

## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News 25 April 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](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com) to let me know you didn't get your copy.

**Newsletter online.** This newsletter and previous editions are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: [www.vancouvergunners.ca](http://www.vancouvergunners.ca) and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>. Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

### Upcoming events – Mark your calendars

#### Commemoration Cyprus 2024 – see poster section

- Apr 26** Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting  
**May 03** Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting  
**May 06** **The 2023 Army Gala at the Sheraton Wall Centre** [www.militarygala.ca](http://www.militarygala.ca)  
**May 10** Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting  
**May 13** 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders (Ft Fraser Garrison) Battle of Ste Foy Commem Dinner  
**May 17** Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting  
**May 18** **Thursday** lunch at the Mess. Speaker Roddy MacKenzie:-  
*Bomber Command: Churchill's Greatest Triumph*

## Roddy MacKenzie – Bomber Command: Churchill's Greatest Triumph

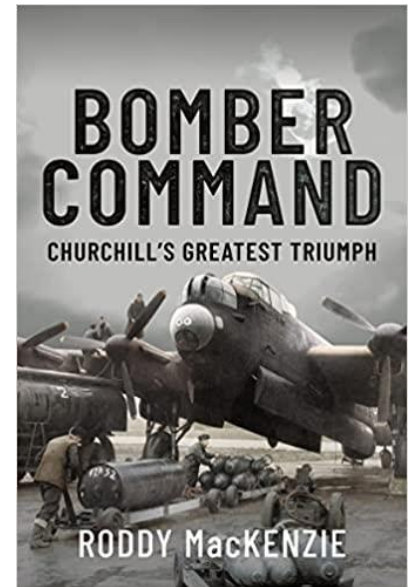


Please join us on **Thursday**, 18 May to welcome our next guest speaker, Roddy MacKenzie. He will speak to us about his recently published book on Bomber Command in the Second World War. Roddy MacKenzie's father served with the Royal Canadian Air Force in Bomber Command during the Second World War, but like so many brave veterans who had survived the war, he spoke little of his exploits. When Roddy started on his personal journey to discover something of what his father had achieved, he uncovered a great deal about the devastating effectiveness of Bomber Command and the vital role it played in the defeat of Third Reich. Roddy became a man on a mission,

and this revealing, and often personal study, is the result. Bomber Command: Churchill's Greatest Triumph takes the reader through the early days of the Second World War and introduces all the key individuals who turned the Command into the war-winning weapon it eventually became, as well as detailing the men and machines which flew night after night into the heart of Hitler's Germany.

The main focus of his book is the destruction and dislocation wrought by the bombing to reduce, and ultimately destroy, Germany's ability to make war. In his analysis, Roddy dug deep into German archival material to uncover facts rarely presented to either German or English language readers. These demonstrate that Bomber Command's continual efforts, at appalling cost in aircrew casualties and aircraft losses, did far more damage to the Reich than the Allies knew. Roddy MacKenzie was born and raised in Calgary and educated at the University of Calgary and the University of British Columbia. He was a municipal lawyer acting for municipalities throughout BC, a Queen's Scout, a Seaforth Highlanders Patron and a Life Member of Clan MacKenzie, the Monarchist League of Canada and the Bomber Command Memorial and Museum of Canada. He is also a member of the Churchill Society, Probus, the RAF Club in London, the Air Force Officers and Naval Associations of BC, and the Bomber Command Associations of Australia and New Zealand.

*Also available at Amazon.ca for \$48.24*



### **Thursday (not Wednesday) Lunch – May 18, 2023**

Lunch will consist of Roast Beef (Sirloin Tip), mashed potatoes (with gravy), mixed carrots and peppers with a small selection of desserts. The bar will be open as usual. Lunch will be restricted to 30 attendees. (If there is a good response that limit may be raised to 40.)

Lunch starts at **1200hrs**, and Roddy MacKenzie's presentation will take place in the lecture room at **1315hrs**.

Cost will be \$25 per person. **Reservations and payment in advance is required.**

Those wishing to attend must RSVP HLCol Don Foster @ [dgfoster60@gmail.com](mailto:dgfoster60@gmail.com)

**Prepayment** for lunch tickets required by May 5, 2023.

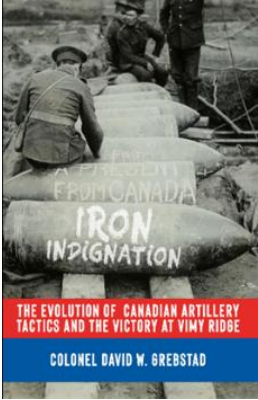
E-transfer may be made to: [15rca100th@gmail.com](mailto:15rca100th@gmail.com)

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

For further information, contact HLCol Don Foster at (604)809-6242 or [dgfoster60@gmail.com](mailto:dgfoster60@gmail.com) or –

Colonel (Retired) Keith Maxwell at (604) 865-0612 or [kdm Maxwell@gmail.com](mailto:kdm Maxwell@gmail.com)

## New Books - See poster section for details



### **Iron Indignation:**

### **The Evolution of Canadian Artillery Tactics and the Victory at Vimy Ridge**

by David W Grebstad,

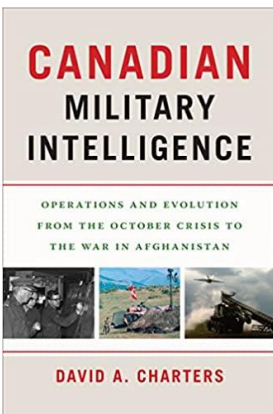
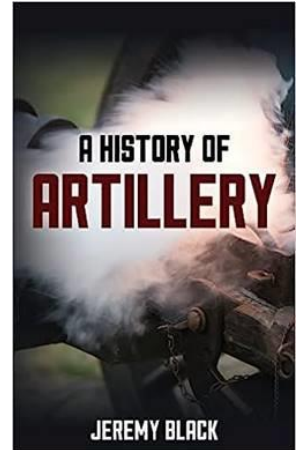
Regimental Colonel Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

Available now! This is the story of the courage, ingenuity, dedication and adaptation of artillery doctrine that contributed to the victory of the Canadian Corps on Vimy Ridge in April 1917.

