

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News 24 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

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

- Oct 25** Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting.
Nov 01 Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting.
Nov 09 **(Thursday)** Lunch in the Mess followed by a presentation in lecture room.
US Army Field Band and RCN Naden Band free concert at Chan Centre
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 – History of the VPD. Details TBA
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**

Lunch and Speaker – **Thursday**, Nov 9, 2023

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

Meal in the Mess includes:-

fresh baked buns & butter

deluxe mixed greens salad

Chicken Cacciatore, mashed potatoes, steamed veggies with garlic butter

Dessert

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

RUSI Presentation in lecture room following lunch.

You've been reading about the Canadian Forces missions providing ongoing NATO deterrence in Latvia and training for the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the UK, Latvia, and Poland. Here's a chance to hear about it from those directly involved. This is a presentation you do not want to miss!

Please join us on Thursday, November 9th to welcome our guest speakers Lieutenant Colonel Jesse Van Eijk and Major Jürgen Miranda. (see bios in poster section) They will speak to us about their experience with Operation Unifier, the military training and capacity building mission in support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and with Operation Reassurance, Canada's contribution to NATO assurance and deterrence measures in Latvia and Central and Eastern Europe. These operations are one of Canada's top defence priorities and are critical to NATO's collective defence and deterrence. Thanks to **Captain Jamie Blois** of the Regional Public Affairs Office for making this possible.

Lunch starts at 1200hrs, and the presentation will take place in the lecture room at 1300 hrs. Cost for lunch is \$35 per person. **Reservations and payment in advance are required.** Note that this presentation is on a Thursday, not our normal Wednesday, we've had to adjust to accommodate our presenters' availability.

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

Prepayment for lunch tickets required by **2 November**.

E-transfer may be made to: 15rcal00th@gmail.com

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

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

Gun Salutes and Other Military Honours in the NCR 2023-2025

(See the pdf document CDS TASKING ORDER: MILITARY HONOURS IN THE NCR 2023-2025 that was attached to the newsletter email)

From MGen (Ret'd) Stu McDonald

Several recent emails regarding artillery gun salutes have generated understandable concern among gunners, friends of gunners and many others. I have attached the CDS Tasking Order regarding National Capital Region (NCR) activities.

I have some limited personal experience with gun salutes in the NCR as well as some more recent observations. From 1959 to 1961 I was a Signaller in the 3rd Signals Regiment in Ottawa. This was a Militia regiment with a close relationship with the 30th Field Artillery Regiment. Despite a DND focus on National Survival Training, 30 Fd Regt soldiers had retained enough of their previous artillery skills to be able to fire gun salutes at various locations in the NCR (National Capital Region). However, 30 Fd was lacking sufficient radio operators (communicators). The

arrival of visiting heads of state at Ottawa airport often necessitated radio communication between the control tower / ramp area and the gun position and 3 Sigs Regt often provided communicators, such as myself. There were several occasions between 1959 and 1961 during which I spent part of a day at Ottawa Airport along with another Signaller in order to provide 30 Fd with essential communications.

Today, few of us realize how many gun salutes are annually fired in the NCR. Most other locations across Canada, where gun salutes are fired, now only experience 3 to 8 gun salutes per year. This is well below the number fired thirty-plus years ago, when visiting ships, legislature openings, air arrivals of heads of state and some visiting Canadian government leaders and admirals/generals were honoured at these various locations.

The National Capital Region, in comparison, has experienced many more occasions when Canadian gunners have served in a saluting troop. Heads of state, initially arriving in Ottawa and in other Canadian locations, have often been met by a gun salute. 30 Fd Regt has also been tasked to fire gun salutes at Fortissimo concerts on Parliament Hill, Beechwood National Military Cemetery, the National Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Day and to signal the start of the Army Run, as well as many other significant NCR events. In the recent past, 30 Fd Regt has usually fired between 10 and 35 gun salutes per year.

Although this Tasking Order applies only to the NCR, the document also refers to Reference B - CDS/DM Directive for CAF Reconstitution, 06 Oct 2022. Perhaps Reference B will lead to other gun salute tasking orders outside of the NCR, but that would be speculation on my part.

Gun salutes are a highly effective means of engaging the public in several locations across Canada. These salutes are a source of pride to all members of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and to those who once served the guns. Although any reduction in the numbers and locations of gun salutes has served, and will serve, to reduce unit taskings, expenditures and maintenance, the savings come at a significant cost in terms of community engagement and esprit de corps.

