

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News – 23 Jan 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 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– see poster section for details.

Commemoration Cyprus 2024

80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour

- Jan 24** Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs * **Note change in log in details in poster section**
RCA Assoc - Discussion with LGen Lise Bourgon 1600hrs
- Jan 27** Ft Fraser Garrison, 78th Fraser Highlanders, Annual Burns Dinner
Change of Venue and price see poster
- Jan 31** Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs
- Feb 07** Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs
- Feb 10** AFOA Valentine's Lunch
- Feb 17** BCR Concert for the Padre

Surveillance Flights Keep Close Watch on Russia and Ukraine

John Leicester *The Associated Press* Jan 15, 2024



Crew members analyze data on monitors aboard a French military AWACS surveillance plane as it flies a 10-hour mission Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024, to eastern Romania for the NATO military alliance. With a powerful radar that rotates six times a minute on top of the planes, AWACS can detect targets over hundreds of kilometers (miles). One AWACS can surveil an area the size of Poland; three can cover all of central Europe, NATO says. (AP Photo/John Leicester)

Off in the distance, Ukraine, fighting for its survival. Seen from up here, in the cockpit of a French air force surveillance plane flying over neighboring

Romania, the snow-dusted landscapes look deceptively peaceful. The dead from Russia's war, the shattered Ukrainian towns and mangled battlefields, aren't visible to the naked eye through the clouds. But French military technicians riding farther back in the aircraft, monitoring screens that display the word "secret" when idle, have a far more penetrating view. With a powerful radar that rotates six times every minute on the fuselage and a bellyful of surveillance gear, the plane can spot missile launches, airborne bombing runs and other military activity in the conflict. As the second anniversary of Russia's Feb 24, 2022, invasion of Ukraine nears, The Associated Press obtained rare and exclusive access aboard the giant Airborne Warning and Control System, or AWACS, aircraft. With 26 military personnel and an AP journalist aboard, it flew a 10-hour reconnaissance mission from central France to Romanian airspace and back, peering with electronic eyes across southern Ukraine and the Black Sea to Russian-occupied Crimea and beyond.

The plane, with a proud cockerel painted on its tail and circling on auto-pilot at 10 kilometres, feeds intelligence in real time to ground-based commanders. Its mission for NATO on the eastern flank of the 31-nation military alliance also, in effect, drew a do-not-cross line in European skies. The plane's sustained presence high above eastern Romania — seeing, and also being seen by, Russian forces — signaled how intensely NATO is watching its borders and Russia, ready if necessary to act should Russian aggression threaten to extend beyond Ukraine. Regular surveillance flights, together with fighter patrols, ground based radar, missile batteries and other hardware at NATO's disposal, form what the commander of France's AWACS squadron described as "a shield" against any potential spill-over. The "ultimate goal is, of course, no conflict and deterrence," said the commander, a lieutenant colonel named Richard. Because of French security concerns, the AP was only able to identify him and other military personnel by their ranks and first names. "We need to show that we have the shield, show to the other countries that NATO is collective defense," he continued. "We have the ability to detect everywhere. And we are not here for a conflict. We are here to show that we are present and ready."

France's four AWACS are among a variety of surveillance aircraft, including unmanned UAV drones, that gather intelligence for NATO and its member nations. Lt Col Richard said the French E-3F-type AWACS see for hundreds of kilometres with their distinctive black-and-white rooftop radar domes, although he wouldn't be precise. E-3s are modified Boeing 707s. The 707 first flew in 1957 but stopped carrying passengers commercially in 2013, so E-3s are also flying examples of aviation history. "We can detect aircraft, we can detect UAVs, we can detect missiles and we can detect ships. That's true, for sure, in Ukraine, especially when we are at the border," Lt Col Richard said. As the plane loitered and scanned, the crew detected a distant Russian AWACS above the Sea of Azov, many hundreds of kilometers away on the Crimean Peninsula's eastern side. The Russian aircraft also seemingly spotted the French AWACS: Sensors along the fuselage picked up Russian radar signals. "We know that they see us, they know that we see them. Let's say that it's some kind of a dialogue between them and us," the French copilot, Major Romain, said.

