

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News 8 Aug 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

- Aug 09** Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting.
Aug 11 August Social Event – 15 Fd Officers Mess
Aug 16 Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting.

US Army Readies New Artillery Strategy Spurred by War in Ukraine

Jen Judson Defense News Aug 1, 2023



A US soldier watches Ukrainian artillerymen fire the M109 self-propelled howitzer at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, on May 12, 2022.

Sgt Spencer Rhodes/US Army

FORT LIBERTY, N.C. — The US Army is working on a new conventional fires strategy expected by the end of this year, according to Gen James Rainey, who leads Army Futures Command. “We did a very deliberate strategic fires study that underpin the long-range precision fires efforts,” Rainey told Defense News in an exclusive July 27 interview on his way to Fort Liberty, North Carolina, to speak to soldiers at the Association of the US Army’s Warfighter Summit. “We’re doing that same thing now for conventional fires,” he said, adding that “precision fires are critical, but conventional fires are critical also.” Rainey said the time has come for analysis that can inform the artillery strategy based on both “what’s happening in Ukraine” as well as what US Army Pacific needs in terms of conventional fires.

Indeed, the Army has sent large amounts of artillery to aid Ukraine in its fight against the Russian invasion, including at least 198 155mm howitzers, 72 105mm howitzers, several million artillery rounds and 38 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, according to a July 25 Pentagon fact sheet. The strategy will determine both capability and capacity of what exists and what the Army may need, Rainey said. The strategy will also consider new technology to enhance conventional fires on the battlefield, such as advances in propellant that make it possible for midrange cannons to shoot as far as longer-range systems. Robotics is another area that will influence the strategy, such as autoloaders for munitions. The Army has experimented with autoloaders for artillery as well as ways to improve howitzer firing rates overall. “Some of our NATO allies have some really good kit [and] capability that we’re interested in,” Rainey noted. The Army is currently developing an Extended Range Cannon Artillery system that uses a service-developed 58-caliber gun tube mounted on the chassis of a BAE Systems-made Paladin Integrated Management howitzer. The Army is building 20 prototypes of the ERCA system: two for destructive testing, and the remaining 18 for a battalion set to receive the weapons by the fourth quarter of fiscal 2023. That unit will then run the cannons through a yearlong operational test. Observations in early testing of prototypes are showing excessive wear on the gun tube after firing a relatively low number of rounds. The Army plans to gather more information throughout operational testing to determine reliability.

The service is already looking at ways to improve the rate of fire before the gun tube requires replacement through adjustments in materials used and the design of the tube, adjustments to propellants, and the design of artillery rounds fired from the cannon. ERCA’s role in the strategy remains to be seen, but the prototype program is experiencing some delay, according to Doug Bush, the Army’s acquisition chief. Even so, “the requirement for extended-range fires is absolutely a valid requirement,” Rainey said. “I think everything we’re seeing in Ukraine [is] about the relevance of precision fires, all the emerging technology, but the big killer on the battlefield is conventional artillery, high-explosive artillery,” he said. The Army previously planned for a Strategic Long-Range Cannon that would achieve artillery ranges of 1,000 nautical miles but scuttled the science and technology program in 2022. The service also took a look at readily available 155mm mobile howitzers in 2020 in order to find anything that might offer an improvement in range, rate of fire, and mobility over the artillery systems used within Stryker brigade combat teams. The Army evaluated at least four foreign companies’ offerings in a shoot-off but did not move forward with a new capability.

US Suffered 300 Casualties Storming an Empty Island In WWII

The Aleutian Island campaign during WWII saw heavy fighting between US and Japanese forces, but Kiska island was a different story. *James Clark Task & Purpose Jul 21, 2016*



On Aug 15, 1943, a massive Allied force assaulted a North Pacific island at the height of World War II. A joint force of 34,000 American and Canadian troops, supported by warplanes and naval bombardment, moved inland through frigid and unforgiving terrain searching.

