

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News 17 Oct 2023

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

- Oct 18** Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting.
- Oct 25** Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting.
- Nov 09** **(Thursday)** Lunch in the Mess followed by a presentation in lecture room.
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day
AFOA Dawn Patrol (details sent separately)
- Nov 16** Left Coast Lancers - Battle of Leliefontein Luncheon
- Nov 22** **possible** Mess Lunch and presentation (not yet confirmed)
- Nov 25** Fraser Highlanders, Fort Fraser Garrison, Feast of St Andrews Dinner
- Dec 02** **Save the date! 15 Fd Offrs Mess St Barbaras's Day Dinner**

Mess Lunches

We have two dates for lunch in the Mess. Nov 9 is confirmed and speakers scheduled. This is a **Thursday** as the speakers were not available for Wednesday. LCol van Eijk (CO) and Major J.A.E. (Jürgen) Miranda (OC Combat Service Support Company), both with 2 PPCLI, will give a presentation on 'What the Canadian Army is doing in Europe'.

Presenters Biographies are in the poster section.

Nov 22 is **not yet** confirmed but mark your calendars and watch this space.

Soldiers Asking for Donations to Help With Housing & Food Costs

Sarah Ritchie The Canadian Press Ottawa Oct 10, 2023



Chief of the Defence Staff Gen Wayne Eyre, left, talks to Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence as they wait to appear before the Standing Committee on National Defence (NDDN) providing a briefing on the mandate and priorities of the minister of national defence in Ottawa, on Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/Spencer Colby

The military's chaplain-general says morale among troops is the lowest it's been in recent memory as many soldiers struggle with the cost of living. In a briefing note sent to the chief of the defence staff, Gen Wayne Eyre, chaplains say more Armed Forces members have been asking for help to make ends meet. The chaplains note that they expect donations to Together We Stand, a non-profit that supports military families, to double this year. However, they say that is a short-term solution. Some soldiers have said they're considering releasing from the military to avoid postings in certain locations. Recent changes to the military's housing allowance have created new challenges for some. The Armed Forces announced in March that the new allowance will be based on salary, rather than where a soldier is posted. The new program is available to an estimated 28,000 soldiers, but around 7,700 members would become ineligible and thousands of others would see their monthly payments reduced. Officials said that would result in a savings of \$30 million a year.

In August, the military decided to phase out the old housing benefit gradually, to help thousands of members who were set to lose the payments. Troops who would have seen their housing benefit decrease under the new program will continue to receive some payments until July 2026. Still, the memo said the high cost of housing is a concern for many. "Of special note are those members who made financial commitments in 2022 at the height of the housing market, or after receiving posting instructions in early 2023: some are now facing significant challenges to meet their financial obligations or to find appropriate housing," the note said. Staff shortages at many bases and wings have led to "ever-present" tensions and conflicts in the workplace, in particular in places where there are different rules for military and civilian staff about working from home. "In understaffed environments where normal operations must be maintained, reconstitution is basically being looked upon now as just another word, rather than as something that will revitalize the CAF mission and make a real difference in the professional lives of members," the memo said.

It also said a new performance evaluation process was experienced very negatively, with many saying the system was prone to glitches and has taken too long to implement. The system has "strained relationships with subordinates" and left people feeling like their work is not appreciated

at a time when they're taking on more duties because of short staffing. On a positive note, the memo notes that some members say their workplace "appears to be getting psychologically safer" and they can communicate issues with their chains of command. Members' ability to take additional time off for religious observances received support. There has also been positive feedback, especially from female members, about dress code changes that allow people to better express their individuality. But the chaplains also say the new dress code is receiving criticism from some members who feel it "may be eroding a sense of common mission, identity and team cohesion." "The pace and extent of change within the CAF impacts many areas of military life concurrently, including benefits, evaluation and culture. Though unintended, these changes, concurrent with CAF efforts to reconstitute the force, has resulted in many CAF leaders and members feeling more undervalued and underappreciated than at any point in recent memory," the memo concluded.

