman).*

An Army reservist who killed 18 and wounded 13 in a mass shooting in Maine last October had signs of brain damage that likely came from blast overpressure — a little

understood form of long-term injury that soldiers can develop from firing heavy weapons. Now the physical and mental effects on troops exposed to blast overpressure from weapons are getting attention from the Army and Congress. Lawmakers introduced a bipartisan bill earlier this week called the “Blast Overpressure Safety Act” which directs the Department of Defense to enact new measures to mitigate, protect and treat injuries for service members exposed to blast overpressures from weapon systems. Research on repeated exposure to blast overpressure has linked the effects to impaired cognitive performance and decision-making ability, according to the Army’s Medical Research and Development Command which is designing a tool to help troops understand their exposure risks.

Sen Angus King (I-Maine) said in a release that TBIs from explosive weapons are “common yet misunderstood.” “In Maine, we know all too well the horrible tragedies that can occur, like in Lewiston, when TBIs are left untreated,” King said. The legislation introduced in the Senate mandates regular neurocognitive assessments throughout troops’ military careers, including baseline assessments before training. It also calls for blast overpressure and traumatic brain injury logs, data collection on brain injuries like related discharges, modifications to weapons to reduce blast exposure, training for high-risk troops on symptoms and mitigation techniques and

retaliation protections for servicemembers seeking care. The bill also calls for updating blast overpressure thresholds and the creation of a waiver system for those thresholds; mandatory training for medical and training personnel on blast overpressure, exposure and TBI; and expanding technologies for the Warfighter Brain Health Initiative pilot blast monitoring program. The impacts of blast exposures on troop's mental and physical health have slowly gained attention from lawmakers following the stand up of the Defense Health Agency's Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence and reports from major news outlets have highlighted the psychological and physiological effects of continuous, unmitigated exposure to artillery weapon systems and blast injuries on American troops.

On the service side, the Army is developing a Blast Overpressure Tool to give troops firing heavy weapons like mortars, rockets, rifles and breaching rounds guidance on how to protect themselves from the high-pressure shock waves, also known as "blast overpressure." The tool will give users an estimate of the blast wave's radius and safety risks from a particular weapon by using a computer model of the training environment. An analysis of the reservists' brain tissue by Boston University researchers found evidence of traumatic brain injury which "likely played a role in his symptoms." Card's family said in a statement that while the brain analysis does not fully explain his actions nor provide a reason for the "horrific suffering he caused," they also said it helped them understand Card's brain damage and "how it may have impacted his mental health and behavior." Since 2000, nearly half a million troops have been diagnosed with TBIs from training or combat, according to the DOD. During three months in 2023, the DOD treated servicemembers nearly 50,000 times for TBIs which are considered the "signature wound" of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Sen Susan Collins (R-Maine) said in a press release. For mild TBI, the most common diagnosis for American troops who served in Iraq and Afghanistan military, "the most important cause of brain injury was the long-term exposure to explosive weapons," according to researchers.

Beyond the last two decades, TBI diagnoses are growing among US troops stationed in Iraq and Syria for counter-terrorism operations who have been under rocket and ballistic missile attacks by Iranian-backed militias in the region since mid-October. Once the prototype Blast Overpressure Tool has been fully validated, the plan is to expand it to include all the high-priority weapon systems – shoulder mounted assault weapons, rifles and machine guns, howitzers, mortars and breaches. Researchers began developing the tool with a small business after they discovered inconsistent safety guidance for individual weapons across the services. The DOD's Blast Injury Research Coordinating Office is also creating a portable, pocket-sized flip book to illustrate the radius of blast overpressure zones of weapon systems and ammunition for crew members, observers and instructors and lists recommended personal protective equipment. Dr Raj Gupta, BIRCO's deputy director said the flip book will be useful for trainers and observers who are "potentially exposed to blast overpressure every time a Service Member fires their weapon" which for some that means several blast exposures each day. The flipbook began with data collected by Walter Reed Army Institute of Research on blast overpressure exposure during live fire training of four weapon systems: the shoulder fired M136 AT4 recoilless anti-tank weapon, the M120/M121 120mm mortar, the M107 and MK15 .50 caliber sniper rifles and breaching charges.