UBIQUE,
Stu McDonald
(retired gunner)

Ukraine Has Received, and Fired, US Long Range Missiles

Noah Robertson DefenseNews Oct 17, 2023

WASHINGTON — Ukraine is now using long range US missiles, known as ATACMS, on the battlefield. The announcement, shared by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his nightly address, followed reported strikes on Russian positions earlier in the day — including on an airfield in occupied Berdyansk. “ATACMS [Army Tactical Missile Systems] have proven themselves,” Zelenskyy said. Unlike other security assistance sent to Ukraine, these weapons were not discussed publicly before arriving and being used. Had such an announcement been made, said

a Pentagon official, granted anonymity to speak candidly, Russian forces would have been able to pull their positions behind the missiles' reach.



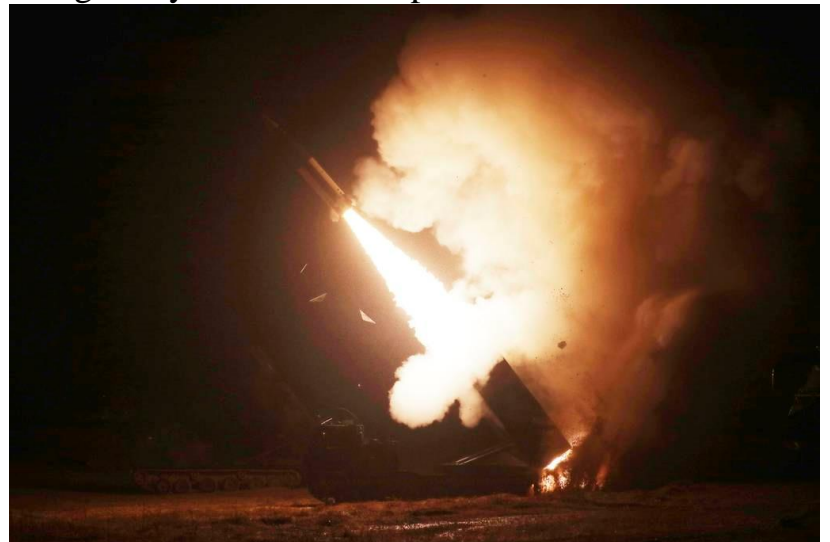
Soldiers test the Army Tactical Missile System, a version of which is now being supplied to Ukraine, on Dec 14, 2021.

According to the official, the ATACMS provided have a range of just over 100 miles, shorter than other versions of the system, which can hit targets up to 180 miles away. The ATACMS being sent, too, are designed to fire cluster munitions, according to the Associated Press. Such munitions release dozens of smaller bomblets on a target and were first given to Ukraine by the Biden

administration in July. Funding for the ATACMS, according to the official, came in the last assistance package sent to Ukraine, totaling \$200 million. The arrival of ATACMS marks the end of an era for Kyiv, having lobbied for the missiles since shortly after the war began. Some critics of the Biden administration argue that the White House has been overly cautious — deciding against sending specific systems or munitions before ultimately relenting. Perhaps no system required more no's before arriving at a yes than ATACMS, denied at first due to concerns about escalating the war with Russia. President Joe Biden reportedly promised to send the weapons to Zelenskyy last month, during a visit to Washington by the Ukrainian president.

In this photo provided by South Korea Defense Ministry, an Army Tactical Missile System or ATACMS, missile is fired during a joint military drill between U.S. and South Korea at an undisclosed location in South Korea, Oct 5, 2022.

(South Korea Defense Ministry via AP)



Ukraine's Special Operations Forces claimed that a nighttime attack on targets in eastern and southern Ukraine destroyed nine Russian helicopters and other military equipment and personnel at two airfields in Russia-occupied regions. The ATACMS would be key in Ukraine's ability to hit the airfield in Berdyansk, since it is within striking distance of the shorter-range version of the missile, and the cluster munitions would be effective in hitting multiple targets. The closest Ukrainian troop positions on the western bank of the Dnieper River are just about 100 miles (160 kilometers) from Berdyansk. Having used them on the battlefield, Ukrainians will now hope ATACMS will help jolt their efforts to breach

Russian defensive lines. After showing some promise late in the summer, the counteroffensive has since stalled. Ukraine already has long-range missiles: the British-supplied Storm Shadow, with a range of 155 miles. Fired air-to-ground, these missiles present a greater risk to the Ukrainians using them. Meanwhile, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (R-TX), who has long pushed the administration to provide ATACMS to Ukraine, said in a statement that he was not satisfied by the announcement. Without the longer-range variant of the weapons, McCaul said “Congress won’t let up pressure on the Biden administration.”