NATO also has its own fleet of 14 AWACS, also E-3s. They can detect low flying targets within 400 kilometers (250 miles) and higher flying targets another 120 kilometres beyond that. The

alliance says one AWACS can monitor an area the size of Poland; three can cover all of central Europe. They are able to fly for 12 hours without refueling and the French AWACS aren't limited to surveillance, communications and air-traffic control missions for NATO. They expect to be deployed as part of the massive security operation for the Paris Olympics, providing additional radar surveillance with what Lt Col Richard called their "God's eye view." Russian pilots have at times made clear that they don't like being watched. In 2022, a Russian fighter jet released a missile near a British air force RC-135 Rivet Joint surveillance aircraft that was flying in international airspace over the Black Sea, Britain's government said. The US government released video in March 2023 of a Russian fighter jet dumping fuel on a US Air Force surveillance drone. The drone crashed into the Black Sea. Rivet Joints are particularly capable spy planes, and Russian authorities "really hate" their ability to snoop on the Ukraine war, said Justin Bronk, a researcher at the Royal United Services Institute defense think tank in London. As well as gathering "real-time intelligence that theoretically could be shared with Ukrainian partners," the planes also furnish "fantastic" insight about "how Russian forces actually operate in a real war," Bronk said in a phone interview. "So of course, the Russians are furious," he said.

NATO also scrambles fighter jets to scope Russian flights. It says allied aircraft took to the skies more than 500 times in 2022 to intercept Russian aircraft that ventured close to NATO airspace. The number of such encounters dropped to more than 300 in 2023, according to the Brussels headquartered alliance. The strengthening of Ukrainian air defenses with Western weaponry may partly explain the decrease, with shoot downs seemingly making Russian pilots warier. NATO observed reduced activity by manned Russian flights over the western Black Sea last year. NATO says "the vast majority of aerial encounters between NATO and Russian jets were safe and professional" and that Russian incursions into NATO airspace were rare and generally short. Aboard the French flight, the copilot, Major Romain, said Russian planes haven't intercepted a French AWACS "for a long time" and that if they did, French pilots would try to defuse any tension. "Our orders are to be, let's say, passive," he said. "For a civilian, let's say 'polite.'"

Ukrainian Crews Set Missile Trap For Russia's Best Radar Plane

A follow up from last week's story. - *David Axe, Forbes Staff* 18 Jan 2024



A Russian air force Beriev A-50. Wikimedia Commons© Provided by Forbes

On Sunday night, Ukrainian air-defenses shot down one of the Russian air force's very rare, and very valuable, A-50 radar early-warning planes, likely killing all 15 people aboard—potentially including high-ranking officers. A Russian Ilyushin Il-22 command plane was damaged in the same

attack. “Who did this?” the Ukrainian air force quipped. The answer, it seems, is the air arm’s 90 mile range Patriot PAC-2 air defense missiles. Less likely: shorter range Patriot PAC-3s or S-300s. Exactly *how* the Ukrainians shot down the four-engine A-50 with its top-mounted radar is unclear, but analyst Tom Cooper—who has written many books about Soviet and Russian warplanes—has a theory.

Ukrainian radar and missile crews lured the Russian crews into a trap. If Cooper’s theory is correct, the Ukrainians set the trap on Saturday, when Ukrainian air force jets—presumably Sukhoi Su-24 bombers—struck Russian air force installations across the Russian occupied Crimean Peninsula. “A number of radars were knocked out,” Cooper reported. The Saturday strikes, the latest in a long campaign of Ukrainian raids on Russian defenses in Crimea, suppressed the Russians’ ground-based radar coverage, leaving the surviving missile batteries on the peninsula partially blind—especially to the north, where the terrain could mask incoming Ukrainian planes, drones and missiles.

