



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News 7 Nov 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

- Nov 08** 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
Band of the 5th (BC) Field Regiment RCA - Concert of Remembrance
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day
AFOA Dawn Patrol (details sent separately)
- Nov 16** Left Coast Lancers - Battle of Leliefontein Luncheon
- Nov 22** Mess Lunch and presentation – History of the VPD.
- Nov 25** Fraser Highlanders, Fort Fraser Garrison, Feast of St Andrew Dinner
- Dec 02** **Save the date! 15 Fd Offrs Mess St Barbaras's Day Dinner**

Lunch and Speaker

Our next two Mess lunches have been arranged by the Regimental Society with speakers again arranged by RUSI Vancouver.

Menu	
Thursday, Nov 9	Wednesday, Nov 22
fresh baked buns & butter	Buns & butter
deluxe mixed greens salad	Tossed salad and beans salad

Chicken Cacciatore, mashed potatoes, steamed veggies with garlic butter	Baked ham with mustard glaze, Scalloped potatoes, Glazed carrots
Dessert	Veggie tray or meat and cheese tray
Tea and coffee	Assorted desserts, Tea and coffee
Reservations required by 2 Nov	Reservations required by 15 Nov
Vegan/vegetarian options available, but you must make your preference known when you make your reservations.	

RUSI Presentation in lecture room following lunch.

Nov 9

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..

Nov 22

The post Lunch speaker arranged by RUSI Vancouver, will be Pamela Roberts, Executive Director, Vancouver Police Museum & Archives, who will give a talk on the *History of the Vancouver Police Dept.* (See her bio in the poster section.)

Lunches start at 1200hrs, and the presentations 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 the **Nov 9** presentation is on a **Thursday**, not our normal Wednesday, we’ve had to adjust to accommodate our presenters’ availability.

Prepayment for lunch tickets required by **2 November and 15 November**

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

E-transfer may be made to: 15rca100th@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 kdmxwell@gmail.com

How We Talk About War and Remembrance

“War is what happens when language fails.” —Margaret Atwood

Stephen J Thorne Legion Magazine November 1, 2023



Bill Black of the Korean War Veterans Association of Canada (left) and James Sookbirsing of the Submariners Association of Canada place a wreath at the National War Memorial on Remembrance Day 2020.

The language of war and remembrance is couched in euphemism, hyperbole and a healthy dose of gilded lilies. In short, a lot of overused words and hackneyed phrases that tend to glorify and obfuscate, comfort and satisfy. In war, politicians and military mucky-mucks use alternative language to soften the reality of, or maintain support for, humankind’s greatest failure—phrases or words such as “collateral damage” for civilian casualties, “enhanced interrogation techniques” for torture, “ethnic cleansing” for genocide, and “conflict” for war. The remembrance period is rife with such well-worn words as “sacrifice,” “bravery,”

“noble,” “heroes” and that most-misunderstood of phrases, “lest we forget”—old reliables, delivered with great solemnity, earnestness and gravitas; take homes that make people feel good about their societal debts for another year. Most of these terms and phrases emanate from 1914-18, the first industrialized war, when combatants and noncombatants were killed in unprecedented numbers. And that was in a time when better medicine saved more lives. The scale of death and destruction, the sight of disfigured survivors in the streets of London, Paris, Toronto, Melbourne and New York—indeed, in small towns and villages all over—awakened the general public to the horrors of war.

Wreaths surround the National War Memorial prior to the ceremony on Nov. 11, 2020.

Stephen J Thorne/LM



The “war to end all wars” also transformed war art and literature, far less of which glorified the subject in the aftermath of 20 million wartime deaths, the Erich Maria Remarque book *All Quiet on the Western Front* a prime example. But the Great War didn’t alter the language surrounding it. *It is forbidden to kill,” said Voltaire, “therefore all murderers are punished unless they kill in large numbers and to the sound of trumpets.”* The first Armistice Day was observed in 1919

