



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News – 19 Dec 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](#)

Zoom meetings shutting down for holidays – next meeting Jan 3

Jan 01 New Year's Levee: 15 Fd WO & Sgts Mess 1100hrs. [See posters.](#)

Also HQ 39 CBG will hold a Levee at the Seaforth Armoury.

This is the last newsletter for 2023. Next edition will come out on Jan 9, 2024

Looking For a Christmas Gift?

Check out Hal Skaarup's great series of books about Cannon in Canada
([see list in poster section](#))

Did You Serve in CYPRUS Under OP SNOWGOOSE?

[See also poster in poster section.](#)

2024 is the 60th anniversary of Canadian involvement on the island, and the 50th anniversary of the 1974 conflict. If you did serve in Cyprus you may be interested in taking a trip down memory lane by joining us for a **November 2024** reunion. The reunion is open to all CAF Veterans who served under the United Nations banner in Cyprus **and family members** of those who served. The linked brochure provides the background to the tour and all the detail that you need to make a decision on participation.

Here is the Link to **the Brochure**: <https://drive.google.com/.../1kM00Mw46oBo5xkoifDB.../view...>

The tour enjoys the full support of Global Affairs Canada, the Department of National Defence and Veterans Affairs Canada and it promises to be the trip of a lifetime. Registration through our travel agents, Special Travel International, is now open with an early sell out of the 200 available seats anticipated.

Here is the link to the Special Travel International **Signup Form**:

<https://sticanada.com/cyprus24>

You can **preview** the form for interest, just don't fill in any of the answers, and don't submit. Just close your browser. If registering, make sure to fill in all the detail and note the dates installments are to be paid.

Avez-vous servi à CHYPRE sous OP SNOWGOOSE?

Voir aussi l'affiche dans la section des affiches.

Il s'agit du 60e anniversaire de l'engagement canadien sur l'île et du 50e anniversaire du conflit de 74. Si vous l'avez fait, vous pourriez être intéressé à faire un voyage dans la mémoire en vous joignant à nous pour une réunion de **novembre 2024** à Chypre. La réunion est ouverte à tous les vétérans des FAC qui ont servi sous la bannière des Nations Unies à Chypre **et aux membres de la famille** de ceux qui ont servi. La brochure ci-jointe fournit le contexte de la visite et tous les détails dont vous avez besoin pour prendre une décision sur la participation.

Voici le lien vers la brochure :

<https://drive.google.com/.../1kM00Mw46oBo5xkoifDB.../view...>

La visite bénéficie du plein appui d'Affaires mondiales Canada, du ministère de la Défense nationale et d'Anciens Combattants Canada et promet d'être le voyage d'une vie. L'inscription par l'intermédiaire de nos agents de voyages, Special Travel International, est maintenant ouverte avec une vente anticipée sur les 200 sièges disponibles prévus.

Voici le lien vers le formulaire d'inscription spécial à Travel International :

<https://sticanada.com/cyprus24>

Vous pouvez **prévisualiser** le formulaire, il suffit de ne remplir aucune des réponses et de ne pas soumettre. Fermez simplement votre navigateur.

Russia Suffers Heavy Losses Attacking Ukraine's Dnipro Bridgehead

'Exceptionally Heavy Losses' As Russia's Newest Airborne Division Attacks Ukraine's Dnipro Bridgehead. *David Axe Forbes Staff Dec 15, 2023*

The 104th Air Assault Division was supposed to save the Russian campaign on the left bank of the Dnipro River in southern Ukraine. Instead, the newly-formed division "suffered exceptionally heavy losses and failed to achieve its objectives during its combat debut," the UK Defense Ministry reported. Two months ago, Ukrainian marines from the 35th Brigade motored across the Dnipro and, under the cover of artillery, drones and intensive radio-jamming, secured a bridgehead in the settlement of Krynky on the otherwise Russian held left bank. It's a new front

in the war—one the Ukrainians hope eventually to exploit in order to push Russian occupiers from southern Ukraine. Russian marines, reinforced by an army motorized regiment, failed to dislodge the Ukrainians. So, after some cursory training in September and October, the airborne corps' 104th Division arrived in southern Ukraine—and took the lead.