So Russian commanders did the obvious, but stupid, thing. They ordered one of their few remaining A-50U radar planes, which normally fly far to the south over the Sea of Azov, to push farther north in order to extend radar coverage over most of Crimea. An A-50’s rotating radar can see airplane size targets nearly 200 miles away. A four prop Ilyushin Il-22M airborne command post with around 10 crew aboard accompanied the A-50. The Il-22 is a radio-relay platform; its crew assists the A-50’s crew by handling communications and data transfer for which the A-50 lacks the power and processing. Satellite imagery and radar data seem to place the A-50’s northernmost flight path over occupied Berdyansk, just 75 miles from the front line. That’s within range of the single Patriot surface to air missile battery, one of three in the arsenal, that the Ukrainian air force has deployed along the southern front. The trick was for the Ukrainians to target the A-50 and its accompanying Il-22 without giving the Russian crews too much advance notice of the attack—and without sacrificing their precious Patriot system. “All Ukrainians had to do was to secretly deploy a suitable SAM system to target the two aircraft from long range,” Cooper wrote. “Perhaps this was one of [the air force’s] S-300 SAM systems. Perhaps one of [the air force’s] PAC-2/3 SAM systems.” “It is also possible that Ukrainians have deployed a launcher and a radar, plus power supply equipment, from one of their three PAC-2/3 SAM systems ... in combination with one of their S-300 radars.”

There’s some evidence of an S-300-Patriot team up. A Russian air force Sukhoi Su-34 fighter-bomber reportedly detected a previously unknown Ukrainian S-300 battery switching on its radar in the minutes before the A-50 and Il-22 were hit. If the S-300 battery did the initial illumination, it must have passes along target tracks to a nearby hidden Patriot battery. “The latter powered up its radar for only a few seconds: long enough to obtain its own targeting data, but too short for the Russians to dependably detect its emissions and assess them as a threat,” Cooper surmised. “And then the Ukrainians started firing their missiles.” A minute later, the missiles exploded—destroying the A-50 and damaging the Il-22. “With their fire-action over,” Cooper wrote, “the Ukrainian S-300 and PAC-2/3 crews promptly ceased emitting and started packing [up] their systems to move them away and thus avoid any possible Russian retaliation.” Down one A-50, the Russian air force may have just two of the jets left; the other six A-50s reportedly are in need

of upgrade and overhaul. Unless the air force is willing to risk the last two flyable A-50s, it must make peace with its new inability to provide radar coverage over all of Crimea. It must, in other words, accept the risk of continuing—indeed, escalating—Ukrainian missile raids on Russian forces on the peninsula. If there's any comfort for the Russians, it might be that the Ukrainian air force does not have a limitless supply of PAC-2 missiles. Unless and until pro-Russia Republicans in the US Congress approve the \$61 billion in fresh aid to Ukraine that US president Joe Biden has proposed, the Ukrainians may need to begin rationing their missiles—and taking fewer chances on ambitious missile traps.

Russia Has Lost 87% of Troops It Had Prior to Start of Ukraine War

according to US intelligence assessment. *Katie Bo Lillis* *CNN* *December 13, 2023*



File photo showing Russian tanks taking part in a military drill at Molkino training ground in the Krasnodar region, Russia, Tuesday, Dec 14, 2021.

AP

assessment provided to Congress told CNN. Still, despite heavy losses of men and equipment, Russian President Vladimir Putin is determined to push forward as the war approaches its two year anniversary early next year and US officials are warning that Ukraine remains deeply vulnerable. A highly anticipated Ukrainian counteroffensive stagnated through the fall, and US officials believe that Kyiv is unlikely to make any major gains over the coming months. The assessment, sent to Capitol Hill on Monday, comes as some Republicans have balked at the US providing additional funding for Ukraine and the Biden administration has launched a full court press to try to get supplemental funding through Congress.