### **A History of Artillery - Professor Jeremy Black**

Professor Jeremy Black's book is due to be published on **May 15**.

A History of Artillery traces the development of artillery through the ages, providing a thorough study of these weapons. From its earliest recorded use in battle over a millennium ago, up to the recent Gulf War, Balkan, and Afghanistan conflicts, artillery has often been the deciding factor in battle. Black shows that artillery sits within the general history of a war as a means that varied greatly between armies and navies, and across time.



### **Canadian Military Intelligence: Operations and Evolution from the October Crisis to the War in Afghanistan**

David A Charters (Author), Andrea Siew (Contributor)

Canadian intelligence has become increasingly central to the operations of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). *Canadian Military Intelligence: Operations and Evolution from the October Crisis to the War in Afghanistan* is the first comprehensive history that examines the impact of tactical, operational, and strategic intelligence on the Canadian military.

### **Cannon in Canada, Province by Province**

**Hal Skaarup** has now completed the last four of the books on Cannon preserved in Canada and they are now available online at Amazon.ca.

Cannons in Canada :-

[Volume 6: Québec / Tome 6: Québec](#)

[Volume 7: Ontario](#)

[Volume 8: Manitoba](#)

[Volume 9: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut](#)

## **Information session on Future fighter Project (F35)**

### **/ Session d'information sur le projet des nouveaux chasseurs (F35)**

On 25 April 2023 from 1300 to 0230hrs Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), the Government of Canada will host a Virtual Industry Engagement Session on the Future Fighter Capability Project (FFCP). The virtual session will be used to address key topics regarding FFCP implementation, including the overall project timelines, the economic benefits approach, approach to sustainment and key contacts. This presentation will include representatives from Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), Department of National Defence (DND), Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada, the United States Government, Lockheed Martin, and Pratt & Whitney.

If you are interested in attending, registrations will be accepted up to April 21<sup>st</sup> on the following link: [FFCP Industry Day: 25 April 2023 1300 – 02:30EST \(office.com\)](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=L8Yqt9UG1UyCTu6SMZpGdrZzkGBKseNBoa-EU_jT_VhUODEzWVpIVDIZQzc1SFFDQjM1WIEzRktMSy4u) or [https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=L8Yqt9UG1UyCTu6SMZpGdrZzkGBKseNBoa-EU\\_jT\\_VhUODEzWVpIVDIZQzc1SFFDQjM1WIEzRktMSy4u](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=L8Yqt9UG1UyCTu6SMZpGdrZzkGBKseNBoa-EU_jT_VhUODEzWVpIVDIZQzc1SFFDQjM1WIEzRktMSy4u)

For more information, please visit: [Future Fighter Capability Project - Economic Benefits Engagement - Tender Notice | CanadaBuys](#)

\*Note: No question period is being planned during the event. Participants will be invited to submit their questions in writing after the event.

Bonjour,

Le 25 avril 2023, de 13h00 à 14h30, heure avancée de l'Est (HAE), le gouvernement du Canada tiendra une séance d'information virtuelle sur le Projet de capacité future en matière d'avions-chasseurs (PCFAC). La séance virtuelle sera utilisée pour aborder des sujets clés concernant la mise en œuvre du PCFAC, y compris les échéanciers du projet, l'approche des retombées économiques, l'approche du soutien, ainsi que des contacts clés. Cette présentation comprendra des représentants de Services publics et Approvisionnement Canada (SPAC), du ministère de la Défense nationale (MDN), d'Innovation, sciences et développement économique Canada (ISDE), du gouvernement des États-Unis, de Lockheed Martin et de Pratt & Whitney.

Si vous souhaitez y assister, les inscriptions seront acceptées jusqu'au 21 avril 2023 au lien suivant : [Séance d'information du PCFAC: 25 avril 2023 de 13h00 à 14h30 HAE \(office.com\)](#)

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=L8Yqt9UG1UyCTu6SMZpGdrZzkGBKseNBoa-EU\\_jT\\_VhUODEzWVpIVDIZQzc1SFFDQjM1WIEzRktMSy4u](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=L8Yqt9UG1UyCTu6SMZpGdrZzkGBKseNBoa-EU_jT_VhUODEzWVpIVDIZQzc1SFFDQjM1WIEzRktMSy4u)

Pour de plus amples informations, visitez : [Projet de capacité future en matière d'avions de chasse - Séance sur les retombées économiques - Avis d'appel d'offres | AchatsCanada](#)

\*Note : Il n'y aura pas de période de questions. Toutefois, vous serez invités à poser vos questions par écrit suite à l'événement.



# **Why the 155mm Round is so Critical to the War in Ukraine**

*Tara Copp Associated Press April 22, 2023*



*The 155mm howitzer round is one of the most requested artillery rounds of the Ukraine war*

WASHINGTON -- The 155mm howitzer round is one of the most requested artillery munitions of the war in Ukraine. Already the US has shipped more than 1.5 million rounds to Ukraine, but Kyiv is still seeking more. A look at why this particular munition is so commonly used, and why it's been so critical to the war in Ukraine. Essentially, the 155mm round is a very big bullet, made up of four parts: the detonating fuse, projectile, propellant and primer. Each round is about 2 feet (60 centimeters) long, weighs about 100 pounds (45 kilograms), and is 155mm, or 6.1 inches, in diameter. They are used in gun/howitzer systems, which are towed or SP (self propelled) medium guns.