The data was collected by wearable sensors and high-fidelity stationary probes around the firing zone which was then turned into 3D simulations of blast exposures on human bodies and 2D maps of the blast radius with various pressures. The Army office has two patents for the exposure tool. The office is collaborating with the Army and Marine Corps to integrate the blast tool into the services' suite of geospatial applications which are used to plan safe range exercises since blast overpressure exposure mitigation is currently not addressed. Gupta has discovered gaps in the safety and mitigation procedures during the experimental phase of weapon development which are included in the federal legislation. The DOD does not require federal researchers or private contractors to measure blast overpressure as part of a given weapon system's research, testing and engineering and acquisition process. There is also zero data collection of exposure to blast overpressure on civilians or contractors during the development process. Blast exposure could also result in auditory injuries, according to research published in the Military Medicine journal by Gupta. The paper recommended that the DOD do more for blast exposure-related injuries like hearing loss, tinnitus, and central processing deficits and cited a 2021 Department of Veterans Affairs benefits report which had tinnitus and hearing loss as the most prevalent service-connected disability.

## **Hundreds of Satellites Give Military Faster Tactical Comms and Data**

*Todd South Marine Times Apr 10, 2024*



*Marines connect to an Android tactical assault kit through use of an MPU5 radio connected to a Starshield system at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, Jan 31.*

*(Lance Cpl Logan Beeney/Marine Corps)*

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. — A space-focused program spreading hundreds of small satellites in low orbit aims to bring clearer communications and faster data transfer in the field to military units, a key to Marine Corps war-fighting needs. The Space Development Agency, a . and lower latency, or delays, meaning users can send more data faster. Ukraine has relied heavily on company SpaceX's commercial satellite Internet constellation Starlink to pass battlefield data throughout its war with Russia. The military version of the system is known as Starshield. Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, began using the Starshield system recently, according to a March release. The system allowed Marines to maintain communications services when weather forced power outages that shut down base fiber and cloud cover interfered with other satellite communications, said Maj Tim Wrenn, 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment communications officer.

During the September 2023 Archipelago Endeavor exercise, Marines used Starshield with the Swedish marines by mounting the device on a Swedish command and control boat. "Having high bandwidth, low latency services on a mobile maritime platform allowed US and Swedish Marines

to prosecute fire missions and provide reliable and relevant information throughout the battlespace,” said Capt Quinn T Hemler, the assistant operations officer with 2nd Marine Division’s G-6 communications. Marine Maj Gen Joseph Matos, commander of Marine Forces Cyber, said that satellite communications such as the Space Development Agency program enable both the crisis response mission of the Marine Corps and its ongoing Force Design changes that aims to better position the service for distributed, long-range operations. “(Force Design) is really talking about modernization, bringing in new technologies, such as (Proliferated Low Earth Orbit) how do we incorporate that into what we do every day and how we fight,” Matos said. While missile tracking is crucial, most Marines using the satellites are likely to see improved communication and less down time between transmissions as they pass data in training and operations between various platforms.

The Space Development Agency had demonstrated Link 16 connectivity using its satellites, Marine Corps Times’ sister publication C4ISRNET reported in November 2023. Link 16 is the tactical data link used by the US military, NATO and other partner nations to share tactical information such as text, voice and imagery. The Link 16 application uses the “transport layer,” which is one of the layers that the Space Development Agency is developing along with the tracking, custody, navigation, support, emerging capabilities and battle management layers. Once deployed, the transport layer, which holds most of the program’s satellites, will provide a mesh network of communications satellites that connect to each other and other space vehicles and ground stations, according to the Space Development Agency website. The next batch of satellites is planned for 2027 and another for 2029, by which time the network is expected to have “full global persistence” and resiliency, Tournear said. The program seeks to create a hybrid satellite terminal for troops to use. That would allow a user’s terminal to switch between the low Earth orbit satellites transport layer or use dedicated military or commercial bandwidths such as the satellite communication Ka and Ku bands, respectively. The same terminal could also switch to use the Ka or Ku bands on MEO or GEO satellites. The system would work much like multiband radios can switch between frequency bands for a variety of communications options. Matos emphasized that while the low Earth orbit satellites program will give users new ways to communicate it still is only “part of the overall architecture.” If Marines can’t access those satellites for some reason, they need backup ways to conduct operations. “We don’t own our own space assets,” Matos said. “We use what industry provides. If that’s not there then we have to look at other means of communication, single channel radio, troposphere, those are the systems we can control at the Marine Corps level.”