Russia has been able to keep its war effort going despite the heavy losses by relaxing recruitment standards and dipping into Soviet era stockpiles of older equipment. Still, the assessment found that the war has “sharply set back 15 years of Russian effort to modernize its ground force.” Of the 360,000 troops that made up Russia’s preinvasion ground force, including contract and conscript personnel, Russia has lost 315,000 on the battlefield, according to the assessment. 2,200 of 3,500 tanks have been lost, according to the assessment. 4,400 of 13,600 infantry fighting vehicles and armored personnel carriers have also been destroyed, a 32 percent loss rate. “As of late November, Russia lost over a quarter of its pre-invasion stockpiles of ground forces equipment,” the assessment reads. “This has reduced the complexity and scale of Russian offensive operations, which have failed to make major gains in Ukraine since early 2022.” CNN

has reached out to the Russian Embassy in Washington for comment. But it is the political environment in Washington that presents perhaps the greatest peril for Ukraine. Some Republicans are stiffly rejecting any additional funding and Senate Republicans are insisting on making it part of a broader spending package to include money for Israel, Taiwan and the US southern border. The Biden administration is warning that the US will soon be out of money for Ukraine. “The idea that Ukraine was going to throw Russia back to the 1991 borders was preposterous,” Sen JD Vance, a Republican from Ohio, said on CNN’s State of the Union on Sunday. “So, what we’re saying to the president and really to the entire world is, you need to articulate what the ambition is. What is \$61 billion going to accomplish that \$100 billion hasn’t?”

Other newly declassified intelligence previously reported by CNN suggests that “Russia seems to believe that a military deadlock through the winter will drain Western support for Ukraine and ultimately give Russia the advantage despite Russian losses and persistent shortages of trained personnel, munitions, and equipment,” according to a National Security Council spokesman. “Since launching its offensive in October, we assess that the Russian military has suffered more than 13,000 casualties along the Avdiivka-Novopavlivka axis and over 220 combat vehicle losses—the equivalent of 6 maneuver battalions in equipment alone,” NSC spokesperson Adrienne Watson told CNN. Before the invasion, Russia had a total standing military of approximately 900,000 active-duty troops, including ground troops, airborne troops, special operations and other uniformed personnel, according to the CIA. Since the start of the invasion, Russia has announced plans to increase the size of the armed forces to 1.5 million. The Russian Ministry of Defense has announced several rounds of conscription, including its regular fall conscription cycle on Oct 1. Russia has also leaned heavily on convicts marshaled to the fight by the Wagner Group and has increased the age limit for certain categories of citizens to remain in the reserve of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

UK Downes Aerial Drone With Test Shot From DragonFire Laser

Andrew Chuter Defense News Jan 19, 2024



The DragonFire laser directed-energy weapon achieved the UK’s first high-power firing of the weapon type against an aerial target.

(Photo provided/British Defence Ministry)

LONDON — An industry team has, for the first time, destroyed an aerial target using a high power shot with its DragonFire laser, the British Defence Ministry announced Friday. The trial with the direct-energy weapon is considered a significant milestone toward the deployment of the system, possibly within five years. Efforts to quickly field such weapons are partly driven by conflicts in Ukraine and near the Red Sea, where expensive air defense missiles are used against cheap but

effective drones. The cost of operating the laser is typically less than £10 (US \$13) per shot, the ministry noted. DragonFire is a £30 million technology demonstrator program revealed by the ministry's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory in 2017. The industry team — led by missile-maker MBDA, with partners Leonardo UK and QinetiQ — is the key element in a £100 million joint investment with the ministry to develop directed-energy weapons across several programs, including radio frequency direct-energy weapons. The MoD said the DragonFire test results are a major step forward in bringing the laser technology into service. The latest milestone follows a series of trials announced by the ministry late last year, including the first static high-power laser firing of a UK made capability as well as the demonstration of the DragonFire system's ability to track moving air and sea targets with high accuracy.

DragonFire is a £30 million technology demonstrator program revealed in 2017. (British Defence Ministry)

Shimon Fhina, who directs the ministry's strategic programs, said the recent trials proved the technology can track and engage high-end targets at range. The government was looking to "accelerate the next phase of the program," he explained. A spokesperson with the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory said the "timing of any deployment into UK service depends on a number of factors but could be within the next 5 to 10 years." The MoD had already announced its intent to progress directed-energy weapons into a so-called transition phase. This is meant to prepare the military for the eventual fielding of directed-energy weapons by communicating safety measures, implementing training, creating operational concepts and doctrine, and so on, the spokesperson explained. Doug Barrie, an air warfare analyst at the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies think tank, said the UK's progress on laser technology is going well. "There is a lot of work going on in countries like the US, Russia and China — most of it classified. But the UK has a long history in laser and radio frequency work, and while we can only dream about the funding levels countries like the US obtain, we [managed to squeeze] quite a lot out of our funding. It's transitioning the technology to the marketplace that is the problem," he said.