Chinese Fighters Engaged in 'Unsafe' Intercept of RCAF Aurora

commander says. The incident happened with two TV news crews aboard.

Murray Brewster · CBC News · Oct 16, 2023



A Chinese fighter jet flies next to a Canadian CP-140 Aurora over the East China Sea on Monday, Oct. 16, 2023. (Radio-Canada)

A Canadian surveillance plane conducting a sanctions enforcement patrol was intercepted Monday by Chinese warplanes off the coast of China in an "unsafe and unprofessional manner," a senior Canadian air force commander said. The incident involving the CP-140 Aurora — which was monitoring the shipping lanes of the East China Sea for signs of vessels trying to violate the oil embargo against North Korea — happened while news crews from Radio Canada and Global News were aboard the aircraft. It took place in full view of MGen. Iain Huddleston, the commander of the 1st Air Division, and navy Capt Rob Watt, Canada's defence attaché to Japan.

A close-up view of the cockpit of a Chinese fighter jet flying close to a CP-140 Aurora over the East China Sea on Monday, Oct. 16, 2023. (Radio-Canada)



MGen. Iain Huddleston says Chinese warplanes intercepted a Canadian plane conducting a sanctions enforcement patrol in an "unsafe and unprofessional manner." "We're solidly in international airspace," Huddleston told reporters while looking out the window of the patrol plane at a Chinese fighter jet armed with air-to-air missiles. "That last sequence was an unprofessional intercept ... It was very aggressive." The Aurora was intercepted several times during its eight hour patrol — something Huddleston says is to be expected, given the proximity to the Chinese coast. The Canadian crew took no issue with the first series of encounters. But according to the aircraft crew, a Chinese fighter came within five meters of the Canadian

surveillance aircraft during the final encounter — and at one point slipped into a position where the Aurora was tucked into the blind spot of the warplane. It also launched multiple flares while flying close to the Aurora. "We can fly in close formation with other airplanes and be completely safe, but it's when aircraft aggressively manoeuvre in close proximity to the others that there's a safety issue," Huddleston said. Speaking to reporters later Monday, Defence Minister Bill Blair described the Chinese fighters' actions as "dangerous and reckless." "Those type of behaviours are not ever acceptable, and we will express that to the People's Republic of China in the most appropriate way," Blair said. Since 2018, there have been multiple instances of Chinese fighters harassing the surveillance activities of Canada and other western countries conducting missions to monitor the United Nations economic embargo on North Korea.

M10 Booker Combat Vehicle is Definitely a Tank, Says Gen Abrams

And the Abrams family knows a thing or two about tanks.

Matt White Task & Purpose Oct 11, 2023



Retired four-star general Robert Abrams — whose father, Creighton 'Abe' Abrams, is the namesake of the M1 Abrams tank — got his first look at the Army's M10 Booker combat vehicle this week and declared: "this is a Tank."

(Task & Purpose composite/US Army photo).

A retired 4-star Army general whose family name is synonymous with US armor formations may have put to bed the debate on whether the service's newest

armored combat vehicle, the M10 Booker, is — or is not — a tank. The verdict? "This is a tank," wrote retired General Robert B Abrams in a post on social media Tuesday after getting his first look at the Booker in Washington DC. And yes, that's "Abrams" as in *that* Abrams. Gen Robert Abrams' father was four-star general and career tanker Creighton 'Abe' Abrams, the namesake of the Army's M1 Abrams main battle tank. Robert Abrams, who retired in 2021, made his decision on the tank-ness of the M10 Booker at the Association of the US Army tradeshow in Washington DC, Tuesday, where its maker, General Dynamics, had one of the vehicles — err, tanks — on display. And he made it clear in a post on X that the 'tank' status was not a close call. "This may seem like a BFO" or Blinding Flash of Obvious, wrote Abrams, "but now that I have seen one up close....this is a tank."