after King George V circulated a Nov. 9, 1919, letter throughout the Empire calling on its dominions and territories to mark “the victory of right and freedom” and for “*the brief space of two minutes, [make] a complete suspension of all our normal activities.*” This was to happen at the precise moment the Armistice ended the fighting—the 11th hour of the 11th day on the 11th month. “During that time, except in rare cases where this may be impractical, all work, all sound and all locomotion should cease, so that in perfect stillness the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead.” And so, a tradition was born. Of course, silence wasn’t enough. People had to talk—and not usually the people who were there but, most often, the people who sent them, and their ilk. There were politicians and preachers, poseurs and potentates. The language was still laced with Old World ideas and phrases—the oratorical equivalent of a 19th century painting dripping with shredded battle flags and glory, rooted in a time when Britannia ruled the waves and half the world with an iron fist and navy rum. Even the phrase “lest we forget” has its roots in ancient Biblical tradition. “Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently,” says the King James Bible version of Deuteronomy, “lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy son’s sons.” In 1897, Rudyard Kipling borrowed the concept in his poem *Recessional*, written for Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee:

*God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle line,
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!*

“Lest we forget” soon became the rallying cry for, not just Nov 11, but what became the annual period of remembrance leading up to it. *Somebody* forgot, however, because in 1939 they did it all over again—a world war, that is—and this time some 53 million people died. Those speeches didn’t change, however, and neither did the escalating cycle of war. The weapons became more efficient, the causes more obscure, the atrocities almost mundane to a largely uncaring world. “*I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought,*” said Albert Einstein, “*but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.*” And, still, the language remains the same.

The going down of the sun at the National Military Cemetery in Ottawa on Nov 11, 2020.
Stephen J Thorne/LM



The speech makers would have you believe they died gloriously for king and country, freedom and democracy. As writers of history, it is our job to show, not tell. It’s easy to fall into the trap of calling every Allied combatant a “hero,”

to laud their “exploits,” their “bravery” and their “sacrifice.” Yet, would it not be more credible and informative to delve into their stories and circumstances and allow readers to reach their own conclusions about their histories? The *Canadian Oxford Dictionary* defines “courage” as “the ability to disregard fear,” while it says to be brave is to “be able or ready to face and endure danger.” “Bravery” is more commonly used than “courage,” though courage is undoubtedly the more descriptive and accurate term when it comes to war. Fred Dibnah, a British Cold War veteran, steeplejack and television personality, is credited with the pearl of wisdom “a man who says he feels no fear is either a fool or a liar.” He was speaking generally, adding “you gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you stop to look fear in the face.”

But the concept came to apply especially to war and its combatants who—in the First World War, at least—went “over the top” at gunpoint, thus leaving them to either die fighting or die a coward. Those serving in a First World War infantry regiment were 6.8 times more likely to be killed in action as those who were not—14 per cent died, or 6,000 a day for four years. The vast majority, probably in the neighbourhood of 99.8 per cent, died fighting. The speech makers would have you believe they died gloriously for king and country, freedom and democracy. The fact is, many signed up not knowing what they were getting themselves into and, in the end, most fought for a more personal, indeed intimate, reason: They couldn’t, in their heart of hearts, let down the men on either side of them. That commitment, and those bonds, are deep and everlasting—a connection that only they can know. As time passed and societal mores evolved, veterans became more candid, forthright and unvarnished in their recollections of war and their attitudes toward it. Literacy, once the domain of the more-educated officer corps, had become common, and the rank-and-file wrote more explicit letters, memoirs and histories.

Media coverage of the Vietnam War brought the public to the front lines, in all their ugliness and brutality. Public perceptions of war evolved but, still, the language of remembrance did not. “*After a year I felt so plugged in to all the stories and the images and the fear that even the dead started telling me stories,*” former Vietnam correspondent Michael Herr wrote in his book *Dispatches*, “*you’d hear them out of a remote but accessible space where there were no ideas, no emotions, no facts, no proper language, only clean information.*” The deficit in historical awareness isn’t unique to this country. It has been shown that a large proportion of present-day Canadians know relatively little of the country’s military history or the events that perpetuated it. In a 2020 survey for the Montreal-based Association for Canadian Studies, Leger Marketing found that just 32 per cent of respondents aged 35-44 knew that six million Jews died in the Holocaust. Canadians older than 75 were most informed, at 55 per cent, while just 40 per cent of the youngest cohort, ages 18-24, knew the right answer. Similarly, more than half of Canadians polled in a 2019 survey conducted by Ipsos for Global News/Historica Canada failed a six-question quiz on the D-Day invasion. A 2018 poll found only 16 per cent of respondents could correctly identify the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, which appears on the \$20 bill. And a 2014 survey suggested 18 per cent of Canadians didn’t know the significance of Vimy Ridge, where in 1917 Canadian troops carved out Canada’s place in the world. The deficit in historical awareness isn’t unique to this country, either.