## **Commemorative Banner Exhibit**

### **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy**

Two months before his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, and without his parent’s knowledge, George Chow of British Columbia enlisted in the army. He served as a gunner during the Second World War and came ashore at Juno Beach after D-Day. George fought in the Normandy Campaign before joining the Allied advance through northwest France and into Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. After the conflict, he served as a Gunnery instructor. “Once a gunner always a gunner.” George rose to the rank of Warrant Officer II (Master Warrant Officer in today’s army) and was a Battery

Sergeant Major when he was honourably discharged in 1963. George is featured, among others, in a Banner Exhibit honouring those who served on D-Day and during the Battle of Normandy, which is currently on display at the Visitor Education Centre, Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France until the middle of June.

*Photos : Veterans Affairs Canada*



## **Vancouver Gunners Website Update**

### **Bessborough Armoury Open House – 20 April 2024**

Don't forget about the Open House on 20 April 2024 from 1000 hours until 1400 hours. Bring a friend! Bring your family! Bring along someone that may be interested in joining.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/revised-open-house-20-april-2024>

**Defence Policy Update-** The Defence Policy Update is available online at:

I've taken a few items that pertain to the artillery and provided them on our website as follows:

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/new-defence-policy>

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/our-north-strong-and-free-2>

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/our-north-strong-and-free-3>  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/our-north-strong-and-free-4>  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/our-north-strong-and-free-5>

**Yorke Island Excursion** - The 85Vics are planning their annual weekend cleanup visit to Yorke Island on the first weekend of May 2024. Interested in joining them? Send me an email. [president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)

**68 Battery 30'ish Year Campout Reunion** - May 24 at 4 PM – May 26 at 12 PM - Harrison West - Camp Cove Campground Anne Nikodem (former Bombardier Anne Edwards) and Terry Stratton (former Bombardier Terry Stratton) are organizing another 68 Battery camping reunion. Same as last year, its a a 10 vehicle allowance (50 person max) with the booking (additional fees for extra vehicles and day guests <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2024.html>

**OP Take Post 2025-** Check out The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery website for the latest update on OP Take Post 2025 - an 80th Anniversary Liberation of Holland Commemorative Battlefield Tour from 2 to 11 May 2025. <https://rca-arc.org/the-rca-association/op-take-post/>

**Photos** - Have you got any photos of past regimental activities? Send them to [president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com) and we'll post them to the website.

**Wednesday Lunch Zoom Meeting** - **No meeting this week as the host will be at Armoury preparing for the open house.**

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

## Who (or What) Is It?

**Last Week:** The **Rockwell XFV-12** was a prototype supersonic United States Navy fighter which was built in 1977. The XFV-12 design attempted to combine the Mach 2 speed and AIM-7 Sparrow armament of the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II in a VTOL (vertical takeoff and landing) fighter for the small Sea Control Ship which was under study at the time. On paper, it looked superior to the subsonic Hawker Siddeley Harrier attack fighter. However, it was unable to demonstrate an untethered vertical takeoff and its inability to meet performance requirements resulted in the program's termination.