The 155mm shells can be configured in many ways: as ballistic projectiles or to use precision guided systems and be high explosive rounds to produce high fragmentation, armour piercing rounds to use against 'hard' targets, smoke rounds to obscure troop movement or illumination rounds to expose a target. "The 155mm round and the similar Soviet-era 152 mm rounds are so popular because they provide a good balance between range and warhead size," said Ryan Brobst, a research analyst at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies. "If you have too small a shell, it won't do enough damage or go as far. If you have a larger shell, you can get more damage but can't fire it as far. The 155 is the most common middle ground, and that's why it's so widely used." The French first developed the 155mm round to respond to World War I's extensive trench warfare. As World War I continued, the 155mm gun became the most common artillery piece used by the Allies and the US Army later adopted it as its standard field medium artillery piece. The US military fielded its own version, the M1, for World War II. After the war, the new NATO alliance adopted the 155mm as its artillery standard. By the Korean War, the round had been modified again, with a cluster munition variant. That round contained 88 submunitions, which were dispersed over a wide area to destroy vehicles, equipment, and personnel.

155mm gun/howitzers can strike targets up to 15 to 20 miles (24 to 32 kilometers) away, depending on what type of round and firing system is used, which makes them highly valued by ground forces to take out enemy targets from a protected distance. "Adversaries don't have much warning of it coming. And it's harder to hide from incoming rounds that are arcing in from above, which makes it highly lethal," Brobst said. "In Ukraine, 155mm rounds are being fired at a rate of 6,000 to 8,000 a day." said Ukrainian parliamentary member Oleksandra Ustinova, who serves on Ukraine's wartime oversight committee. But they are eclipsed by the estimated 40,000 Russian variant howitzer rounds fired at them, she told reporters at a recent Washington event sponsored by the German Marshall Fund.

The Pentagon previously had said how many rounds it was providing in each of the security assistance packages being sent about every two weeks to keep weapons and ammunition flowing into Ukraine, but it stopped specifying the number of 155mm rounds shipped in each package in February, citing operational security. However, in its overall count of assistance provided to Ukraine since Russia invaded in February 2022, the Pentagon says it has sent more than 160 155mm gun/howitzers, more than 1.5 million 155mm rounds, more than 6,500 precision-guided 155mm rounds and more than 14,000 155mm Remote Anti-Armour Mine (RAAM) Systems — essentially a 155mm shell packed with four mines that scatter on the ground and can take out a tank if it drives over them. Other countries have also provided howitzers, but Kyiv has continually asked for more. As of last year, Ukrainian officials were requesting as many as 1,000 howitzer systems to push Russian forces back.

As Ukraine prepares for an intense counteroffensive this spring, it will likely need to fire 7,000 to 9,000 155mm shells a day, said Yehor Cherniev, a member of Ukraine's parliament who spoke to reporters at the German Marshall Fund event. In recent months, the Biden administration has been using presidential drawdown authority to send ammunition directly from US military stockpiles to Ukraine, instead of having to wait and buy rounds from defense firms, so they can get there in time for the anticipated Ukrainian counteroffensive. The US has also been training Ukrainian troops in Germany on how to better use the 155mm rounds in combined arms tactics — coordinating strikes with targeting information provided by forward-based troops and other armoured systems to maximize damage and reduce the number of rounds needed to take out a target.

## **Trudeau Told NATO That Canada Will Never Meet Spending Goal**

*Amanda Coletta The Washington Post April 19, 2023*



*Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks during a question period in Parliament in Ottawa on Tuesday.*

*Sean Kilpatrick/AP*

TORONTO — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has told NATO officials privately that Canada will never meet the military alliance's defense-spending target, according to a leaked secret Pentagon assessment obtained by The Washington Post. The document's anonymous authors say Canada's "widespread" military deficiencies are harming ties with security partners and allies. The document, which has not been previously reported on, says "enduring" defense shortfalls led the Canadian Armed Forces to assess in February that it "could not conduct a major operation while simultaneously maintaining its NATO battle group leadership [in Latvia] and aid to Ukraine" — and that the situation was not "likely" to change without a shift in public opinion. The United States and Canada, neighbors and close NATO allies, share responsibility for defending the continent as partners in the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD. Washington has long pressed Ottawa to boost its

spending on defense and hasten plans to upgrade military capabilities and infrastructure in the Arctic, where officials of both countries warn that Russia and China are being more assertive.

But the document, part of a trove of classified material leaked to the Discord messaging app, allegedly by a member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, offers new insight into dissatisfaction and concern in the United States and beyond about Canadian defense policy and priorities. “Widespread defense shortfalls hinder Canadian capabilities,” the document says, “while straining partner relationships and alliance contributions.” The assessment, which bears the seal of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, says Germany is concerned about whether the Canadian Armed Forces can continue to aid Ukraine while meeting its NATO pledges. Turkey is “disappointed” by the Canadian military’s “refusal” to support the transport of humanitarian aid after February’s deadly earthquake there, the document says, and Haiti is “frustrated” by Ottawa’s reluctance to lead a multinational security mission to that crisis-racked nation. Trudeau, asked Wednesday afternoon whether he made the comments the document alleges, did not respond directly. “I continue to say and will always say that Canada is a reliable partner to NATO, a reliable partner around the world,” he told reporters in Ottawa. He said his government would ensure that the Canadian Armed Forces has the tools it needs.

Since February 2022, Canada has provided Ukraine more than \$1 billion of military aid, including armored vehicles, ammunition, a surface-to-air missile system that it sourced from the United States, and eight German-made Leopard II tanks that it transferred to Poland for delivery to Ukraine. The Canadian Armed Forces has trained more than 36,000 Ukrainian military and security personnel since 2015 and leads a NATO battle group in Latvia. But some NATO members are “concerned” that Canada has not increased the number of personnel deployed to Latvia, the document states, despite a pledge last year to do so. NORAD finds that the Canadian Armed Forces lacks “significant Arctic capabilities, and modernization plans have not materialized despite multiple public statements.”