Russian paratroopers.

Russian Government Photo

The 104th, the new fifth division in what usually is a four-division Russian airborne corps, was supposed to make good the corps' heavy losses in the first 22 months of Russia's wider war on Ukraine. Instead, the approximately 2,000-person division itself became a casualty of an escalating war of attrition. The division "was reportedly poorly supported by air power and artillery, while many of the troops were highly likely inexperienced," the ministry in London explained. It's unclear how many Ukrainian marines are in Krynky and the surrounding forest. Some Russian sources estimate the landing force at just 200 or 300 marines. These hundreds of marines—and the drone-operators, artillery gunners and electronic-warfare troops who support them—have held out against thousands of Russians. First marines from the 810th Brigade. Then soldiers from the 70th Motor Rifle Division. And now the paratroopers from the 104th Division.

How the Ukrainians have held out, despite being badly outnumbered and facing relentless bombardment from the ground and the air, by now is no secret. In the weeks before the 35th Brigade crossed the Dnipro, Ukrainian gunners and drone crews struck Russian radio-jamming gear on the left bank while Ukrainian EW specialists set up their own jammers. The result is a dead zone over Krynky for Russian drones—a free-fire zone for Ukraine's drones. Vehicles and infantry get hit from the air within minutes of breaking cover. "The situation in the Krynky area is only getting worse for us," one Russian observer.

That the Ukrainian marines are holding in Krynky, and beating the 104th Division, doesn't mean they're about to break out into southern Kherson Oblast and make a run toward Crimea. In the weeks since Kyiv's southern counteroffensive culminated, Ukrainian brigades—having exhausted their offensive combat power—have shifted from offense to defense. Russian forces meanwhile have gone on the attack—and are having more luck in the east, where Russian supply lines are short, than they are in the south where people and supplies must move by rail over hundreds of miles. But in holding Krynky, the Ukrainians hold open the option of *eventually* launching an offensive from that bridgehead. That possibility clearly matters, a lot, to the Ukrainian general staff in Kyiv. It's obvious Ukrainian leaders have concentrated many of their best radio-jammers, and a significant portion of their explosives-laden drones, to the Krynky fight. Perhaps at the expense of defensive efforts in eastern sectors, such as that around Avdiivka.

Singapore's Armoured Vehicles: The Next-Generation Transformation

Some critical lessons – including Singapore's vision for unmanned assets – can be gleaned from the changes on display in the SAF's newest armoured military vehicles.

Thomas Lim The Diplomat October 28, 2023



The Hunter Armoured Fighting Vehicle of the Singapore Army during a live-firing exercise, Sep 28, 2022,

Wikimedia Commons/ Lyg 2001

In a global climate increasingly characterized by polarization, the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) has continued to push forward with its next-generation transformation to serve the island-state's defense needs. This was on display during the recent Exercise Forging Sabre 2023 (XFS23), which saw the official playtesting of a multitude of the SAF's freshest technological novelties during a military exercise conducted in the United States. Looking through the lens of Singapore's fleet of armoured military vehicles, some critical lessons can be gleaned from the SAF's newest vehicular transformations, as well as potential causes for concern in its next-generation warfighting setup. Singaporeans might find this concept's name familiar, as the "mothership" label is most often associated with a popular local online news site that has its footprints imprinted into Singapore's digital landscape. Coincidentally, the same terminology has been used as a descriptor to classify segments of the SAF's newest developments, starting with its maritime service, the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

Leopard 2SG

In March 2023, Singapore's Ministry of Defense (MINDEF) announced it had signed an arms contract with ST Engineering to acquire six Multi-Role Combat Vessels (MRCV) for the RSN. Slated to replace the existing Victory-class missile corvettes by 2030, MINDEF has earmarked the six MRCVs to function as a "mothership" for other unmanned drones and vessels in the SAF's sea warfighting setup, particularly when out at sea. Essentially, the MRCVs have



been designated as the sea-based control tower for an SAF that is moving toward a widespread integration of unmanned assets across its four services. Looking into the SAF's land service, similar concepts are at play in its newest armoured vehicle, the Hunter Armoured Fighting

Vehicle (AFV), officially commissioned for service in June 2019. What is most notable about the Hunter is its full digitalization and technological sophistication, with its interior equipped with an Integrated Combat Cockpit alongside a myriad of visual screens and controls for the vehicle crew. Considering this, the Hunter could already have the digital complexities built in to serve a role equivalent to the one the MRCVs play for the RSN, with the AFV as the ground-based “mothership” for the Singapore Army.