In another 2020 survey, commissioned by the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund in Britain, 44 per cent of respondents had no idea what the Battle of Britain was. Twelve per cent of those aged 18-24 thought the 1940 air battle that saved the islands from Nazi occupation was a First World War fight for supremacy over the English Channel; nine per cent said it was the 1646 civil war fought between England and Scotland; six per cent called it a Viking invasion; and three per cent said it was the 2019 general election. The question is, how does a society remember something for which it has no knowledge? The answer, it seems, lies in those same ancient texts: “*Teach them thy sons, and thy son’s sons.*” And daughters.

“Lest We Forget”: Remembering with Respect and Honour

November 24, 2020 - Capt Min Kim, Padre, 1 Service Battalion



Photo by LS Erica Seymour, 4 Wing Imaging

In 1897 Rudyard Kipling (d. 1936) composed a poem entitled “Recessional,” where he reminds readers not to forget what is not to be obliterated. In the poem, he underscores the phrase “lest we forget”:

*God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle-line,
Beneath whose awful Hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!*

The phrase is then adopted to capture the significance of remembering the soldiers fallen in war, and it has become widely known for the occasion of Remembrance Day (also called “Armistice Day” until 1930) particularly in Commonwealth countries and states. Equally outstanding in this respect is the poem entitled “For the Fallen” by Laurence Binyon (d. 1943), the fourth stanza of which is known to us as the “Act of Remembrance,” where it chants:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Always do we remember the sacrifices the soldiers made in the line of duty, but at this time of year we do so deliberately and consciously across the country and the globe, not merely

individually but also corporately. A slight change on our act of remembrance this year seems obvious due to COVID 19 – the main player in changing our life to a “new normal.” Watching the commemoration ceremonies online, for instance, as well as in small gatherings in accordance with the provincial guidelines, is more likely expected instead of large public gatherings at cenotaphs as usual. No matter how and where we participate in remembering the soldiers, one of the salient purposes and permanent reasons of our remembrance is “lest we forget.” Forgetting the past is by default part of an acceptable phenomenon to us, but there are certain things we retain in our memories and knowledge, such as significant moments and events, as well as honourable people and their acts in history. Ironic it may then sound that the sacrifices of the fallen soldiers are honourable, yet we purposefully act to remember them so as not to forget them. In a true sense, however, it is more than a gesture; it is our dedication with respect to honouring their selfless services. We respect their determination to serve the country. We honour their courage, even death in line of duty. Reflecting the values of our community as a whole, we remember them with respect and honour. For those of the past, present and future, we will remember them for their dedication. We will remember them for their courage. We will remember them for the sacrifice of their lives for ours. **We will remember them.**

Blair Warns Canadian Armed Forces Shrinking

Christopher Oldcorn Western Standard 02 Nov 2023



Bill Blair

Image courtesy of CBC

Defense Minister Bill Blair stated on Wednesday that more soldiers, sailors, and aircrew are leaving the military faster than can be replaced with new recruits.

According to *Blacklock's Reporter*, this is happening when there are “a great deal of priorities right now,” including conflicts in Israel and Ukraine, as well as domestic search and rescue operations. “There is a real challenge in the Canadian Armed Forces,” Blair said in Senate Question Period. “Over the last three years, we’ve actually seen greater attrition, more people leaving the Forces than the Canadian Armed Forces has been able to recruit.” “I think that may be the greatest challenge I face as the new defence minister, to do everything I can to support the Armed Forces in their efforts to recruit the talent we need and, just as importantly, to retain the excellent people they already have,” said Blair. “I have asked them to look very carefully at some of the impediments to recruitment and how long things have taken.”