*The Halifax-class frigate HMCS Fredericton on maneuvers in Frobisher Bay off Baffin Island, Canada, on Aug. 9, 2007.*

*(Michel Comte/AFP/Getty Images)*

A Pentagon spokesman declined to address the contents of the assessment. He told The Post that the “bond” between the two countries “remains close.” “Canada is much more than an exemplary neighbor; it is a reliable friend and a steadfast ally,” said the spokesman, who commented on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter.

“For more than a century, the United States and Canada have stood shoulder-to-shoulder protecting our homelands, building a secure and prosperous North America, upholding democracy and defending freedom around the world. We will continue to stand together in support of those values.” The US Northern Command did not respond to a request for comment.





Kerry Buck, a former Canadian ambassador to NATO, said Canada has long relied on the United States to be its security umbrella. She said Canadian diplomats and defense officials “are fully aware” of the impact that shortfalls have “on Canada’s international reputation and our reputation with our US partners.” “Whether that translates into government-wide action is a different question with a different answer,” Buck told The Post. “There has been underinvestment in defense and broader security for quite a while now in Canada, from my perspective, and through successive governments.”

The document contains markings indicating that at least some of the intelligence it contains was drawn from human sources and is not to be shared with foreign nationals. The date on which it was written is obscured, but the document includes references to events in February. Trudeau and President Biden discussed defense spending and NORAD modernization when they met in Ottawa in March. Daniel Minden, a spokesman for Canadian Defense Minister Anita Anand, told The Post that Ottawa’s “commitment to Euro-Atlantic and global security is ironclad — and we continue to make landmark investments to equip our Armed Forces.” But the document echoes long-standing criticisms and observations about Canada’s approach. In an open letter released Monday, the Canada-based Conference of Defense Associations Institute called on Ottawa to “radically accelerate the timelines for procurement and redress the poor state of our nation’s current defense capacity, capabilities and state of readiness.” “Years of restraint, cost cutting, downsizing and deferred investment have meant that Canada’s defense capabilities have atrophied,” said 60 signatories, who included several former Canadian defense ministers, military commanders, and security and intelligence officials.



*NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, left, and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, right, welcome Trudeau before a session of the NATO summit in Madrid on June 29. (Christophe Ena/AFP/Getty Images)*

Ukraine, which has mobilized Western allies, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said recently that a growing number of countries view the benchmark “as the floor, not the ceiling.” Trudeau has been noncommittal when asked when Canada will meet the target. Privately, the document says, he has “told NATO officials that Canada will never reach 2% defense spending.” It notes that the military budget has been below 1.4 percent of gross domestic product for 26 years. Trudeau has been prime minister for nearly eight of those years. His office, asked for comment, referred The Post to the Defense Ministry. Minden, the defense spokesman, called the \$19 billion purchase of 88 F-35 fighter jets in January the largest investment in the Royal Canadian Air Force in 30 years. Canada is spending \$38.6 billion to “modernize its NORAD capabilities,” he said, and is “working diligently to surge the Canadian-led NATO battle group in Latvia to brigade level.”



Canada’s defense policy calls for defense spending to increase by more than 70 percent from 2017 to 2026, he said. But even if the country fulfills that aim, it will still fall short of the 2 percent baseline. Gen Wayne Eyre, Canada’s chief of the Defense Staff — the equivalent of the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff — has acknowledged problems in recruitment, retention and readiness. The government last year announced a review of defense policy. Critics say it must be sped up. In October, Eyre ordered a halt to nonessential activities so commanders could focus on personnel shortages. One factor fueling the shortages, officials acknowledged, is a string of sexual misconduct allegations against top leaders. A government-commissioned report said the crisis “has caused as much damage as defeat in combat would have to demoralize the troops and shock Canadians.” The document lists problems with what it categorizes as readiness, personnel, “political apathy” and procurement.

## **‘Agnostic’ Drone Guns Can Secure US Infrastructure**

Elisabeth Gosselin-Malo    Defense News    Apr 18, 2023



*Droneshield's anti-UAV weapon.  
(Screengrab via Droneshield)*



MILAN – As technological improvements make drones smaller, more affordable and harder to detect, manufacturers of counter-drone technologies say defenses need to be effective regardless of type, aka “drone agnostic.” China established itself as a leader in the public safety marketplace, primarily through the production of commercial drones from Da Jang Innovations, known as DJI. A 2019 report found that 73 percent of public safety unmanned aerial systems operators in the US were flying the DJI Mavic series, and by 2021, the company reportedly controlled as much as 90 percent of the North American consumer market. Rising geopolitical tensions have frayed relations between the US and China, and American government officials are expressing alarm over the widespread use of Chinese UAS in the country. In a letter to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency sent in March, lawmakers warned that DJI could be providing “richly detailed, regularly updated pictures of our nation’s pipelines, railways, power generation facilities and waterways,” to the Chinese government.

Matt McCrann, CEO of DroneShield, an Australian and US maker of the “DroneGun” and other counter-UAS tech, said that while Chinese products still dominate in this market, any C-UAS system must be able to defend against any type of drone. “C-UAS solutions need to be drone agnostic, meaning that they can detect, and when authorized, defeat more than just DJI drones,” he said. The company this month introduced the “DroneGun Mk4,” a portable countermeasure with enhanced range and upgraded features such as low-size weight and power (low-SWaP). The expansion of use cases across federal agencies is primarily due to the rise of drones being used to carry out criminal activities in or around airports, prisons and other critical infrastructure, creating an ever-present potential threat. Full production of the Mk4 is expected to be reached in the second half of 2023. “We are seeing a significant uptick in the number of federal end-users [for DroneGuns] both domestic and international who have active counter-drone requirements and whose authority to operate is expanding,” said Tom Branstetter, director of business development at DroneShield.