The British Army and the Royal Navy are each interested in using the technology for air defense. Naval News reported last year the MoD was looking at the retrofit of a 150 kilowatt class laser directed energy weapon for new Type 26 frigates beginning in the early 2030s. The ministry declined to provide Defense news with technical details of the DragonFire, including its range and power levels. Media reports previously put the power level around 50 kilowatts. "The range of DragonFire is classified, but it is a line-of-sight weapon and can engage with any visible target," the ministry said. The latest trial took place at a test range in the Hebrides, Scotland. The DragonFire shot down a drone, according to the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, but no further details about the target were available, including range, altitude and speed. "This type of cutting-edge weaponry has the potential to revolutionise the battlespace by reducing the



reliance on expensive ammunition, while also lowering the risk of collateral damage,” Defence Secretary Grant Shapps said in the ministry’s news release. “Investments with industry partners in advanced technologies like DragonFire are crucial in a highly contested world.”

Parks Canada Offers Free Visits to Military and Veterans

Parks Canada administered places will waive daily admission fees when you present your CF One card with CF, CF-F, V or V-F designation at the entry gate, visitor centre, or reception desk upon arrival. Don’t have your CF One Card? Sign up today – go to:-

https://cf1fc.cfmws.com/Join/Register?utm_source=CFMWS+Newsletter&utm_campaign=a112fc37f9-

[MAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_08_25_12_38_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7d1b5308c4-a112fc37f9-269544421&mc_cid=a112fc37f9&mc_eid=2a2a5bc992](https://cf1fc.cfmws.com/Join/Register?utm_source=CFMWS+Newsletter&utm_campaign=a112fc37f9-MAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_08_25_12_38_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7d1b5308c4-a112fc37f9-269544421&mc_cid=a112fc37f9&mc_eid=2a2a5bc992)

For more information from Parks Canada, visit <https://parks.canada.ca/voyage-travel/reserve>

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

Leon and Catherine are on the way home but still not able to access a good Wi-Fi signal. Hope to have an update for next week.

He wants to remind all gunners to join the web event with LGen Lise Bourgon on Jan 24, on Zoom at 4 pm PT.

Who (or What) Is It?

Rear view of a 47/32 M35 at [CFB Borden](#)