In the SAF’s plans for 2030, there are several unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) classified under the “Land” category of the SAF’s next-generation iteration, with some of these elements making their official debut during demonstrations conducted in XFS23. Such UAV elements alongside an atypical section of infantry soldiers, with the Hunter as the “control tower,” could potentially be used to capture footage of military targets and translating them into actionable military intelligence through target identification. That represents a tantalizing prospect for the upgrading of Singapore’s land fighting capabilities, both for its soldiers on foot, and in cabin for its armoured vehicles. With this in mind, having a digitally sophisticated intelligence and command system that is able to process swathes of data is of paramount importance for any state when trying to develop its military capabilities. The aforementioned Hunter is equipped with the Army Tactical Engagement Information System (ARTEMIS) Battle Management System (BMS), the SAF’s next-generation tactical Command and Control (C2) system that has been depicted as the functional brain of the vehicle itself. The ARTEMIS label also evokes references to Greek mythology, with Artemis also known as the Olympian goddess of the hunt, equipped with a bow and arrow, alongside a pack of hunting dogs. That is a potentially synchronous nod to ARTEMIS as the control tower software for the rest of the SAF’s assets.



*Singapore SP Howitzer
SSPH-1 Primus
155mm.*

The long-term development and cross-platform application of ARTEMIS is perhaps the vital deciding factor of the success of the SAF’s mothership concept for its land fighting setup – a future where the entirety of the SAF’s services are able to look at a singular digital “map” that combines intelligence gathered from all sources thereafter

ensures maximum interoperability across all frontiers of the battlefield, and more critically, elevates the SAF’s efficiency and lethality as an integrated fighting force. This systemic centralization will undoubtedly lead to a quantum leap in the efficiency of the SAF’s C2 systems and warfighting capabilities, but the application of similar concepts across other platforms in the SAF remains a technical and conceptual challenge for Singapore’s conscript-based military. Although ARTEMIS is a local defense innovation, attempting to embed a brand-new command system onto the SAF’s fleet of vehicles, and resultantly across the SAF’s four services, is much easier said than done. This process might be more straightforward when attempting to install

elements of it onto locally produced armoured vehicles such as the Bionix or Bronco, but functional challenges emerge when it comes to overseas-produced assets of the SAF. A key cog in any land warfighting setup is the functionality of its main battle tanks (MBTs), vehicles renowned for their blend of firepower, mobility, and protection. Looking at the SAF's existing fleet of MBTs, it currently possesses the Leopard 2SG (L2SG), which is already equipped with existing German-produced command systems. Attempting to supersede the original system of a vehicle, or to install a new system to operate in tandem with an existing one, is a challenge both in function and purpose for the SAF. As the SAF's 2040 plans continue to include the L2SG as part of its warfighting force, whether the SAF will be able to realize a full implementation of the mothership concept across its land service remains to be seen.

Armoured Recovery Vehicle

Considering the limitations of superimposing one vehicle's system over another, the available options here are perhaps twofold: One, to combine the C2 systems by allowing ARTEMIS to communicate directly with whichever BMS is currently installed in Singapore's older vehicles, or two, to run both systems together and simultaneously (yet functioning separately) in one singular vehicular platform. This choice is an engineering puzzle that Singapore's defense establishments continue to grapple with. Questions over the monetary efficacy and practicality of such a move will remain, even if hardware limitations are eventually overcome. Nevertheless, the mothership concept represents a theoretical permutation of the SAF's next-generation look as a digitalized and inter-connected warfighting force. Such processes of force connectivity cannot be hastened – they need significant time for proper cost-benefit calculations and functional trials, before a step-by-step integrative process that starts with intra-service installation and standardization, and thereafter a series of combined arms exercises to achieve complete inter-service integration.