Anti-drone guns have gained important traction as effective gap-fill or last mile countermeasure. More companies are coming out with their own versions, such as a recent new player in this space, Ukraine’s Kvertus Technology. The firm has developed the KVS G-6, which uses radio-signals to jam Russian systems. “We are starting to see a lot of consolidation in the C-UAS space, with now a lot of quality systems available today. But there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to the challenge of drone threats,” Branstetter said. “The key is the ability to implement those technologies collaboratively and in a way that provides the greatest level of capability while simultaneously meeting key customer requirements.” DroneShield’s guns have reportedly been used by the Ukrainian military since the early days of the war. When asked whether the latest variant would be provided to troops, McCrann said that “the Mk4 has a clear application for Ukraine and can add immediate value to their counter-drone efforts, we’ll continue to standby to support however we can.”

Key considerations of the platform that could be beneficial for the Ukrainians and other end-users is its overall form factor and component design. Not wanting to burden users with having to learn and operate an overly complex system, especially as they often operate multiple technology kits in the field, it is designed to leverage muscle memory established with other weapons. “It provides similar components that are very familiar to military and security personnel. This familiarity becomes especially important when under stress, the design simplicity allows any operator to deploy it at a moment’s notice,” Branstetter said. In a memo obtained by Defense News, the Joint Counter-small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Office makes its recommendation for Counter-UAS as a Service vendors. Shrinking the form factor of any C-UAS weaponry can lead to trade-offs, including limiting the range at which they are effective, forcing operators in some cases to get closer to the threat to neutralize it. As for the future of this technology, the company executives said that users need layered options to stay ahead of developing threats, whereby unmanned systems are already a multi-domain danger as seen through recent developments in autonomous underwater platforms or unmanned ground vehicles. “C-UAS solutions, strategies and requirements are not really focused on countering potential multi-domain at scale yet, but we will see that shift soon,” McCrann said.

## Vancouver Gunners Website Update

**Yorke Island Adventure** The website updates are rather sparse this week as I spent the weekend on Yorke Island. Pictures should follow later this week.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yorke-island-venture>

**Domestic Operations bar on the Special Service Mission** Have you contacted your family and friends about this opportunity to recognize soldiers that have assisted in battling forest fires and floods? This could be a great incentive for recruiting and retention as it provides a Canadian context to the medals worn by soldiers seen in public. Remember, serving Canadians are not allowed to sign parliamentary petitions, but their family members can.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/house-of-commons-e-petition>

**Yearbook Update 2017** Photos from the Officers' Mess renovations have been added.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-20171965063>

**Change of Command – 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA** Mark your calendars for 27 May 2023 as the Lieutenant-Colonel Nick Watts hands over command to the new Commanding Officer. I'll leave you in suspense for now as to who the new CO will be. Official invites with that information, the timing of the parade and the party details to follow.

**Change of Command – 5<sup>th</sup> (BC) Field Artillery Regiment RCA** Congratulations to Lieutenant-Colonel Ian C Watt, CD, a former member of 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, RCA and 116<sup>th</sup> Independent Field Battery, RCA on his promotion to his present rank and appointment as Commanding Officer 5<sup>th</sup> (BC) Field Regiment, RCA

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/change-of-command-5th-bc-field-artillery-regiment-rca>

Our zoom channel will be open on Wednesday from noon at <https://zoom.us/j/6802412956> and the secret passcode is pFPey6. **Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!**

## Who (or What) Is It?

**Last Week:** The **Mini Moke** is a small, front-wheel-drive utility and recreational convertible, conceived and manufactured as a lightweight military vehicle by British Motor Corporation (BMC), and subsequently marketed for civilian use under the Austin, Morris, Leyland, and Moke brands. The name "Mini Moke" combines *Mini* with *Moke*, an archaic term for "mule".

*A view of four WRACs from HQ London provost division Kensington seen in a "Mini Moke" in London, England. Circa 1950. (Photo by Central Press/Archive Photos/Getty Images)*



The Moke is known for its simple, straightforward, doorless design, and for its adaptability. The first Mokes were manufactured at BMC's Longbridge, Birmingham plant, with 14,518 produced in the UK between 1964 and 1968. 26,000 were manufactured in Australia between 1966 and 1981, and 10,000 in Portugal between 1980 and 1993 when, after a nearly 30-year run, production ended. In 2013, in a joint venture with Jaguar Land Rover, Chinese automaker Chery Automobile started production of a new car called Moke



in China. The new MOKE is assembled and distributed by a few companies in several countries including England, France, and the United States.

**This Week:** Those of our readers living outside of the Lower Mainland of British Columbia might be familiar with a material we only see on the slopes of distant mountains: snow. This stuff apparently makes it difficult for motorized equipment to move forward in a controlled fashion. Our sources tell us that it is a bit like our rain, but colder, and prone to turning yellow around dog parks. That said, it apparently is quite common in regions to the north and east and that means that armies have long thought of it as a challenge. Various solutions have been tried, from strapping long pieces of wood to soldiers' feet, to adapting caterpillar track technology to the inclement situation. The latter seems to have proven fairly successful, with armies investing in various designs for moving troops and equipment across the frozen landscape.

Canada, following tradition and not investing too heavily in anything, seems to have adapted civilian devices called "Ski-Doos", something never seen in the warm, paradise-like West Coast. These personal mobility devices, however, only carry one or two soldiers. Larger motorized devices, capable of taking up to a section, have been used, and our allies, especially the snow-bound Norwegians and Finns, and our almost allies, the Swedes, seem to have some of the best kit.



However, not all these vehicles have seen extensive service, with some relegated to back waters (or "back snows"), whilst others were simply trials vehicles. We think that is what is featured in this week's photo, but we aren't sure. Do you

know what it was, when it was used, and by whom? If so, send your answers to the editor, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com)), or the author, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)).

### **From the 'Punitary'**

What do you call an alligator in a vest? An investigator.