The debate over the M10 Booker's tank-or-not-a-tank status has raged for nearly as long as the tracked, armored, cannon-equipped, and turreted vehicle has been in development. As it moved from prototype to operational form, Army officials called the M10 the Mobile Protected Firepower program, an Armored Combat Vehicle and, finally, the Booker, a name chosen to honor two tanker soldiers who shared the name and were killed in World War II and Iraq. In 2019, an Army press release actually did refer to the M10 as a tank — albeit a "light tank" and in quotes throughout. The question has driven various senior army officials to insist that the tank

debate is not important just prior to adding their own opinion to the fray. Doug Bush, the Army's acquisition chief, stuck with calling the M10 a "combat vehicle" earlier this year when pressed by Army Times on the matter. He then called the entire tank-or-not-a-tank question an "esoteric and borderline religious debate among the armored community about what [the word tank] means," Army Times reported. And Maj. Gen. Glenn Dean, the officer in charge of Army Ground Combat Systems, told Military.com that the M10 "isn't a mission match, even though [it] sort of looks like, smells like, feels like [a light tank]." Got it. Though Abrams' post is unlikely to sway the gatekeepers of Army nomenclature, it shows that the good-natured 'tank-or-not-a-tank' debate goes to the very top of the Armor community.

A career-long armor officer, Abrams held several major tank-centric commands including Army Forces Command, US forces in Korea, and the National Training Center at Fort Irwin. He was also an instructor at the Army's armor school. His father and the M1's namesake, Creighton 'Abe' Abrams, was the Army Chief of Staff in 1974 when he passed away. He was the commander of US forces in Vietnam from 1968 until 1972 but made his name as a legendary tank officer in World War II, commanding armor units that led the way for Gen George Patton's 3rd Army across Europe. As a 30-year-old Colonel at the Battle of the Bulge, Abrams is said to have coined the famous phrase, "They've got us surrounded, the poor bastards." Abrams is famous in military circles for more than just his tank exploits. During his tenure as Army chief of staff, Abrams directed the formation of a Ranger battalion to "be an elite, light and the most proficient infantry battalion in the world. A battalion that can do things with its hands and weapons better than anyone." This charter resulted in what is now the modern 75th Ranger Regiment. A rollicking profile of the elder Abrams in Time Magazine, published as he took command in Vietnam, called him "the ruggedest combat commander in the US Army." As a cadet at West Point, Time said, Abe Abrams was known as the "fight'est man" on the football team. The magazine also quoted Patton saying of Abrams, "I'm supposed to be the best tank commander in the Army, but I have one peer — Abe Abrams. He's the world champion."

Warship Converted into a Floating Brewery During World War II

Protect this ship at all costs! *Max Hauptman Task & Purpose May 10, 2022*

A happy soldier is a motivated soldier. And what better way to raise the morale of troops than a floating dance hall, movie theater, canteen, and a brewery producing 250 barrels of English-style ale per week? That was the thinking behind the HMS Menestheus, the Royal Navy's floating brewery. Outfitted as an amenities ship, the Menestheus was designed to offer a respite for soldiers and sailors fighting in the Pacific during World War II. Now, the Royal Navy is known for its drinking culture. After all, this is the organization behind grog and the rum ration. Getting beer to the far-flung battlefields of the Pacific theater was a problem in those days, though. As delicious as it may be, beer can be troublesome to ship long distances. Drastic changes in temperatures, exposure to sunlight, how it's stored, and how long it's been since it was brewed can all affect the beer's taste, and not for the better. Given how long the supply runs were from England or the United States across the Pacific, that meant that by the time those beers found their way into the canteens of soldiers and sailors, they often tasted rather foul. Skunked beer isn't

the greatest morale booster, after all. That's where the Menestheus, and other proposed amenities ships, came in: They could brew the stuff onboard.



The HMS Menestheus anchored off the Scottish coast during World War 2.
(Wikimedia Commons).

The Menestheus, a former passenger liner launched in 1929, had spent the first several years of the war as a minelayer in the Atlantic. By 1943 that mission was complete, and the Menestheus, along with sister ship HMS Agamemnon, was selected for her next, sudsier job. The Menestheus was sent to Vancouver, Canada in 1944 for the conversion process. In addition to a dance hall and a theater, the hull was fitted with a 55-barrel brewing pot, heated from steam coils powered by the ship's boiler. There were also six fermentation tanks, allowing the Menestheus to produce 250 barrels of beer a week. The beer could be stored in stainless steel kegs or one could enjoy a pint at the ship's Davy Jones bar.