The briefing note was sent to Eyre last month. It was based on information gathered by chaplains across the Canadian Armed Forces in the first six months of the year. Eyre was not made available for an interview and his office did not respond to a list of questions sent on Friday. In a written statement, a spokesperson for the Defence Department said there has been a great deal of change within the Armed Forces in the last few years and "it is not surprising there is some angst over what these changes mean" for members. In response to questions about why CAF members are relying on donations, the department pointed out that many members were granted raises this year. "The government of Canada recognizes and appreciates the outstanding contributions made by the Canadian Armed Forces and their families and is committed to fairly compensating CAF members for their service," the statement said.

US Army Combat Advisors Testing Military Version of Starlink

Starshield could be a backup form of communication if other systems are jammed.

Jeff Schogol Task & Purpose Oct 9, 2023



A soldier assigned to 5th Security Force Assistance Brigade connects a cable during the Vanguard Communications Advisor Course, Sept 1, 2020 at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington.

(Spc Joseph E D Knoch/US Army).

The 5th Security Force Assistance Brigade, or SFAB, is experimenting with Starshield, the military version of Starlink communications network made by SpaceX,

said Col. Brandon Teague, commander of 5th SFAB. "We've done some testing with it at home station, and all of our systems worked flawlessly over the backbones that it provides," Teague told reporters on Monday. SFABs are specialized units in which soldiers from the conventional forces train, advise, and assist foreign partners' conventional military forces. Unlike Special Forces, soldiers in SFABs do not train foreign special operations forces, nor do they conduct unconventional warfare and other special operations missions. The 5th SFAB is focused on the

Indo-Pacific region and it has a persistent presence in the Philippines, Thailand, Mongolia, Malaysia, and Indonesia, Teague said during the Association of the United States Army's annual conference in Washington, D.C.

Starshield is a more secure version than Starlink, which is meant for civilian use. The 5th SFAB is looking at whether it can use Starshield as a "redundant," rather than a primary form of communication, Teague said. "We have satellite communications that are organic to the SFAB already. But this just provides us another means, should we need it, again, to have that redundant level of communication." The 5th SFAB will experiment with four Starshield systems at the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center in Hawaii at the end of October and then test them in the Indo-Pacific region, Teague said. Like Starlink, Starshield uses low Earth orbit satellites to create a communications network. That could be useful if an adversary jams US military communication systems that rely on satellites in different orbits, Teague said. The Ukrainian military has heavily relied on Starlink, but Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX, refused to let the Ukrainians use the network last year for a planned surprise attack on occupied Crimea.

Members of the 5th Security Force Assistance Brigade train alongside Indian Army soldiers during the Yudh Abhyas exercise in Rajasthan, India, Feb 9, 2021.
(Staff Sgt Joseph Tolliver/US Army)