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

Hopes aren't strategies.

### **Quotable Quotes**

The sincerest compliment we can pay is attention. - *Walter Anderson*

## 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.

<https://zoom.us/j/6802412956> and the secret passcode is pFPey6



Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars across mobile, desktop, and room systems. Zoom Rooms is the original software-based conference room solution used around the world in board, conference, huddle, and training rooms, as well as executive offices and classrooms. Founded in 2011, Zoom helps businesses and organizations bring their teams together in a frictionless environment to get more done. Zoom is a publicly traded company headquartered in San

Jose, CA.

Invite 2 friends! We have room for 100! See you on Wednesdays at noon. Bring your own lunch and beverage of choice.

## BC Military Gala 2023

**BC Military Gala 2023 - SATURDAY MAY 6, 2023**



We are please to provide notice that the annual BC Military Gala is back after a three-year hiatus due to Covid. The ball will be held at Vancouver's Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel. 1800 for 1900hrs.

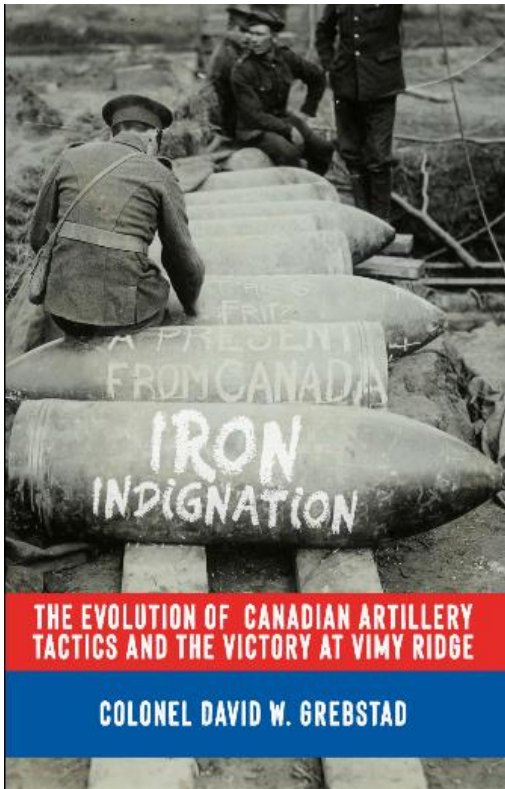
[www.militarygala.ca](http://www.militarygala.ca)

## New Books

### **Iron Indignation:**

#### **The Evolution of Canadian Artillery Tactics and the Victory at Vimy Ridge**

by [David W. Grebstad](#) Regimental Colonel, Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery



The Evolution of Tactics that led to Victory in World War One! When the men of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery went to war in 1914, they lacked training, had insufficient guns and ammunition, and clung to a strategy that emphasized manoeuvre and direct-fire engagements. When the opening phases of the Great War came to an end and the conflict became static siege warfare, Canadian gunners had to grow and adapt. By the spring of 1917, the weapons, men, tactics and battle experience of the Canadian and allied artillery forces had evolved sufficiently to allow the artillery to smash German defences and free the infantry to advance. This is the story of the courage, ingenuity, dedication and adaptation of artillery doctrine that contributed to the victory of the Canadian Corps on Vimy Ridge in April 1917.

What was The Battle of Vimy Ridge?

The battle took place from 9-12 April 1917, it was a costly battle that resulted in victory for the Canadian Corps who had been tasked with overcoming the impregnable German defenses. This German emplacement had plagued the allied forces for years and repelled numerous attacks. After weeks of training behind the lines, meticulous planning, and with the help of a terrifying artillery barrage, the Canadian Corps emerged victorious. This became a momentous day for the Canadian forces that is still commemorated to this day.

Who is the book for?

If you are a student of Canadian history, a military or armchair historian this is the book for you. *Iron Indignation* is a book for any proud Canadian looking to learn more about pivotal moments in Canadian history and explore the Great War, The Battle of Vimy Ridge, the Canadian Corps, and the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery.

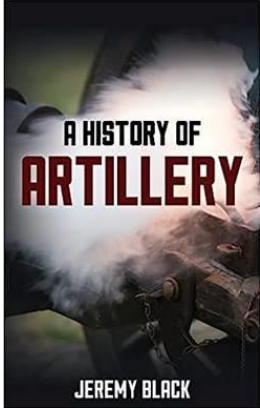
Print length -**223 pages** Language -**English** Publication date -**April 6, 2023**

Amazon.ca Paperback \$24.99 eBook \$8.99



# A History of Artillery

Professor Jeremy Black's book 'A History of Artillery' is due to be published on **May 15, 2023**



'*A History of Artillery*' is packed with detail. This work is based on a mastery of classic and modern literature, highlighted by the inclusion of important extra-European material. The strategic, political, and economic contexts are always in the foreground. Black moves easily between the western tradition, which usually dominate such studies, and the experience of other cultures. - *Andrew Lambert, Laughton Professor of Naval History, King's College, London.*

Black has written an original and timely global history on the important role artillery have played in the grand strategy of great powers. Examinations of artillery tend toward the specific, with emphases on particular conflicts, however, placing them within the wider development of society and culture correctly fits them into human history. Black also posits artillery developments as markers of advancement and developing state power. -*Jeffrey Meriwether, Professor of European, African, and Military History, Roger Williams University.*

Black is a brilliant historian. I know of no one else who has the knowledge and analytical skills to carry out this ambitious project, nothing less than a global history of artillery. He is able to cut across cultures and eras with a skill that is unmatched. He is a careful historian, known for his accuracy. He is also a gifted storyteller, able to write for a general as well as specialist audiences. He is able to write in a clear and direct way. He pulls together and makes accessible a great deal of information. Furthermore, he is an insightful strategic analyst, who leaves the reader with important finding. -*John Maurer, Alfred Thayer Mahan Professor of Sea Power and Grand Strategy and served as the Chair of the Strategy and Policy Department at the Naval War College*

A History of Artillery traces the development of artillery through the ages, providing a thorough study of these weapons. From its earliest recorded use in battle over a millennium ago, up to the recent Gulf War, Balkan, and Afghanistan conflicts, artillery has often been the deciding factor in battle. Black shows that artillery sits within the general history of a war as a means that varied greatly between armies and navies, and across time. *Amazon.ca*

## About the Author

Jeremy Black is professor emeritus of history at the University of Exeter. His books include *The Importance of Being Poirot*; *The World of James Bond*; and *A History of the Second World War in 100 Maps*. He lives in Exeter, United Kingdom.