On December 5, the military announced that it would allow landed immigrants to join with the promise of faster processing of their citizenship applications. Blair said the program had not succeeded in increasing recruitment numbers. “What we have not yet seen is a commensurate increase in the number of people,” said Blair. “Almost 12,000 people indicated an interest. We need to move faster in our recruitment and onboarding processes.” “Does your biggest concern lie in recruitment?” asked Senator Tony Loffreda (KC). “My concern is not only for recruitment because we have to get the best talent coming in the door, but I am also concerned about retention because we have extraordinary men and women in the Canadian Armed Forces,” replied Blair. “I want to make sure we provide them with the appropriate support.” In a July 5 department of National Defence briefing note *Recruitment and Retention*, annual recruitment in 2022 fell 35% from 8,069 to 5,242 volunteers. The military’s minimum strength requirement is 60,500 fully trained regular members and they aim to have a working target of 68,000. According to an Inquiry of Ministry presented in the Commons, the cabinet stated that the regular forces currently sits at 63,477 members. In an August 29 report *Evaluation of Ready Air and Space Forces* the Air Force said it is currently experiencing a “personnel crisis,” as fewer people join the Air Force and more veterans are leaving the service. “The RCAF is experiencing a personnel crisis linked to both recruitment and retention,” said the report. “There are vacancies in a number of key occupations across the RCAF.”

We Are Witnessing the Future of War on the Battlefields of Ukraine

We would be wise to learn the lessons the Ukrainians have fought so hard to learn.

Richard Shimooka The Hub November 3, 2023



An officer of Ukraine's 59th Motorized Brigade loads a bomb on a drone in the suburbs of Donetsk, the site of fierce battles with the Russian forces, Ukraine, Friday, May 26, 2023.

Efrem Lukatsky/AP Photo.

Historically, certain wars have stimulated the development of future defence thinking. The 1905 Russo-Japanese War previewed many features of the Great War a decade later, including the lethality of machine guns and howitzers, as well as the ubiquity of trench warfare. The 1973 Yom Kippur War between Israel and its Arab Neighbours was particularly influential for present wars—the Arab combatants’ use of new anti-tank guided missiles challenged many existing doctrines. This is not to say that all groups absorb the lessons directly or effectively. Many of the great powers, including Russia (who fought in the 1905 war), failed to adopt the lessons laid bare in that conflict and suffered grievous casualties in the first years of World War I as a result. Approaching two years since the invasion, the war in Ukraine has the potential to have an outside impact on the future of war for a variety of reasons. Its timing comes as a number of new technologies have emerged, many of which have come from the civilian space. These include the proliferation of drones, low-cost satellites, and high bandwidth networking—all of which to date

have had major effects on the outcome of the war. Over the past two years, both sides have adapted their doctrine and capabilities to reflect a cycle of learning and adaptation which gives a clearer understanding of where these technologies are headed.

Some of these trends are a validation of overriding trends in warfare, particularly around the collection and use of data afforded by networked systems. This is evident in the maturation of the “reconnaissance-strike” complexes in Russian and Ukrainian doctrine. Essentially, this is a streamlining of the process of identifying and attacking targets with precision fire, usually from some form of artillery. The United States and NATO have been pursuing a roughly similar—but much more advanced and all-encompassing—concept known as “multi-domain operations.” There are several common denominators between both doctrines, including the effort to expand detection over wider areas, as well as hastening the decision-making process which can improve the lethality of any weapon system attached to it. While it may not be able to employ traditional airpower, the use of long-range artillery (including the recently provided ATACMS missile system) shows the effectiveness of this approach to war. It also allows for a greater economy of force—a critical consideration for Ukraine due to its disadvantageous economic and strategic situation facing a state three times its size.