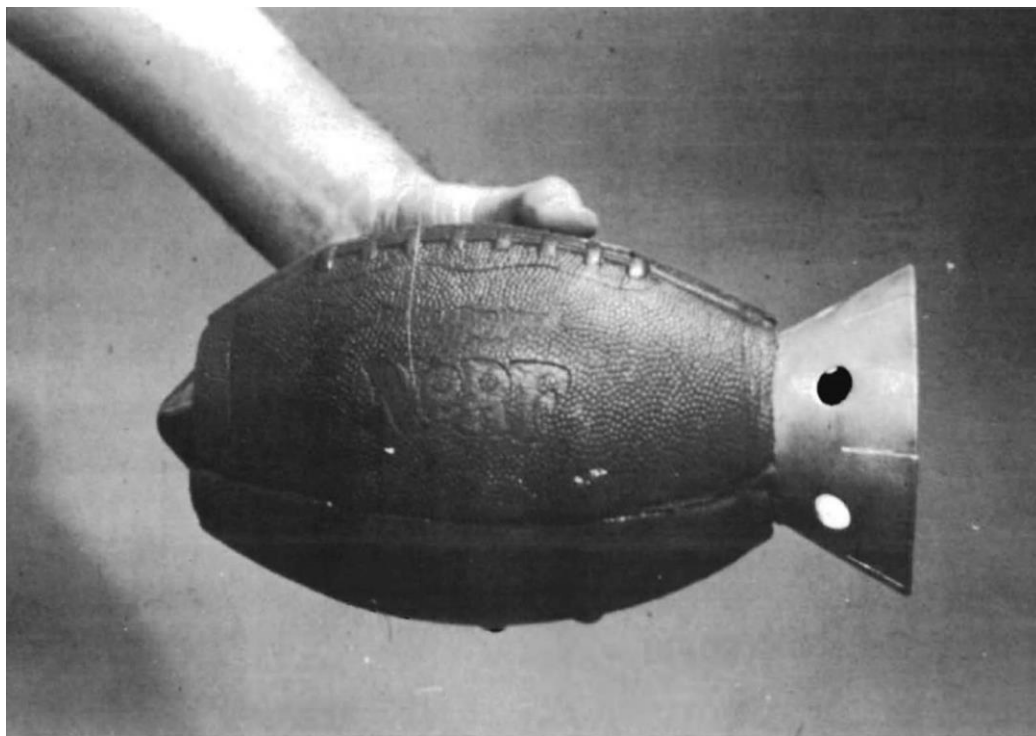
Teague said he is not concerned that SpaceX might decide to turn off the 5th SFAB's Starshield communications. "It's paid for service and they're paid to provide that service as long as we're under contract with them," Teague said. The Army currently has five active-duty SFABs and one National Guard unit. Army officials developed the SFAB concept during the Afghanistan War, and one of the first controversies involving the new unit was what color SFAB berets should be. After a picture was posted online in 2017 showing a green beret that SFAB soldiers were supposedly intended to wear, the Army decided the following year to issue SFAB soldiers brown berets. Since the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade deployed to Afghanistan in March 2018, SFAB soldiers have deployed all over the world including to countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Indo-Pacific. But SFABs have also received a lot of negative press this year. Army Col Jonathan Chung was fired as commander of the 5th SFAB in June after being suspended earlier in the year over allegations that he was a toxic leader.

An internal Army investigation found that Chung's replacement, Col Tony Braxton, had violated temporary duty rules by keeping soldiers away from home for more than 180 days without extra pay, according to Military.com. Braxton was eventually disciplined and reprimanded, said Sgt 1st Class Adrian Patoka, a spokesman for Security Force Assistance Command. Col Meghann Sullivan, commander of the 5th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 5th SFAB, was also accused of misconduct, including forcefully kissing a subordinate, Military.com reported. The investigation into the allegations against Sullivan is ongoing, Patoka told Task & Purpose on Monday. Despite the end of the war in Afghanistan, the need for SFABs has not gone away, Army officials said on

Monday. In fact, combatant commands asked for SFAB assistance more than 500 times last year, but the Army could fill a fraction of those requests, Teague said. “We will always have partners,” said Col Brian Ducote, commander of the 1st SFAB, which is focused on Latin and South America. “We need to build strong partnerships and relationships in order to be effective as a fighting force. As long as that’s our approach as a nation, we will always have a need for the SFAB in conflict and in competition.”

Anti Armor Hand Grenade in a Hollowed Out Nerf Football

Historical Photos



The US Army worked to develop grenades the same size and weight as baseballs in order to take advantage of Americans’ familiarity with the sport.

(Photo credit: US Army Archives).

In 1973, the US Army started testing possible designs for an anti-tank grenade. Commanders in Europe had asked for some sort of ordnance for destroying tanks in close quarters. If Warsaw Pact troops had invaded, NATO soldiers could have found themselves taking on armored vehicles in cities and towns. American commanders noticed that the Soviets had special anti-tank grenades for such a scenario. Army technicians offered five different prototypes of their own. Since a regulation size football weighs 14 ounces, it was considered feasible to make a shaped charge grenade within this weight limitation”, according to the official test report. “In addition, most US troops are familiar with throwing footballs”.