Although the “modular” term might be unfamiliar to observers of the SAF, unlike the mothership concept, modular capabilities are not a newfound observation. In architecture, modularity is a design concept that involves the subdivision of a system into smaller pieces (or modules), with these pieces thereafter being transferrable and used in other designs to create different iterations. A simple example of modularity in military technology would be this – imagine separating a typical armoured vehicle's turret (the top) from its chassis (the bottom) and replacing the turret with something else. This new replacement for the vehicle's top can be anything, from an automated 150mm artillery launcher, as in South Korea's popular K9 Howitzers, to a combat bridge, as in the SAF's Hunter armoured Vehicle-Launched Bridge variant. The concept of modular variants has seen widespread application in militaries all around the world, and the SAF is no different. Singapore's locally produced Bionix AFV has multiple modular variants, including a combat bridge variant similar to the Hunter, a recovery variant that involves the Lego-like fitting of the Bionix's original chassis with a 25-tonne winch and a 30-tonne crane, and an

artillery variant that involves the same chassis retrofitted with a 155mm howitzer, also known as the Singapore Self-Propelled Howitzer Primus. Looking deeper into Singapore's existing vehicles, the ultimate illustration of its success in developing modular variants is the Bronco All Terrain Tracked Carrier (ATTC). The Bronco ATTC has been described as having more than 40 different modular iterations, with multiple variants already in service across the SAF, including a Mortar variant, an Ambulance variant, and a Maintenance variant.



Bionix ARV

Thereafter, applying this modular concept into the SAF's vehicles opens up intriguing possibilities that could transform the entire outlook of its warfighting setup. With the SAF predicted to face a one-third reduction in its available manpower by 2030, the SAF has emphasized its "Technology as a Force Multiplier" adage while developing new technologies that require less manpower to perform the functions of

its older predecessors, or even for unmanned assets to replace manned roles. The SAF had already explored the potential for unmanned armoured vehicles previously, with archives recording attempted developments of an unmanned version of the SAF's older version armoured vehicle, the Ultra M113 armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs), in 2000. For the Hunter AFV, notable defense observers have already commented on the evident visual cues to note that the Hunter's closed-hatch camera-based operations, placed alongside its drive-by-wire capabilities and automatic targeting systems, present the potential for a fully unmanned Hunter variant, thereafter opening up a host of different tactical possibilities in land warfare. Pushing this modular concept further, what if the SAF could introduce new modular variants to replicate the warfighting functions of its other vehicles, in particular its older and aging ones? A side-by-side visual comparison of the SAF's armoured vehicles reveals deeper details. Both the Bionix and the Hunter are categorized under the same vehicle classification of AFVs. However, one is considerably bulkier than the other. The Bionix and the Hunter have vastly different tonnages, or weight, with the former said to weigh around 23 to 24 tonnes, while the latter measures at 29.5 tonnes. In fact, the Hunter's size can even be compared to the SAF's L2SG MBTs, with the Hunter's width of 3.4 meters being just shy of the L2SG's 3.7 meters.

The L2SG's manufacturing base is the Leopard 2A4 MBTs, which have already been retired from service in Germany's armed forces. Maintaining functional operability of the SAF's L2SGs will thus continue to be an uphill challenge, considering the lack of spare part availability across the entirety of the international arms market, a problem that has only been exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. Putting the pieces together, it is not far-fetched to imagine using the Hunter's modular capabilities in developing variants that can supply the same firepower as the existing L2SGs. The successful creation of an MBT variant of the Hunter would represent a significant breakthrough in regional military developments. The process of planting a 120mm turret onto a vehicle chassis can sound like a simplistic game of stacking one piece above another, but the technical complexities are immense. It has been reported that Singapore had toyed with the idea of

installing a 120mm turret on the Bionix in the early 2000s, but that its plans fell through due to technical difficulties. Trying to install a new (and much heavier) gun onto an existing chassis changes the operational space left for the crew to maneuver in the vehicle, which could change the SAF's manpower deployment plans. As for the vehicle's performance, the installation of such high-caliber guns will lead to a spike in the vehicle's overall tonnage, thereafter affecting its suspension and stability during vehicle movement. More critically, the vehicle must be able to allow for the gun to traverse and fire at a wide range of angles, while simultaneously maintaining a healthy-enough balance to absorb the recoil caused when firing high-caliber munitions.