A screenshot showing sailors enjoying a round of drinks aboard the Menestheus.
(Imperial War Museum)



George Brown of Truman's Brewery, at the time one of the largest breweries in England, was recruited to oversee the onboard operation and commissioned as a Royal Navy officer. For any craft beer aficionados, be forewarned — there was only one item on the menu, a mild English ale of about 3.7% ABV. A 1947 article from the Journal of the Institute of Brewing describes the ingredients as “distilled sea water, special brewery mash malt extract and hop concentrate.” Simple, but it does sound like it would go down well while resting and recuperating after a battle in the Pacific. Ultimately, the conversion process to the amenities ship outlasted the war. The Menestheus produced its first batch of beer on New Year's Eve, 1945. With the war over, plans to build a total of 10 of these floating breweries were abandoned — much to the dismay of subsequent generations of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines. With tens of thousands of troops still on occupation duty, though, the Menestheus did make a tour of the Pacific, stopping at Yokohama, Kure, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. With the Pentagon looking to retire 24 ships, including nine of the troubled Freedom-variant Littoral Combat Ships, it might not be such a bad idea to draw inspiration from the Menestheus. For a ship that has often struggled to find a mission, has the Navy considered outfitting a few of these as floating breweries for the 21st century?

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

It appears to have turned into a Coast Artillery week!

A group of 85VICS were in town and dropped by Bessborough Armoury for a visit. We're looking at ways to manufacture concrete 6" projectiles for Yorke Island. Maybe 20 or 30 of them? They would be a great addition to the Ammo Bunker!

Yorke Island 16-18 September 2022 - The start of the CXO building construction!

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yorke-island-16-18-september-2022>

Yorke Island April 2023 - Hundreds of photos have been uploaded with an update to the CXO building, visits from the Aurora Explorer and other island adventures.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/yorke-apr-2023.html>

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

Yorke Island 1958 - On 24 June 1958, Yorke Island was returned to British Columbia as it was no longer required for defence purposes. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yorke-island-1958>

Wednesday Zoom Lunch - 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?

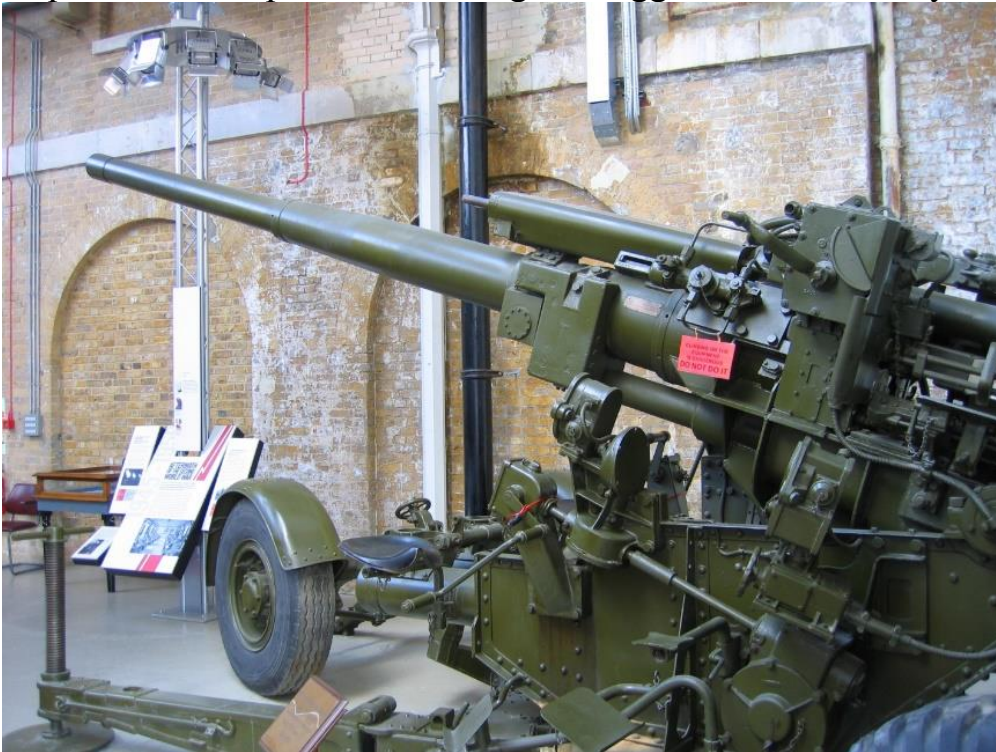
Last Week: The **Hütter Hü 136** was an experimental dive bomber design produced by