The prototype inserted the tank busting, shaped charge inside a hollowed-out Nerf football. Parker Brothers—which introduced the lightweight, foam balls in 1969—doesn’t appear to have been actively involved in the project. While the grenade football may have weighed the same as a normal football, it still wasn’t the same. As regular footballs are hollow inside, the weight is distributed evenly, allowing for consistent throws. The prototype, however, was filled with explosive elements, which gave the ball a wild and unpredictable flight. The Army testers found that the “ball”—with its weight in the center—was unstable in flight and “did not work as envisioned”, according to the documentation. The project was canceled and Parker Brothers (makers of the NERF footballs since 1969) was never officially involved.

Canada's Military Training Not for Sale

minister says after top brass warning. *Nathaniel Dove and David Baxter Global News Oct 2023*



Chief of the defence staff Gen Wayne Eyre speaks at a change-of-command ceremony at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum in Ottawa on Friday, Aug. 12, 2022. Canada's allies are calling for a rethink in Arctic relations after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Canadian Press/ Patrick Doyle© PD

Defence Minister Bill Blair says the government is looking at whether to bring in legislation restricting who former Canadian Forces members can train or share information with that they have learned through their service. It comes as Canada's top soldier and a deputy minister are warning members of the Canadian Forces against working and sharing information with militaries "whose interests diverge from our own." "The training that our people receive, as I've already said, it's among the best in the world," Blair told reporters on his way into a meeting of the House of Commons defence committee. "It is a significant investment we make in members of the Canadian Armed Forces. And that investment is not for sale." He added: "If the investigation identifies that we need to strengthen legislation, I'm prepared to take those steps." In a statement posted Thursday, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Wayne Eyre and Deputy Minister Bill Matthews warn that recent reports have raised concerns about former Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) pilots possibly sharing their knowledge and expertise with armed forces of other nations. "(O)ur adversaries and competitors actively and aggressively strive to enhance their own capabilities, knowledge, and expertise by harnessing Canada's experiences and those of our allies," the statement says. "All Defence Team members, civilian and military, serving and retired, must be alive to this stark reality. This is real."

The statement comes three weeks after the RCMP announced it is investigating former RCAF training Chinese fighter pilots – which also follows a report from last year that Beijing was looking to recruit pilots from NATO countries. Blair said he cannot comment on this specific matter due to the investigation being in progress. Accusing Canadian pilots of provocation and warning of dire consequences. China has had tension with the militaries of western nations in recent years, including documented buzzing of Canadian jets and sailing through the path an American ship in the Strait of Taiwan in June. Stephen Saideman, director of the Canadian Defence and Security Network based out of Carleton University, said China is trying to catch up with other nations on military intelligence. "They've hacked intelligence records for the United States government. They've gotten engaged in spying and all the rest of it. This is just something you do," he said. "And this is something that they're going to do because they're trying to catch up and get as much information as they can about their adversaries."

Thursday's statement from Eyre and Matthews, the military's top soldier and the top bureaucrat responsible for the defence department, said the reports serve as a sober reminder for CAF members to protect the information and skills members gain throughout their careers. "Safeguarding this information is a cornerstone of our ability to conduct activities and operations, both at home and abroad with our allies and partners. Sensitive information and knowledge must be appropriately protected from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification, transmission, disposal, or destruction," they write. Video: Tensions after close call between China and US in Taiwan Strait. They go on to say that it's crucial current and former CAF members understand that even unclassified information can be sensitive and disclosing it could harm the interests of Canada and its partners. "Unauthorized disclosure or misuse of information can have severe consequences for Canada's national security." The message says the CAF and the Department of National Defence are improving their internal processes so employees have a clearer understanding of their responsibilities after leaving either organization.

How World War II Ended With a Battle Between Sailing Ships

American and Chinese forces engaged in old-fashioned naval combat, complete with a boarding party, to take out a Japanese vessel. *Nicholas Slayton Task & Purpose Aug 6, 2022*



*Lai Afong, Public domain,
via Wikimedia Commons.*

The war was over. Japan had surrendered on August 15. There was no need for any more violence in the Pacific Ocean. But on August 21, a Japanese crew that did not yet know World War II was officially over launched an attack that would be the final battle of the war. It was also the last

battle between two ships under sail. And the last fight where an American crew would board another vessel, like in the early days of the American Navy.