[Rockwell XFV-12 - Wikipedia](#)

**This Week:** We continue with our series of “Famous People Who Were Gunners” with a nicely colourized photograph of a young chap who appears to be a lieutenant. Some of you might remember when you were young, others might not remember what year this is. Nonetheless, for many of us youth was not as appreciated as it would be now, were it to be offered in exchange

for our souls. We assumed it would go on forever, but it didn't. Well, at least we have the memories. Now why did I turn this computer on?



It's obvious from the insignia that this young lad was a gunner. However, given that all Commonwealth gunners wore the same kit until the wanton destruction of tradition by a certain now-deceased minister of national defence, it is impossible to tell his nationality from his badges. However, his healthy demeanor and smile would indicate he is a colonial boy, not possibly one from the Mother Country, where people were either stunted members of the labouring classes, all with bad teeth, or tall poncey chaps with expensive tastes leading to huge mess bills, and bad teeth. Or are these American stereotypes of their former masters?

Well, we could tell you from which country he hailed, and why he later became famous, but then there wouldn't be any reason for this column. It's up to you, as goes the motto of my alma mater (Tuum Est). You find out, and then tell us, and we will be full of admiration. So, send those ideas to the esteemed editor (now resident in a

civilized part of the province), Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com)), or the always civilized author who never ventures east of Main Street in Vancouver, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Happy hunting.

### **From the 'Punitentary'**

What is the sole purpose of a child's middle name? So he knows when he's really in trouble.

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

There is no such place as a convenient foxhole.

### **Quotable Quotes**

If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging. *Will Rogers.*

## Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

**No meeting April 17, host at Armoury for Open House prep.**



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:-

(this link will take you **straight to the waiting room** – no password needed)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72758359360?pwd=XE0y7bIBCNvTYsIFcFIZ6g1e1pfzMP.1>

or use Meeting ID 727 5835 9360 **and the secret passcode is pFPey6**

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.

# Finding Fred Lee – Bio of Jack Gin



## Profile – Jack Gin

2 pager - Update Jan 2023

### J.M. (Jack) Gin, P.Eng

Business Mentor – Advisor – Director - Entrepreneur  
Writer – Editor – Filmmaker - Philanthropist

Email: [jackgin20@gmail.com](mailto:jackgin20@gmail.com)

Phone: +1.604.807.3492

Residence: Burnaby, BC, Canada

URL: [www.JackGin.com](http://www.JackGin.com)

Nationality: Canadian

### Key Skills

- **Leadership:** Former President, CEO and Chairman of TSX listed technology firm. Has also held senior executive positions with other public and privately held companies over 25 year international business career. Director, business advisor and mentor.
- **Commercial:** Startup to IPO to exit-sale entrepreneur of security technology firm with five international offices. **Notably skilled in international business development of industrial and technology products and services** to Fortune 500 and government organizations
- **Technical:** Engineering background with proven history of innovative problem solving in fields ranging from construction to electro-optics.
- **Other:** Raised financing on the TSX exchange and holds record of continuous profitability and successful exit as a publicly listed company. Became an industry expert, public speaker and writer for globally recognized security tech company.

### Professional Experience

- *Documentary Writer / Editor / Producer*  
**Finding Fred Lee 1.0 ... (not yet released)**  
**GinSight Films** – (Vancouver 2017 to present)
- *Project Review Committee – independent (2017 to 2019)*  
**Sustainable Development Technology Canada**
- *Director* (Vancouver – 2008 to present)  
**Saltworks Technologies Inc.** – desalination, clean tech startup
- *Director* (Vancouver – 2011 to 2022)  
**SemiosBIO Technologies Inc.** – sustainable technology startup
- *President & Director* (Vancouver – 2008 to 2010)  
**Seanees Capital Corporation** – Capital Pool Corporation (TSX-V)
- *President, CEO and Chairman of the Board* (Vancouver - 1997-2008)  
**Extreme CCTV Inc. (EXC:TSX)** – manufacturer night vision specialty surveillance
- *Director* (Quebec City – 2003-2008)  
**Obzerv Technologies Inc.** – electro-optics technology startup
- *Director* (United Kingdom – 2001-2008)  
**Derwent Systems Ltd.** – manufacturer night vision specialist
- *VP Business Development, Director* (Vancouver - 1994-1997)  
**Silent Witness Enterprises Ltd (SWE:TSX)** – manufacturer surveillance equipment
- *VP Business Development* (Vancouver - 1990-1994)  
**Weatherhaven Resources Ltd** – manufacturer air transportable industrial shelters