German engineers Wolfgang and Ulrich Hütter during World War II. The Hütters, best known as glider designers, responded to Reich Air Ministry calls for high-performance, strongly built dive bombers. The *Sturzbomber* or *Stubo* specification came in two parts: Stubo 1, a single-seater with the flight capabilities of a fighter but armoured and with a 500 kg (1,102 lb) bombload; and Stubo 2, a two-seat bomber with similar performance but a 1,000 kg

(2,205 lb) bombload. The Hü 136 design was highly innovative, with the pilot sitting far to the rear of the aircraft, his cockpit forming part of the vertical tail surface. The design had no undercarriage, with a jettisonable dolly for takeoff and a retractable skid for landing. To overcome the likelihood of contact between the propeller and the ground on landing, the propeller would be blown off before landing and descend separately by parachute. The German Air Ministry (Reichsluftfahrtministerium) did not pursue the design, preferring to adopt the existing Henschel Hs 129.

This Week: There are many ways to go deaf, but one of the more rewarding and exciting ways is to be a gunner. Prior to the amazing miniaturization of hearing aids we see today, artillery messes were full of buzzes, whines, and static coming from a variety of fairly large, and not too efficient devices. Sometimes, one could hear veterans coming from as far away as a block, thanks to their bulky apparatus emanating curious electronic sounds. The reasons for that state of affairs were many and varied, but all could be labelled as “ordnance-related”. I recall meeting an old master gunner in the 1970s, who had served in both wars, and between. In the Great War, he was with a heavy battery, but following that conflagration worked exclusively with coast artillery. I asked him what the loudest gun was that he had experienced. As he didn’t hear me, I had to shout the question a couple of times before receiving the answer, “ack-ack and anti-tank, especially the 17 pdr”. That surprised me, but I guess bigger isn’t necessarily louder.



Well, given what that much-medalled veteran said, we might wonder how loud this week’s photo object was when it was fired. We have no way to easily find the answer, so let’s think first of what gun this is. Does it look familiar? Did you ever serve this gun? If you wanted one, where could you go to borrow one? To give you a little hint, it has a strong connection to our regiment, and was photographed about 20

years ago in a wonderful museum that no longer exists. Fortunately, the gun is in storage, awaiting a new home. If you think you recognize it, let the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com) know (speak loudly!), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). By the way, the warning sign says “Climbing on the equipment is dangerous. DO NOT DO IT”. Wise words.

From the ‘Punitary’

How do dog catchers get paid? By the pound.

Murphy’s Other Laws

Planning Prevents Piss Poor Performance

Quotable Quotes

The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read. *Mark Twain*



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.

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 Lancelwood Crescent
Brampton, Ont. L6S 5Y6*

1/2



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

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.

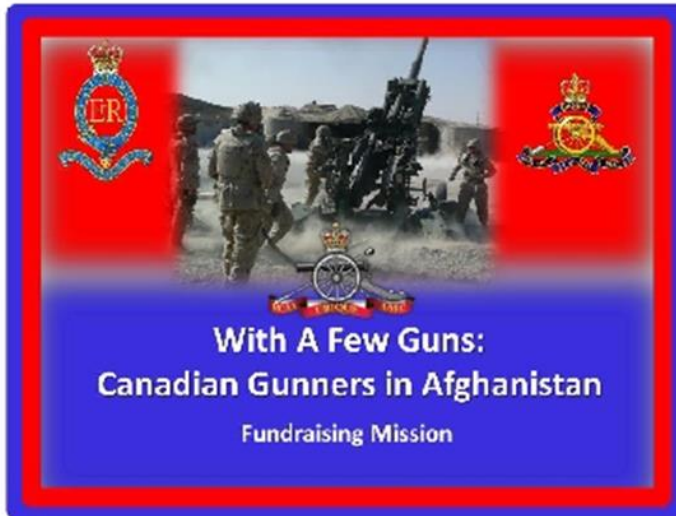
Yours Aye,

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](#)