This is the story of the last naval battle of World War II. The American military had naval operations going on in China even before World War II. When the war broke out, that continued, hoping to disrupt Japanese operations in China and the surrounding seas. Navy Lieutenant Livingston Swentzel and Marine Lieutenant Stewart Pittman were in China for that very reason. Soon after Japan surrendered, they were on their way to Shanghai. They were in command of two Chinese junks, traditional sail-powered ships that between them were outfitted with more modern weapons: a 50 caliber and 30 caliber machine gun, two bazookas, multiple small arms and many, many grenades. Swentzel led one ship, Pittman the other. The total crew wasn't big, seven Americans in all plus 20 Chinese guerillas who had been fighting the Japanese occupation.

The morning of August 21, they weren't expecting combat on their voyage. But they stumbled upon another junk, which suddenly turned and opened fire. It was a Japanese ship. The American and Chinese forces had twice the ships but the enemy junk was filled with 83 Japanese sailors,

armed with six machine guns, 100 rifles, and most dangerously, a 75mm howitzer. That howitzer blasted to life, tearing apart the foremast of Swentzel's junk and damaging its rudder. The battle was on. In true naval tradition, Swentzel raised the American flag and he and Pittman's ships went on the counteroffensive. The American and Chinese forces unleashed their full arsenal, closing in on the Japanese-crewed ship. Swentzel's junk was damaged, but Pittman's was at full capacity and got up close and personal with the enemy. The American and allied crews then started throwing their grenades at the Japanese vessel, using the explosives as cover to prepare a boarding party. Pittman and a few of his compatriots then leapt aboard the Japanese ship, guns at the ready. But it was already over. In 45 minutes the Chinese and American force had killed 44 Japanese sailors, wounded another 35 and captured the enemy ship.

Their losses were much fewer: four Chinese sailors were killed, five were wounded and one American was wounded in the fight. In less than an hour, they had won the last naval battle of World War II. The Americans had ended the war with the brand new, destructive force of the atomic bomb, but the fighting ended in a throwback to naval warfare from the age of sails and cannons. Pittman's boarding party took the Chinese junk as a prize. The three ships then completed the voyage to Shanghai. For their efforts, Swentzel was awarded the Navy Cross and Pittman a Silver Star. That is how World War II finally ended. After the atomic bombs, after the unconditional surrender of Japan, three small ships ended the conflict with a boarding party.

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

Royal Canadian Artillery Association Annual General Meeting - The Royal Canadian Artillery Association held their Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, our nation's capital. The following 15th Field Artillery Regiment individuals were present. Major General (ret'd) Stu McDonald CMM CD and Lieutenant Colonel (ret'd) Leon Jensen OMM CD attended in person while Honorary Colonel Don Foster, Captain (ret'd) Doug Gayton MMM CD and Master Warrant Officer (Master Gunner) Colin Norris CD attended online. Did you know that all serving members of 15th Field Artillery Regiment are members of the RCAA? You simply need to go online www.rca-arc.org to register. Did you know that all members of the Vancouver Artillery Association are also members of the RCAA? They simply needed to register for the AGM and they could have attended the updates from the Colonel Commandant, Director RCA and Regimental Colonel. During the AGM LCol Jensen was voted in as Association President and MWO Colin Norris was voted in as a Board Director. Check out the photos here:

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

RCAA Executive Position - The Royal Canadian Artillery Association is still looking for a Secretary. This is a voting position on the executive (President, Vice-President, Past-President, Treasurer, Secretary and 4 Divisional Reps). The main responsibilities include attending monthly zoom meetings, transcribing recordings of the monthly meeting into a Record of Discussion and compiling the Annual Report. Check out some more details here:

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/rcaa-executive-position>

Warrant Officers and Sergeants Dinner - Additional photos have been uploaded to this page.
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/wosgtsdinner2023.html>

Quartermaster Stores - We've had some items donated with the caveat that if they did not fit into our museum collection, we were allowed to sell them and receive some money for our heritage projects. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/quartermaster-stores7333216>

Point Grey Battery Autumn Clean Up - Still looking for volunteers. Who's available for 21 October 2023? We'll scrape some moss, clean up the gun stores room, add some QR codes, grease some hinges.