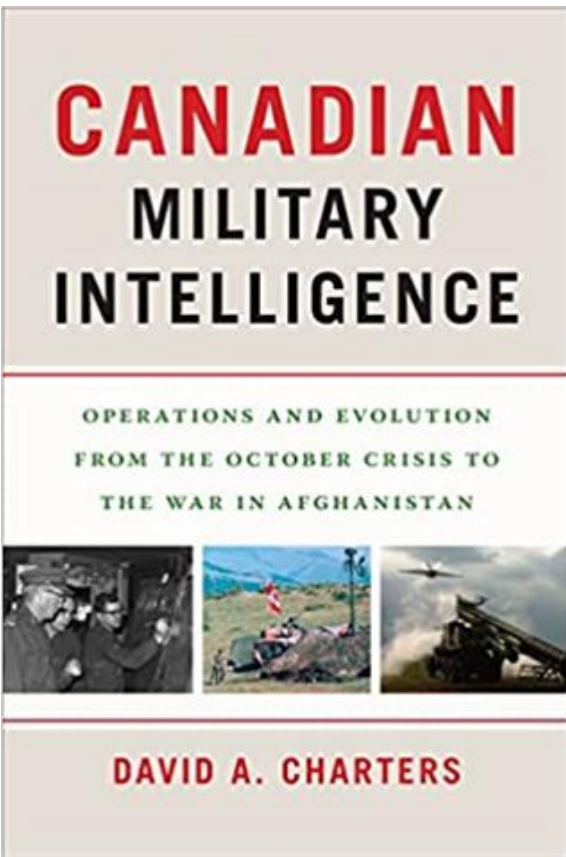
Product details

**Publisher :** Rowman & Littlefield (15 May 2023) **Language :** English

**Hardcover :** 190 pages **ISBN-10 :** 1538178192 **ISBN-13 :** 978-1538178195

**Amazon.ca prices:** \$123.50 paperback, \$47.00 hard cover

**Canadian Military Intelligence:  
Operations and Evolution from the October Crisis to the War in Afghanistan**  
[David A. Charters](#) (Author), [Andrea Siew](#) (Contributor)



*The most comprehensive history of Canadian military intelligence and its influence on key military operations*

Canadian intelligence has become increasingly central to the operations of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). *Canadian Military Intelligence: Operations and Evolution from the October Crisis to the War in Afghanistan* is the first comprehensive history that examines the impact of tactical, operational, and strategic intelligence on the Canadian military.

Drawing upon a wide range of original documents and interviews with participants in specific operations, author David A Charters provides an inside perspective on the development of military intelligence since the Second World War. He shows how intelligence influenced key military operations, from domestic internal security to peacekeeping efforts to high-intensity air campaigns? including the October Crisis of 1970, the Oka Crisis, the Gulf War, peacekeeping and enforcement operations in the Balkans, and the war in Afghanistan. He describes how decades of experience, innovation, and increasingly close cooperation with its Five Eyes and NATO allies allowed Canada's military intelligence to punch above its weight. Its tactical effectiveness and ability to overcome challenges reshaped the outlook of military commanders, and intelligence emerged from the margins to become a central feature of military and defense operations.

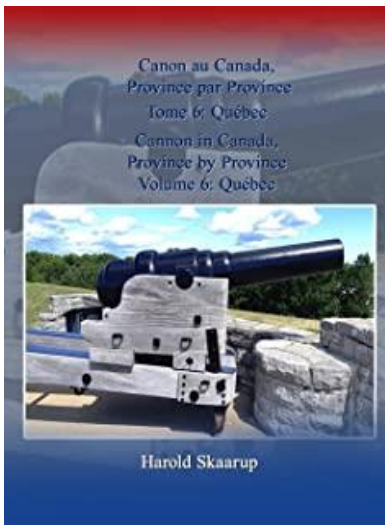
*Canadian Military Intelligence* offers lessons from the past and critical implications for future intelligence support with the creation of the Canadian Forces Intelligence Command. This book will be essential to both intelligence history and military history readers and collections.

**Amazon.ca**

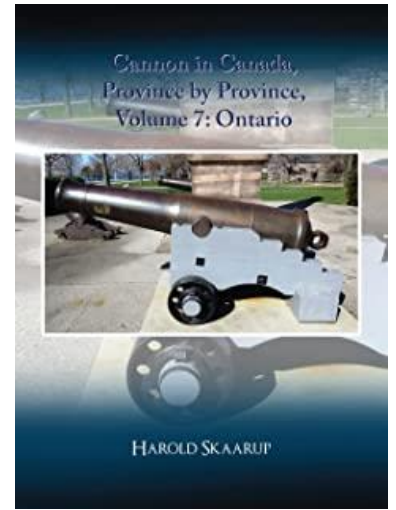
Paperback:- \$51.95  
eBook:- \$49.35

## Cannon in Canada, Province by Province

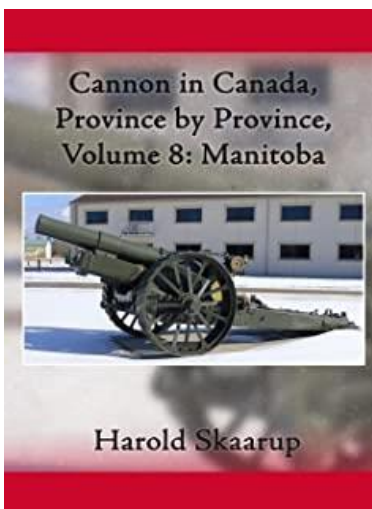
Hal Skaarup has now completed the last four of the books on Cannon preserved in Canada, and they are now available online at Amazon.ca.