Nonetheless, as the SAF prepares for its next-generation iteration, transformative processes have to start sooner than later. For one, it can consider the potential for Light Tank modular variants instead of MBT variants. Such variants can retain the combat movement speed of typical AFVs while deploying lighter-caliber ammunition for its main gun, such as the 105mm guns that can be found on South Korea's K21-105 Light Tank or Austria's Pandur II APCs. More importantly, to alleviate or circumvent the technological difficulties involved in such developmental ventures, Singapore should continue to pursue closer military partnerships with like-minded states under the ambit of defense diplomacy. For modular capabilities, the most obvious model would be South Korea, an up-and-rising competitor in the international arms market that has captured global attention for the successes of its military exports. South Korea's successful "modularization" of its armoured vehicles has seen it secure lucrative arms deals with states like Turkey and Australia, with the former's new Altay MBTs based on the chassis of the South Korea K2s, and the latter's new AS21 Redback IFVs built on the South Korea K21s respectively. While the potential purchase of new armoured vehicles seems like a far-and-away idea that requires a prolonged calculation of fit and purpose, pursuing closer defense ties with such states could allow Singapore to learn from their experiences, and to gain technological know-hows that could aid in accelerating the transformation of the SAF's armoured vehicles.

Effecting change in the realm of defense is never a simplistic top-down process, as states need to keep in mind the omni-directional reverberations of each and every decision made, both to its domestic audience and to the international community. The traditionally opaque nature of defense affairs in general requires policymakers to approach such decisions with high levels of caution and sensitivities. As militaries around the world continue to extract operational lessons from contemporary conflicts such as the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine and the 2023 Israel-Hamas war, the SAF has to continue forging new frontiers in its military developments to maintain its position as one of the strongest militaries in the region for years to come.

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

I trust everyone is starting to get into the festive spirit. After all the dining and partying I trust you have already circled your calendar for the New Year's Day Levee on 1 January. Details should be out in the near future.

Commanding Officer's Tea - Another very successful Tea was held in the Officers' Mess. Congratulations to the organizers who had to overcome an unscheduled power outage in the

Armoury that lasted throughout the event. Mind you, the candles added to the ambience of the Mess! <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/commanding-officers-tea>

Bombardier David Richard Speck, MM - Bombardier Speck has been added to our list of Military Medal awards. He was a member of the 5th Siege Battery, Canadian Garrison Artillery, CEF, a unit perpetuated by the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA. He never returned from the War and is only commemorated on the Vimy Memorial as he was reported missing and only later confirmed killed in action. Lest We Forget. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/sergeant-harry-alexander-alex-robertson-mm>

Wednesday Lunch - meetings suspended for the holidays. Next meeting Jan 3, 2024.



Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: A **director**, also called an **auxiliary predictor** is a mechanical or electronic computer that continuously calculates trigonometric firing solutions for use against a moving target and transmits targeting data to direct the weapon firing crew. It is used to determine or estimate the altitude or slant range of the aerial target. Two observers then track the aircraft through a pair of telescopes on opposite sides of the director. The trackers turn handwheels to keep the crosshairs of their respective telescope on the aircraft image. The rotation of the handwheels provides the director with data on the aircraft's change in elevation and change in azimuth in relation to the director. As the mechanisms inside the director respond to the rotation of the handwheels, a firing solution is mechanically calculated and continuously updated for as long as the target is tracked. Essentially, the director predicts future position based on the aircraft's present location and how it is moving. After their introduction, directors soon incorporated correction factors that could compensate for ballistic conditions such as air density, wind velocity and wind direction. If the director was not located near the gun sections, a correction for parallax error could also be entered to produce even more accurate firing direction calculations. Directors transmit three important calculated firing solutions to the anti-aircraft gun firing crew: the correct firing azimuth and quadrant elevation calculated to determine where exactly to aim the gun, and for guns that use ammunition with timed fuzes, the director also provides the flight time for the projectile so the fuze can be set to detonate close to the target.