### Professional Associations

- Professional Engineer in BC (APEG BC) - RETIRED
- Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD)

**Education**

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- Bachelor of Applied Science - Engineering – University of British Columbia (1983)
- Institute Corporate Directors – Directors Education Program DEP8 (2011)

**Patents**

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- **U.S. Patent 6,912,007** / China Patent 02 8 29969.8 - Securable Corner Surveillance
- **Canada Patent 2,438,939** – Dual Surveillance Camera System
- **U.S. Patent 7,346,196** – Rotatable Switchbox Camera / Illuminator for Face Rec
- **China Patent 02 8 27154.8** – Dual Camera Surveillance and Control System

**Philanthropy**

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- **Jack & Sylvia Gin Foundation (JSGF)** – a registered Canadian giving charity
- **Jack Gin Family Foundation (JGFF)** – a donor advised fund at the Vancouver Foundation

Focus on at-risk women and children locally and globally

Organizations Supported (partial list) since 2008:

- Union Gospel Mission – Vancouver ... ongoing projects
- Seeds of Hope Children’s Ministry – Zambia ... ongoing projects
- Ratanak – Cambodia ... various projects
- St Paul’s Hospital (new) – Founder’s Wall
- Various other hospitals, schools, libraries

**Community Involvement**

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- **Community Preview – Finding Fred Lee – StoryTelling Centre** – Vancouver 2022
- **Community Preview – Finding Fred Lee – Kamloops BC - 2022**
- **Honourary Rocky Mountain Ranger – Kamloops BC - 2018**
- **Patron – Chinese Canadian Military Museum – 2018**
- **City of Burnaby 2013** – Environmental Sustainability Strategy Committee
- **Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee 2012** – Medal Program for Gov Gen office
- **Entrepreneur-in-Residence** - SFU Venture Labs (2012 to 2017)
- **Mentor-in-Residence** - SFU Venture Connection (2010 to 2012)
- **Vancouver 2010 Olympics Volunteer** – Technology Sector (2009-2010)
- **Torchbearer** – Vancouver 2010 Olympics
- **BCIT Entrepreneurship** - Program Advisory Committee (2005-2008)

**Background**

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Born, raised and educated in Vancouver Canada, where he resides as an active citizen involved with startup technology businesses and various charities. An **E&Y Entrepreneur of the Year**, he acts as a mentor, advisor and/or Board Director to various people and organizations. He is a rare startup-to-ipo-to-exit-sale entrepreneur. The establishment of his own charities upon the exit sale of Extreme CCTV in 2008 has allowed for significant community giving in perpetuity.

Export market development has required a history of travel - 38 countries, mostly in the Asia-Pacific and Europe, and extensively throughout North America. His work as an independent director, philanthropist and **story-telling filmmaker** requires a full agenda in time and travel.

He is an outdoor sports enthusiast currently focused on golf and downhill skiing. He is a father to three, a grandfather to three, and a member of the Vancouver Golf Club.

**Jack’s 4G Rule ...** Live to Give. Do Good. Thank God. Play Golf. **Live-Do-Thank-Play**





# Screenings of Gino - A Child of War

**ILCENTRO** ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

IS PROUD TO PRESENT



TICKETS  
\$16  
MATINEE

**Sunday June 2nd, 2:00pm Matinee, doors open at 1:30**



**For Tickets scan the QR code or call Cathy Bach (778) 995-2306**

IL CENTRO ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE, 3075 SLOCAN STREET, VANCOUVER, BC

"Gino: A Child of War" is an inspiring docu-drama, shedding light on an incredible story of hope and boundless kindness of the human spirit amid the chaos of war. The film narrates the story of Gino Farnetti-Bragaglia, a five-year-old boy who, in 1944, was a frightened, hungry, and wandering amidst the war-torn ruins of Torrice, Italy, by compassionate Canadian soldiers. For the next ten months, Gino found shelter, nourishment, and care among his Canadian 'guardian angels'. A special relationship developed between Gino, Lloyd 'Red' Oliver and other Canadian soldiers. This film portrays their remarkable relationship and the story that connects them to this day.