A key feature of progress in this area is its organic nature. Since the start of direct hostilities in 2014, Ukraine has done well to build up some of these connective capabilities adapting civilian systems for military purposes, such as the Starlink satellite network and apps for mobile devices. A large portion are ground-up approaches, developed even by military units to suit their particular operational needs. This was part of the total war approach that the Ukrainian government has instituted, often leveraging their emerging tech industries to develop new capabilities to fight against the Russian Federation. Many allies have similar efforts, but too often focus remains on a very centralized, top-down approach, which has led to substandard outcomes. Some balance between the two poles is likely ideal. Another major consideration is the revolutionary impact of drones on air warfare. Traditional manned airpower, like F-16, Mig-29s, and even attack helicopters, remain as relevant as ever in Ukraine. While no side possesses true air superiority, some localized control has been established for short periods, resulting in potentially decisive consequences. However, the war has followed the trend of other recent wars with low-cost, attritable drones playing an important role. While this has been evident in the strike-reconnaissance doctrine discussed above, the so-called kamikaze loitering drones, such as the Russian Lancet and armed first-person view commercial drones, have played an important role as well.

One important aspect is what is known as the “mass” of these capabilities—not individually, but as a collective system or swarm of multiple individual units that can be lost without a major degradation of their lethality. At present, the link between traditional and emerging airpower domains is fairly disjointed over the battlefield in Ukraine, perhaps due to lingering service parochialism. But once combined they will only multiply each other’s lethality. There is, however, one question concerning this new frontier of airpower’s ultimate influence in the future. It hinges significantly on the efficacy of new anti-drone systems, like those being developed by the United States Army and NATO allies. These potentially may blunt or even remove the deadly

threat these UAVs pose to modern ground forces. But as of now they are in their infancy and very few are present in Ukraine today. If they are unable to make a major impact, then the future of conflict will be radically different. Over the past thirty years, Canada, the United States, and its allies have often been able to deploy troops abroad to many stabilization and peacekeeping missions, in part due to the relatively benign threat environment they were entering. There was confidence that deployed soldiers would not incur significant casualties, which would arouse domestic opposition to the missions themselves. If the lethality of these unmanned drone systems remains unchecked, then, considering their greater ubiquity, it may drastically constrain the ability of Western countries to intervene and assert their muscle abroad, even in low-risk environments.

Finally, and perhaps most critically, is the need for an adaptive defence industrial base (another word for military supply chains) with the capacity to meet a wide need for war. The Russian Federation, for example, faced wide-ranging and intrusive sanctions from the start of the conflict that precluded them from obtaining a number of key resources for their war effort, ranging from raw materials to advanced technology components. They have been able to weather these challenges due to a combination of factors: a deliberate effort to develop an autarkic industrial base that started after 2014, a less technologically advanced military, and sanctions-avoiding policies such as smuggling and diversifying their foreign supplier base to more reliable allies. While Western allies are unlikely to face the same restrictions in a potential future conflict on the scale that Russia has, in some ways they have greater challenges. These countries rely on much more sophisticated military capabilities that have levels of complexity far in excess of Russian systems. The sheer diversity in all of the raw materials inputs and various subcomponent providers, as well as the networks to make them all work, means that they are actually much easier to disrupt. Shades of this were evident during the initial months of the COVID-19 epidemic when the production of civilian goods was affected by shortages and supply chain disruptions.

Furthermore, underinvestment in the defence industrial base has left the capacity to ramp up production in most areas perilously slow, even two years after the conflict started. More effort must be spent on creating a much more resilient industrial base that has the capacity to ramp up production to meet the needs of modern war. This requires significant front-end investment by governments in capacity building as no private firm is willing to spend money in that fashion without any guarantee of a return. At the same time, building capacity must be targeted and appropriate to the actual needs of Canada and its allies—taking lessons from Ukraine without understanding their context would be a mistake. That war and its material demands are unique to it.² Discerning the actual needs and developing accordingly should be done through careful analysis and wargaming, much like the recent Center for Strategic International Studies analysis on US missile needs in a potential war against China has done. In the end, a clear trend that seems to bind all of these areas is the need for adaptability and critical thinking. Warfare is fast becoming more lethal and decisive. Modern armies must be able to respond to those changes as quickly as they occur—or better yet, lead those changes against their adversaries. That, for one, cannot occur in an organization that is continually starved for funding like the Canadian Armed Forces is today. But it may also require a radical reorganization and re-think of how defence policy, strategy, operations, and doctrine are developed and implemented—not to mention personnel and

industrial policy. As the conflict in Ukraine has laid bare, bringing in the brightest minds and giving them greater leeway to develop responses is key, as is harnessing the potential and building the capacity of domestic industrial bases. These are essential and urgent lessons we must learn. They have been hard won by the sacrifices of the Ukrainian people for our benefit. It would be a shame to waste them.