This Week: The list of military machines that the world has devised is immense, but most can be classified into one of two types: armoured fighting vehicles or soft-skinned vehicles. The former includes tanks, such as our Leopards, armoured cars, of which we sort of have some (the TAPV qualifies), infantry fighting vehicles, of which we have none (the LAV does not qualify, according to most experts), and self-propelled guns, of which we used to have many, but now have none. The soft-skinned ones include the famous Canadian Military Pattern trucks, which became lorries in the hands of some of our Commonwealth friends, and is called a “tractor” when used to haul artillery pieces, our old friend the Deuce-and-a-Half, and current types, such as the mighty G-Wagen, which is also popular with shoppers at malls in Richmond, being more dent-proof than most SUVs.



However, some machines defy classification, and we have featured a few in the past. This week’s photo, cleverly censored by our highly-paid technicians, is one of those mysteries. It is large, probably painted in appropriate colours, and is tracked. But is it armoured? Maybe not. Is it

soft-skinned? Well, it appears to have a dearth of skin but plenty of headlamps. So, dear readers, what is it? If you have any clue at all, please let our editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com) or the author, John Redmond (john.d.redmond@telus.net) know your thoughts.

From the ‘Punitary’

Science teacher: “If you call your name in a vacuum, what will you hear?”

Student: “That depends on whether it is on or off.”

Murphy’s Other Laws

The important things are always simple; the simple are always hard.

Quotable Quotes

Never confuse movement with action. - Ernest Hemingway

WO & Sgt's Mess Levee



The Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

**Cordially invite you to their
New Year's Day Levee
Monday, 1 January 2024**

Breakfast

Frankie's Italian
Kitchen and Bar
765 Beatty Street
Vancouver, BC

0800 hours for 0830 hours
Mess Members*

Unit Levee

Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess
Bessborough Armoury
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC

Mess Members* 1030hrs
Guests 1100hrs

Dress

Serving Members: DEU (with Ribbons)

Guests: Business Attire

* Members include Associates and family

Looking For a Christmas Gift?

Check out Hal Skaarup's great series of books about Cannon in Canada



Volume 1

[Cannon in Canada, Province by Province, Volume 1: New Brunswick](#)

Volume 2

<https://www.silverhawkauthor.com/books/cannon-in-canada-province-by-province-volume-2-prince-edward-island>



Volume 3

[Cannon in Canada, Province by Province, Volume 3: Nova Scotia](#)



Volume 4

[Cannon in Canada, Province by Province, Volume 4: Newfoundland and Labrador](#)





Volume 5

<https://www.silverhawkauthor.com/post/artillery-in-canada-1a-cannon-in-canada-province-by-province-volume-5-british-columbia-book>

Volume 6

<https://www.silverhawkauthor.com/books/cannon-in-canada-province-by-province-volume-6-quebec>



Volume 7

[Cannon in Canada, Province by Province, Volume 7: Ontario](#)

Volume 8

[Cannon in Canada, Province by Province, Volume 8: Manitoba](#)





Volume 9

[Cannon in Canada, Province by Province, Volume 9: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut](#)

[Shell Drake: Canadian Artillery Museums and Gun Monuments](#)



Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

No Zoom meetings in Dec. Next meeting on Jan3



zoom

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=ehLJDhj9zlqI0HvnBIMCYmw0p6ZDwe.1>

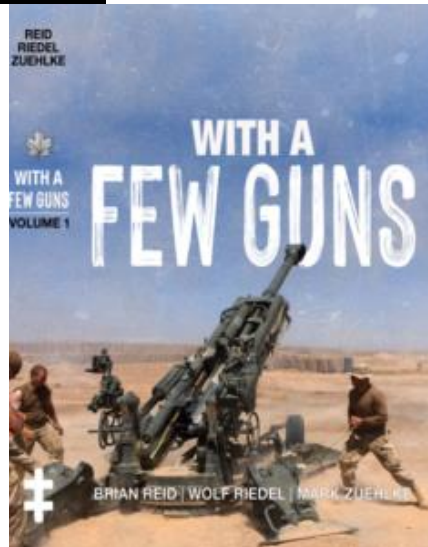
or use <https://zoom.us/j/71810323784>

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.

With a Few Guns – Volume 1



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/)

<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 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.

Available on Amazon.ca

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*



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

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Commemoration Cyprus 2024



Comméoration 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](#)