**Evening event – Adults only**



**IL CENTRO** ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE  
IS PROUD TO PRESENT

A ROBERT CURTIN FILM  
GINO FARNETTI-BRAGAGLIA MARIANGELA RONDINELLI GIANNI BLASI & HARRY ANTHONY KOONAR

# GINO

## A CHILD OF WAR

A COMBINED FORCES PRODUCTION

**TICKETS \$27.50 EVENING**

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

[i]ff Italian Contemporary Film Festival  
VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA  
Canadian Film Centre  
United Film Festival Production Group Presents

**Sunday June 2nd, 7:00pm Evening, doors open at 6:30**

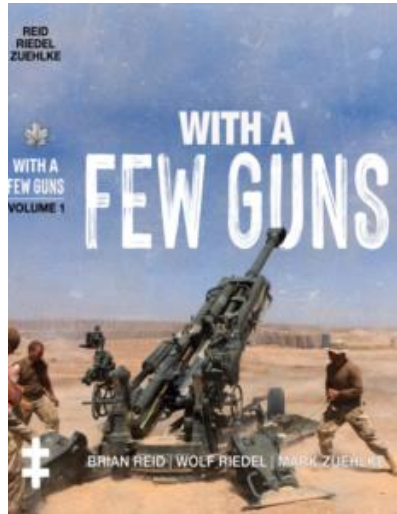


**For Tickets scan the QR code or call Karen (403) 478-0435**

**IL CENTRO ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE, 3075 SLOCAN STREET, VANCOUVER, BC**

"Gino: A Child of War" is an inspiring docu-drama, shedding light on an incredible story of hope and boundless kindness of the human spirit amid the chaos of war. The film narrates the story of Gino Farnetti-Bragaglia, a five-year-old boy discovered frightened, hungry, and wandering amidst the war-torn ruins of Torrice, Italy, in 1944, by compassionate Canadian soldiers. For the next ten months, Gino found shelter, nourishment, and care among his Canadian 'guardian angels'. A special bond formed between Gino, Lloyd 'Red' Oliver and other Canadian soldiers. This film portrays their remarkable relationship and the untold story that connects them to this day.

## With a Few Guns



### **With A Few Guns – The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery in Afghanistan Volume I 2002-2006**

Authored by Col (Retd) Wolf Riedel and Mark Zuehlke,  
building on the work of LCol (Retd) Brian Reid

This two-volume set captures the experiences of Canadian Gunners and the Regimental family during the Afghanistan era.

- Volume 1 – 2002-2006, publication date **4 December 2023!**  
The translation “Avec quelques canons” is expected for autumn 2024.
- Volume 2 – 2007 to 2014, targeted publication date 2024/2025

[READ SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM VOLUME 1](#)

<https://rca-arc.org/excerpts-from-with-a-few-guns/>

*We can't complete Volume 2 without your help. Be part of this significant undertaking – tell your story, submit your photos. Even the smallest detail touches someone!*

Contact [mrgnrsmith@gmail.com](mailto:mrgnrsmith@gmail.com) and make sure *our* story is recorded for generations to come!

“With A Few Guns” is dedicated to the greater family of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery—from those who served with distinction in the face of danger in Afghanistan, to those who trained and supported them to become mission-ready, and especially to those who kept the rest of the family together at home. In memory of “Reid B.A of the RCA” (1939-2023) and his dedicated service to the Guns, his sage advice and his literary prowess in recording parts of the Canadian Army’s rich history.