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

The updates are rather few this week as I've been suffering a serious man cold. Plus, I've been transcribing a series of Artillery heroes for the Royal Canadian Artillery Association. Looking for a hero? Check out the ones here.

<https://rca-arc.org/military-medal/>

BC Historical Arms Collectors Society

The BC Historical Arms Collectors Society will be holding their bi-monthly show at Chilliwack's Evergreen Hall, 9291 Corbould Street, on Saturday 18 (9-4) and Sunday 19 (9-2) November 2023. Would you like to volunteer to sell off some of our surplus items? Buy them now, before the show! Contact president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/quartermaster-stores.html>

Wednesday Zoom Lunch

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies. Click on this link. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71810323784?pwd=ehLJDhj9zIqI0HvnBlMlMCYmw0p6ZDwe.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: Green Mace, also known as the **QF 127/58 SBT X1**, was a British heavy anti-aircraft gun of the 1950s. It used a variety of techniques to improve the firing rate of the gun, and the velocity of its projectiles. Although a prototype was built and survives today, it was rendered obsolete by the development of the guided surface-to-air missile and thus never entered production.

Green Mace was the Rainbow Code assigned to the QF 127/58 SBT X1 during its development. The original specifications were for a 5-inch gun with water-cooled barrel, firing folding-fin discarding sabot dart projectiles. Two rotary magazines, each holding 14 rounds, would allow for a high rate of fire on the order of 75 rounds per minute (RPM). The gun was developed by Vickers under the direction of the Royal Armaments Research and Development Establishment at Fort Halstead. It demonstrated a firing rate as high as 96 rounds per minute, about six times that of the famous 8.8 cm Flak 18/36/37/41.

This Week: Your author recently flew on a certain Canadian national airline, and was reminded of days gone by, when passengers were not packed in like sardines, and meals were served on china with silver cutlery. Of course, not all travel was like that, but for those of us with money, such as most ex-service personnel, nothing compared to first-class on a BOAC or Canadian Pacific Britannia. In fact, the first flight I remember was on an RCAF North Star in 1952, which took my mother and I to Malton Aerodrome near Toronto, while my father went off to teach the Red Chinese a lesson. That aircraft had excellent service, and I was even allowed up to the flight deck and given control of the ship, or so I thought. The aircraft was a bit noisy, as I recall, and my mother was convinced it was on fire when she looked out the window to see the flames emanating from the mighty Rolls-Royce Merlins. I, being as conversant with aircraft as any three-year old, was non-plused, having seen it all in the newsreels.



However, those days are gone, and aircraft are now mere conveyors of squeezed-in commuters. The only thing that seems to be better is that the aeroplanes are now much larger and reliable than those of the past. Still, it does make one wonder

when two engines are said to do the same job as four did a couple of decades ago. Seeing the four mighty turbofans of a 747 filled one with confidence, whereas the two of a 737 Max, reliable though they might be, don't quite seem the same. Going for less, however, is not something new. Our researchers were able to find a photo of this kite, which, in addition to having two engines that were almost as large as the fuselage, also had a very compact compartment for any possible passengers. One wonders if it really was an airliner, or maybe something military. If the latter, then surely some of you can identify it. Please help us out by contacting the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the aged passenger/author John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitary'

Teacher: "Which two days begin with T?" Student: "Today and Tomorrow."

Murphy's Other Laws

Fortify your front and you'll get your rear shot up.