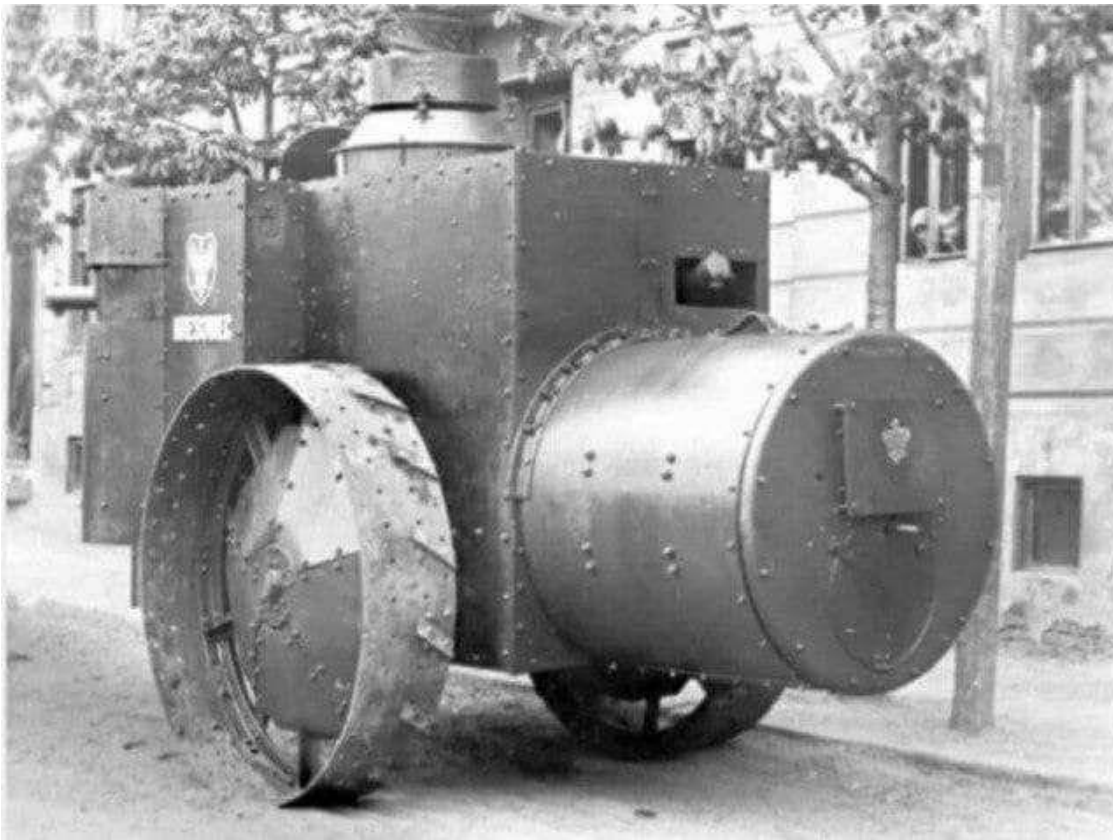
Last Week: The Cannone da 47/32 mod.

1935 was an Italian artillery piece that saw service during World War II. It was originally designed by Austrian firm Böhler, and produced in Italy under license.

The *Cannone da 47/32* was used both as an infantry gun and an anti-tank gun at which it was effective against light to medium armored tanks.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caliber: 47 mm (1.9 in) • Barrel length: 1.68 metres (5 feet 6 inches) • Length of Bore: 1.525 m (5.00 ft) • Length of Rifling: 1.33 metres (4 feet 4 inches) • Travelling Weight: 315 kg (694 lb) • Weight in Action: 277 kg (611 lb) • Elevation: -15 degrees to +56 degrees. • Traverse: 62 degrees • Muzzle Velocity: 630 m/s (2,067 ft/s) for AP; 250 m/s (820 ft/s) HE [L/40 Variant: 829 m/s for AP and 310 m/s for HE] • Range: 7,000 m (23,000 ft) - HE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shell Weight: 1.44 kg (3.2 lb) AP; 2.37 kg (5.2 lb) HE • Armor Penetration AP (L/32): 58 mm (2.3 in) at 100 m (110 yd); 43 mm (1.7 in) at 500 m (550 yd) • Armor Penetration AP (L/40 Variant for Medium tank M15/42): 70 mm at 100 m, 50 mm at 500 m, 38 mm at 1000 m, 25 mm at 1500 m, 20 mm at 2000 m • Armor Penetration HEAT: 55 mm at 90 degrees contact |
|---|---|

This Week: While walking around the vast compound that houses both the editorial office tower of this esteemed journal and the museum of the “Fightin’ Fifteenth”, we came upon a warehouse that we hadn’t visited before. In fact, it appears that it is one of many forgotten buildings owned by the Department of National Defence. Some of you are familiar with the buildings that house forgotten versions of the Avro Arrow, scattered across the Dominion by Arrow-heads in an effort to save them from the evil scrap metal dealers hired by John “Junk It” Diefenbaker. However, there are many more than those, some holding stores of MREs and other rations with “best before” dates from before current soldiers were born, ready to be issued to Reserve units, and others holding mountains of bureaucratic forms and rolls of red tape that are required by the Treasury Board before essential items such as paper clips can be purchased from the highest bidder in a riding held by a government minister.



The building we came upon revealed equipment from another age, all covered in the dust of ages gone by, and many whose original purpose, and owner, is lost to time. Such is this week’s pinup, the armoured dustbin of the Royal People’s Army of Leutonia, or maybe not. We aren’t sure what it is, or who operated

it. All we know is that it was once an actual armoured fighting vehicle. As it is totally obscure, we have told our technical gurus to lay off censoring the insignia.