**[With a Few Guns E-Book - Now Available on Amazon](#)**

See: <https://www.amazon.ca/Few-Guns-Artillery-Afghanistan-2002-2006/dp/1990644864>

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



## **OP TAKE POST To Gunners and friends**



**Fields of Fire Tours  
and Merit Travel Canada  
presents**

## **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory Tour 2-11 May 2025 Gunners in the Liberation of the Netherlands**



An American in the back of a tank of the 101st Airborne Division in the 'Victory' town of the Netherlands.



- Attend the Canadian ceremony at Wageningen on Liberation Day.
- Visit important Canadian battlefields in the Netherlands
- Pay tribute to Canada's war dead of the Victory Campaign
- Visit the Dutch Army Artillery Museum
- Visit monuments, museums, and Commonwealth War Cemeteries
- Led by experienced military historians and veterans.

For more information contact Merit Travel  
TZajkovski@MeritTravel.com or BTrudeauSt.Onge@MeritTravel.com, or  
call 866-341-1777 | Trina #6214 or Brianne #6902

## 80th Anniversary of Victory Tour

**Day 1 – 2 May** ... Depart Canada for Amsterdam.

**Day 2 – 3 May** ... We arrive in Amsterdam, meet our bus and then drive to our hotel. In the afternoon we will visit the Airborne Museum in Arnhem to examine this epic battle. We will check into our hotel for the next eight nights:

**Mercure Hotel Nijmegen**

**Day 3 – 4 May** ... Today is the Dutch Remembrance Day and we will attend the Canadian memorial ceremony at Holten Canadian War Cemetery and the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery.

**Day 4 – 5 May** ... This is the big day for ceremonies: Liberation Day. We will join the crowds of people in Wageningen for the Canadian commemoration and parade. Some of our group will march in the parade.

**Day 5 – 6 May** ... We will hit the battlefields today when we look at the largest Canadian directed operation of the war: Op Veritable. We will end the day with a visit to Groesbeek Cemetery and the nearby Liberation Museum

**Day 6 – 7 May** ... Today we will visit the Dutch Artillery Museum in t'Harde. The day will wrap up with the Heroes March across the Oversteek Bridge in Nijmegen.

**Day 7 – 8 May** ... Today we will be back on the battlefields as we tour the sites of Operation Blockbuster, the Hochwald, and the capture of Xanten.

**Day 8 – 9 May** ... Our last day on the battlefield will see us visiting the crossing of the Rhine in Op Plunder and the battles for Emmerich. We will also see where the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion landed on Op Varsity.

**Day 9 – 10 May** ... Several options today, including a free day in the Nijmegen area, or a daytrip to Amsterdam by train or bus, where the resistance museum and the art galleries are highly recommended. Our last night in Nijmegen.

**Day 10 – 11 May** ... We will depart early to get our flights back to Canada from Amsterdam airport. Anyone staying on in Europe can make easy connections from the airport.

### Tour Price (Land Only)

**CAD \$3700** – (per person, Double occupancy)  
(single supplement: **\$1150** – limited availability)

Airfare can be added, see with travel agent and will vary according to point of departure.

**\$600 per person non-refundable deposit required by the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024**  
**Balance of payment required 29 January 2025**

#### Price includes:

- \* all breakfasts and a bagged lunch daily
- \* all travel by coach bus
- \* accommodation as shown in the itinerary
- \* opening reception and final dinner
- \* services of historian/guides

#### Not Included:

- \* return airfare from Canada to Amsterdam
- \* travel insurance
- \* train trip to Amsterdam on free day
- \* Lunch & dinner on 11 May
- \* items of a personal nature such as beverages

Note: limited single room availability – “first come, first served”

**All terms and conditions available at [www.foftours.com](http://www.foftours.com)**

For more information contact Merit Travel  
TZajkovski@MeritTravel.com or BTrudeauSt.Onge@MeritTravel.com, or  
call 866-341-1777 | Trina #6214 or Brianne #6902

# 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 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](#)