Quotable Quotes

Faith in oneself is the best and safest course. – *Michelangelo*



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=ehLJDhj9zlqI0HvnBlMlMCYmw0p6ZDwe.1>

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

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



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

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.

Bay Street Armoury Museums Open House



The Regimental Museums and Archives
of the

5th (BC) Field Regiment RCA
and the

Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess
Mary's)

INVITE YOU TO AN OPEN HOUSE

Artillery Displays, Recruiters on site
Museums, Armoury Tours

1000 - 1500 hrs Saturday, November 4,
2023

at the

Bay St Armoury 715 Bay Street (Bay at
Blanchard)
Victoria

Free Admission - Wheelchair Accessible

Band of the 5th (BC) Field Regiment RCA - Concert of Remembrance



CONCERT OF REMEMBRANCE

NOVEMBER 9, 2023 | 7:30PM | DAVE DUNNET COMMUNITY THEATRE



CANADIAN HERITAGE
ARTS SOCIETY

Oak Bay
Parks, Recreation
& Culture

Presented by

**Canadian College of Performing Arts,
Band of the 5th (BC) Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery**
in partnership with **the District of Oak Bay**

Don't miss this moving evening of remembrance; a celebration of the hard earned peace we Canadians enjoy and our duty to protect it wherever we can. Let the power of music, song and poetry unite us, in a spirit of gratitude, as we honour service and nurture a future where bravery and sacrifice inspires generations to come.

**Proceeds to support the Military Family Resource Centre
& the Canadian Heritage Arts Society**

Pay by donation at the door | boxoffice@ccpacanada.com | 250-595-9970 ext.104



Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

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ccpacanada.com

tickets.ccpacanada.com

boxoffice@ccpacanada.com

1701 Elgin Rd, Victoria BC V8R 5L7

[@CanadianCollegePerformingArts](https://www.instagram.com/CanadianCollegePerformingArts)



Royal Canadian Armoured Corps (Cavalry)

(The Left Coast Lancers)

Battle of Leliefontein Luncheon 16 November 2023

**You and your guests are most cordially invited to attend the
annual Leliefontein Luncheon to commemorate
the Royal Canadian Dragoon's battle in South Africa on 7 November 1900**

**The Luncheon will commence at 1115hrs and conclude at
approximately 1400hrs to meet ferry schedules.**

All Left Coast Lancers, Black Hats and Supporting Arms Welcome

At

**Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club
1949 Marina Way
North Saanich, British Columbia, Canada**

Dress

**Suggested - jacket and tie
Mask, Vaccinations**

Tariff

\$40.00 (TBC)

RSVP

David Scandrett - Tango14@outlook.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).

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*

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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

Feast of St. Andrew- 25 Nov 2023



Fort Fraser Garrison

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

Feast of St. Andrew

Mess Dinner

Saturday, 25 November, 2023

in the Officers' Mess, 15th Field Regiment RCA

2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

1800hrs for 1900

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 or 604-522-5766

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

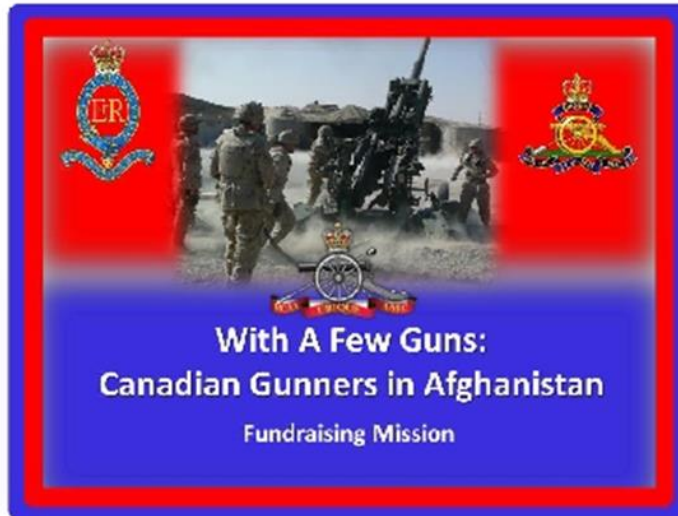
Yours Aye,

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](#)