Send me an email if you're interested president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

Wednesday Lunch on Zoom - Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies. Click on this link. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71810323784?pwd=ehLJDhj9zIqI0HvnBIMCYmw0p6ZDwe.1> or use <https://zoom.us/j/71810323784> or use Meeting ID 718 1032 3784 and the secret passcode is 6L6qz0 (fourth digit is a lower case Q and the last digit is a Zero)

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: Christopher Point Battery (1941-1944) - Christopher Point Battery was a World War II Canadian, reinforced concrete, 8 inch coastal gun battery at Christopher Point, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. Deactivated in 1944. Part of the Harbor Defense of Victoria and Esquimalt Harbours. Also considered part of the World War II Joint United States and Canadian Harbor Defense of Juan de Fuca Strait. The United States furnished two 8" M1888MII Railway guns (serial #19 and #51) and two M1918 barbette carriages (42 degree) as well as some technical support for the battery in July 1941. The Canadian National Defence Headquarters then approved \$11,000 to purchase seventy-four rounds of ammunition from the United States to start training.



Battery Christopher Point Armament

Empl No	Caliber Type	Barrel Length	Model	Serial No	Manufacturer	Carriage	Service Dates	Notes
?	8" Rifle	278.5"	M1888MII A1	19	Bethlehem	Barbette, M1918A1	1941-1944	See note 1
?	8" Rifle	278.5"	M1888MII A1	51	Bethlehem	Barbette, M1918A1	1941-1944	See note 1

Source: Berhow, Mark A. ed, *American Seacoast Defenses: A Reference Guide*, 3rd Edition - PDF, CDSG ePress, McLean, VA, 2012, [ISBN 0-9748167-0-1](https://www.cdsgepress.com/ISBN-0-9748167-0-1), pages 112-113 Note 1: Guns transferred from Aberdeen Proving Ground to Christopher Point Battery 21 Jul 1941. Transferred from Christopher Point Battery to Black Hills Ordnance Depot 19 Jan 1945
[CDSG Gun Card Collection](#) from [NARA](#)

The guns were manned by Canadian Gunners (68 Coast Artillery Bty) supported by a small US technical staff. These guns fired 200-pound shells with a range of 23,500 yards and they covered the southern shore of the Strait of Juan de Fuca to a point west of Port Angeles. These installations were supplemented, on the American side of the strait, by another battery of two 8-inch railway guns and two 155mm batteries with four guns. Another battery of two American 8-inch railway

guns was erected at Fairview Point Battery to supplement the Prince Rupert defenses. The Fairview Point Battery guns were dismantled and returned to the United States at the end of 1944. The Christopher Point Battery guns were transferred back to the US Black Hills Depot as of 19 Jan 1945. Battery site still exists at the Rocky Point Naval establishment with no public access. No period guns or mounts in place.

This Week: We are back in the sky today, or, to be more accurate, back near the ceiling of a very large building. All around the world, there are excellent museums for objects military and naval. British Columbia, while being viewed, probably accurately, as a land Birkenstock-wearing, tofumunching, sensitive, apologetic, pacifists, does have a few great museums of that genre: the BC Aviation Museum on Vancouver and Quadra's Island (to give it the original name), the Comox Air Force Museum, which must be in Comox, and the Canadian Museum of Flight, in Langley.



All those museums have oodles of cool stuff, as the nerd in you might say, with interesting kit hanging from the ceilings, out of reach of spotty teens. Our photo, however, is not of one of their excellent artefacts; it comes from elsewhere. But, exactly where this is, is not known at present. What is known is that, whilst resembling an aeroplane, it seems to be missing few key bits, or has them in a

quantity not normally expected. The engine is normal enough, and seems familiar, but the wings are tiny, and what of the cockpit? Is there actually one? Our highly-paid Photoshop technicians have obscured the markings in a manner that cleverly hides the nationality of this thing, so it is up to you to identify who built this, and what it actually is. Send your thoroughly-researched answers to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Keep 'em flying!