So, if you want to give it a try, let the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com) or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net) know you guesses.

From the ‘Punitary’

The best views in Paris are atop that famous tower. You can certainly get an Eiffel.

Murphy’s Other Laws

Only a fool wants war, but a wise leader is always prepared for it.

Quotable Quotes

The whole point of getting things done is knowing what to leave undone. *Oswald Chambers*

Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

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

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.**

NOTE change in sign on address and password

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies. Click on (or cut and paste into your browser) this link:-

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

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72758359360?pwd=XE0y7bIBCvTYsIFcFlZ6g1e1pfzMP.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.

RCA Association - Discussion with LGen Lise Bourgon



Register now!

The **RCA Association** invites all members to register for our next Web event to be held on **24 January 2024 at 7pm ET.**

In discussion with
**Lieutenant General M.H.L. (Lise) Bourgon, CMM,
MSC, CD
Acting Commander, Military Personnel
Command**

Our special guest will speak on recruitment and retention in the Canadian Armed Forces.

[Lieutenant General M.H.L. Bourgon, CMM, MSC, CD Biography](#)

► Stay with us after the main event for some time to reconnect with old friends.

Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant!

L'Association de l'ARC invite tous ses membres à s'inscrire à notre prochain événement Web qui se tiendra le **24 janvier 2024 à 19 h HE.**

En discussion avec
**la lieutenant-générale M.H.L. (Lise) Bourgon, CMM, CSM, CD
Commandante par intérim du
Commandement du personnel militaire et
chef du personnel militaire**

Notre conférencière parlera du recrutement et maintien des effectifs (rétention) dans les Forces armées canadiennes.

[Biographie de la lieutenant-générale M.H.L. \(Lise\) Bourgon, CMM, CSM, CD](#)

► Restez avec nous après l'événement principal pour renouer avec de vieux amis.

78th Fraser Highlanders Garrison Burns Supper



I request the company of our Officers, Miladies and Guests at our annual

Garrison Burns Supper

to be held at

The Upstairs Lounge, Royal City Curling Club,
75 East Sixth Ave. East,
New Westminster, BC, V3L 4G6

Saturday, 27 January, 2024

1800hrs for 1900hrs

Dress: Scarlets, Highland Evening wear, Black Tie or Business Attire

Tariff: \$120.00 per Person

RSVP to jobarb100@gmail.com or 604-522-5766

ASAP! (before 24 January)

Places will be allocated on the sequence (date & time) of RSVP emails received
at jobarb100@gmail.com

Members have priority, but please RSVP soonest as this event is
usually oversubscribed.

Looking forward to seeing you there

James Barrett, Maj. Officer Commanding

AFOA Valentine's Lunch – 10 Feb 2024



AIR FORCE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA
Since 1920

NOTICE

ANNUAL VALENTINES' LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024

1200 HOURS

AT

THE POINT GREY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

LOCATED AT 3350 SW MARINE DRIVE, VANCOUVER

- *** Dress: Informal
- *** Cost: \$ 75.00 per person
- *** Reception: 1200 Hours (no-host bar - accepts credit or debit cards only)
- *** Lunch: 1300 Hours
- *** Menu Caesar Salad, bacon bits, roast garlic dressing, grana padano, focaccia croutons
Steelhead, edamame, bok choy, shimeji, black quinoa, teriyaki sauce, sesame seeds
Apple Pie with whipped cream
- ***Entertainment: We again have a guitarist, who will entertain us with romantic ballads.

This is the one occasion during the year which is exclusively set aside to honour the ladies, so let's give this event the special consideration it deserves.

If you want to have wine, it will be available for purchase at the bar, but we are able to keep the price down by not providing wine for everybody whether they want it or not.
We are no longer able to run these functions considerably below our cost, and the cost of everything has gone up since COVID.

NOTES: BRING YOUR WIVES, PARTNERS, SWEETHEARTS, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Please let us know by Friday, 02 Feb 24 if you plan to attend and the number of guests you will bring. Please advise us at jevernon@telus.net or phone the Secretary, Jerry Vernon, at (604) 420-6065. If your plans change later, also please advise us of this.