[Cannon in Canada, Province by Province, Volume 6: Québec / Canon au Canada, Province par Province Tome 6: Québec](#)

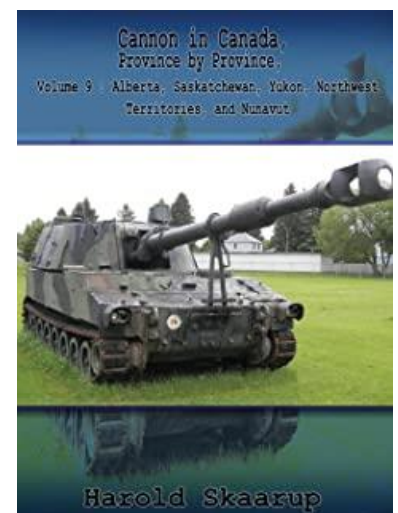


[Cannon in Canada, Province by Province, Volume 7: Ontario](#)



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

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







Fort Fraser Garrison

I request the company of all Officers and Miladies and their guests at our

**Battle of Ste. Foy (April 1760)  
Commemorative Dinner**

*“from April battles and Murray generals, good Lord deliver me!”*

**Saturday, 13 May, 2023**

**in the Officers’ Mess, Bessborough Armoury  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver.**

**1800 for 1900 hrs.**

**Also known as “the second battle on the Plains of Abraham”,  
the 78<sup>th</sup> suffered the highest casualties of the war here.**

**On this date we also mark the 277<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1746 defeat of  
the Clan Army at Culloden Moor.**

**Dress:** Full uniform (scarlets), Highland Evening Wear, Black Tie, Business  
Attire ..... Ladies : Evening Attire

**Tariff:** \$65 per person

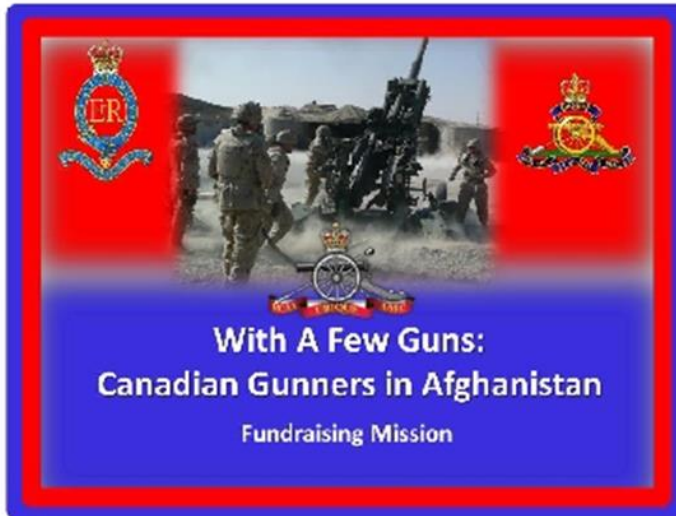
**Kindly RSVP to [jobarb@shaw.ca](mailto:jobarb@shaw.ca) or at 604-522-5766 before 8  
May.**

Yours Aye,

*James Barrett, Maj.*  
Officer Commanding

## 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](mailto: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 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1974 war.*



**WHAT** - Cyprus 2024 Pilgrimage.

**GOAL** - to capture the history and stories from those who served in Cyprus with emphasis on the actions that took place during the 1974 war, **A FORGOTTEN WAR.**

**WHEN** - November 2024.

**WHO** - All Cyprus and Canadian Airborne Regiment Veterans and family members.

**WHERE** - Nicosia Cyprus, lodged at the Hilton Hotel.

**COST** - Pay as you go trip with individual costs in the \$5000 to 6000 range. Costs covered will include airfare, hotel with breakfast and expenses such as transportation.

**TRAVEL** - Will be arranged by professional travel agents, with pre and post tour travel options available.

**PROGRAM** - Seven days: three days of battlefield tours, three days of excursions, and one day of Remembrance.

**FURTHER INFORMATION AND UPDATES ARE AVAILABLE BY JOINING THE CYPRUS 2024 FACEBOOK GROUP** [Cyprus2024 | Facebook](#)

**QUOI** - Pèlerinage à Chypre 2024.

**OBJECTIF** - capturer l'histoire et les récits de ceux qui ont servi à Chypre en mettant l'accent sur les actions qui ont eu lieu là pendant la guerre de 1974, **UNE GUERRE OUBLIÉE.**

**QUAND** - Novembre 2024.

**QUI** - Tous les vétérans de Chypre, du Régiment aéroporté canadien et les membres de leurs familles.

**OÙ** - Nicosie Chypre, logés à l'hôtel Hilton.

**COÛT** - Voyage à la carte avec des coûts individuels inclus, environ \$5000 et 6000. Les coûts comprendront le billet d'avion, l'hôtel avec petit-déjeuner et les dépenses telles que le transport.

**VOYAGE** - Sera organisé par des agents de voyage professionnels, avec options de voyage avant et après la réunion.

**PROGRAMME** - Sept jours: trois jours de visites du champ de bataille, trois jours d'excursions et une journée du Souvenir.

**PLUS D'INFORMATIONS ET MISES À JOUR SONT DISPONIBLES EN REJOIGNANT LE GROUPE FACEBOOK CYPRUS 2024** [Cyprus2024 | Facebook](#)