From the 'Punitentary'

What kind of concert only costs 45 cents? A 50 Cent concert featuring Nickelback.

Murphy's Other Laws

Make it too tough for the enemy to get in, and you won't be able to get out.

Quotable Quotes

I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught. *Winston Churchill*



LCol Jesse van Eijk

Commanding Officer

2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

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

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



Major J.A.E. (Jürgen) Miranda, CD

Officer Commanding Combat Service Support Company

2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

Born in 1988, Major Jürgen Miranda joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 2005 as a Private with the 75th Mississauga Company, Toronto Scottish Regiment (Reserve). He later transferred to Buron Company, Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada (Reserve) in 2007 before pursuing a Component Transfer to the Regular Forces under the Regular Officer Training Program. Major Miranda attended the University of Waterloo from 2007-11 graduating with an Honours Degree in Geography and Environmental Management, with a Minor in French Studies. Upon completion of his officer training in 2011 he was posted to 3rd

Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), where he served as a Platoon Commander and Company 2nd-in-Command in Alpha (Mountain) Company, deploying to Southern Alberta to assist in the flood response under Operation LENTUS in 2013.

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

Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

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

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

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71810323784?pwd=ehLJDhj9zlqI0HvnBlMCYmw0p6ZDwe.1>

or use <https://zoom.us/j/71810323784>

or use Meeting ID 718 1032 3784 **and the secret passcode is 6L6qz0** (fourth digit is a lower case Q and the last digit is a Zero)

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

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.

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).



Fort Fraser Garrison

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

Feast of St. Andrew

Mess Dinner

Saturday, 30 November, 2023

in the Officers' Mess,

15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA

2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

1800 for 1900hrs

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>](mailto:jobarb100@gmail.com) or 604-522-5766

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

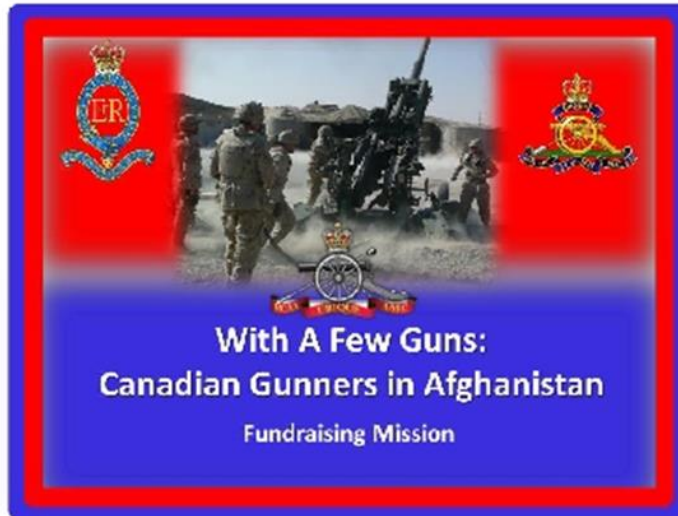
Yours Aye,

James Barrett CD, Major
Officer Commanding the Garrison



With a Few Guns

“With a Few Guns” Calling For Support! Donate Now!



With a Few Guns will be an accounting of the contribution Canadian Gunners made to operations in Afghanistan from initial deployment in 2002 until withdrawal in March 2014. The book will not be an “official history” but will tell the story of the approximately 3,000 Gunners who served in Afghanistan, Regular Force and Reserves, in any and all positions, in any and all functions, as well as the stories of commanders and supported arms, and Gunner families.

We have three accomplished and exceptional authors:

Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) Brian Reid

Colonel (Retired) Wolf Riedel

Mr. Mark Zuehlke

We are launching this fundraising initiative to cover expenses and get the book published, while keeping the price affordable. *With a Few Guns* is being written with the backing of the RCA Association, and all donations will be eligible for a tax receipt. Any monies donated in excess of what is needed will remain with the RCAA for support to the causes as espoused by the RCAA.

Our MISSION is to raise \$75,000 (+)

Questions may be directed to: WithAFewGuns@gmail.com

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](#)