If you plan to make up a large party and wish to have a table reserved, please contact the Secretary, so he can arrange with the caterers for a reserved table. Also let us know of any special dietary needs at jevernon@telus.net or (604) 420-6065.

For both security and accounting reasons, **payment by cheque** would be most appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP: Just a few Members have not yet renewed their memberships for 2024. Those that have not yet paid will be sent a reminder notice. If you are unsure, phone Bob Reid at (778) 285-2170. If you have not paid your current year's dues, please send your payment to Bob Reid, 217 - 2995 Princess Crescent, Coquitlam, BC V3B 7N1

NOTICES AND INFORMATION:

Some of our friends from the Naval Association of B. C. will be joining us again for this event.

RCAF BIRTHDAY MESS DINNER:

The Mess Dinner will be held at Point Grey on Saturday, 30 Mar 24. AFOA Member Chris Weicht will be our speaker, based on his latest book "The Defenders", which is about the RCAF in B. C. and Alaska during WW II. It carries the story on beyond the story in his first book, "Jericho Beach and the West Coast Flying Boat Stations". Copies will be available for purchase and signing. If you want a copy earlier, the Secretary still has 2 copies left at \$ 45 a copy, and you can pick them up from his home or at the Valentine's lunch.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & SUMMER BRUNCH:

The date for the AGM & Summer Brunch at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club is Thursday, 08 Jun 24.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

We currently have e-mail addresses for all but one or two of the members, and have been using these to send out various notices, obits, etc., as well as follow-up reminders of our social events. If you change your e-mail address, please advise the Secretary, so we do not lose contact with you

If you have received e-mails from our Secretary, we already have your address. If not, and you have e-mail, please advise the Secretary, at jevernon@telus.net

VISITING OFFICER:

Padre Wes Bowers is our Visiting Officer. This doesn't necessarily mean that he will be coming around to visit the sick and invalid members, but it does mean that he will be keeping track of those members who are on the sick list. If you are aware of a member who is ailing, please advise Wes at (778) 565-2756 or bowers.wes@gmail.com (or advise the Secretary at (604) 420-6065 or at jevernon@telus.net)

BATTLE OF BRITAIN BRUNCH and CEREMONY:

The Stanley Park brunch and ceremony has been scheduled again a week earlier this year to avoid a conflict with other events in the park, and to allow people to attend both local events. The date is Sunday, 08 Sep 24, for Stanley Park, and Sunday, 15 Sep 24, for the Air Cadet Parade at Boundary Bay.

DAWN PATROL:

We anticipate being at the Masonic Hall again on November 11th, with entertainment by Linda Jones.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

Date not confirmed yet, but expected to be either 07 or 08 Dec 24 at Point Grey.

Jerry Vernon,
AFOA Secretary

BCR Concert for the Padre

15th Field Artillery
Regiment Band

BC Regiment
Irish Pipes & Drums

Concert for the Padre

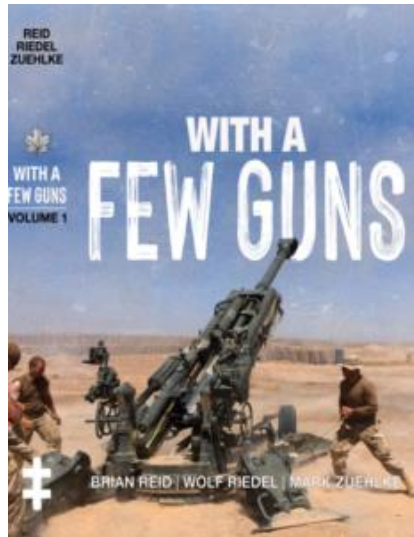
Net proceeds to support the Dean's pastoral
work with the men and women of the military

February 17, 2024
Christ Church Cathedral
7:30 pm
690 Burrard Street

Tickets by donation
thecathedral.ca

Select Regimental Ministries
on the donations page





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 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.

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

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

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](#)