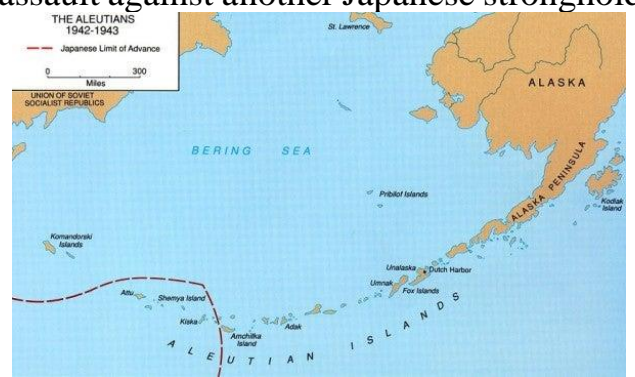
By the end of the second day, 300 Allied soldiers lay dead or wounded. However, there wasn't a Japanese soldier in sight. The island had been evacuated three weeks prior. It was completely deserted. Called Operation Cottage, the goal of the amphibious assault was to

retake the small volcanic island of Kiska, one of 14 that make up Alaska's Aleutian Islands, from Japan. Ahead of the attack, the Allies shelled and bombed Kiska Island, but on July 28, a small Japanese task force penetrated the blockade under the cover of heavy fog and extracted more than 5,000 Japanese soldiers from the small volcanic island in less than an hour. So how then, did an unopposed amphibious assault result in hundreds of casualties?

On Aug 18, the Navy destroyer Amner Read struck a mine in Kiska Harbor, killing 70 sailors and wounding 47 more, according to Del Kostka, who has written extensively about the Aleutian Island Campaign. Other casualties occurred due to friendly fire, vehicle accidents, landmines, and booby traps. In total, Operation Cottage resulted in 92 deaths and a further 221 wounded, some grievously. To understand what happened on Kiska Island it's important to look back to May of that year when Allied forces launched an amphibious assault against another Japanese stronghold on a different Aleutian Island called Attu.

A US Army image depicting the territory under Japanese military control during World War II.

On May 10, 1943, Operation Landcrab was set in motion. Allied forces assaulted Attu Island, where the Japanese were hurriedly building an airfield to serve as a buffer between US forces and mainland Japan. The mission was to retake Attu from the occupying forces, and though it was ultimately successful, of the 16,000 Allied troops fighting on Attu, 3,829 became casualties, including 549 killed in action. Of the 2,650 Japanese soldiers



stationed on Attu, all but 29 fought to the death, notes Kostka whose father served as an engineer during the battle to take Attu. It was with the battle for Attu in mind that so many troops were ordered to retake Kiska, the last enemy stronghold on North American soil, which the Japanese had held since June 7, 1942. The allies expected to encounter an entrenched enemy force, one which had proved time and time again that every foot of ground gained would cost numerous lives. “I think the biggest takeaway is not to always trust everything you see,” said Kostka of Operation Cottage in an interview with *Task & Purpose*. “Sometimes, appearances can be deceptive, and our own personal bias can kind of lead us astray when it comes to interpreting the motivation and the predictive course of action of others.”

American military brass anticipated that the Japanese defenders would retreat inland where they could fire with impunity on the landing parties, as they had on Attu, even though reconnaissance reports showed no enemy activity on the island leading up to the amphibious assault. “That the Allied staff might have had an unrealistic impression of Japanese resilience and fortitude in August 1943 is understandable given the context of prior events in the Pacific,” wrote Kostka. “Japan’s samurai heritage and code of ethics known as bushido fueled a stereotype of a warrior culture steeped in obedience, discipline, and staunch revulsion to surrender. The intensity and savagery of the fighting on Attu only served to reinforce this image.” Though the fight for Attu certainly informed the decisions of Allied commanders, it also had an effect on the Japan’s military leaders, who did not wish to see a repeat of Attu on Kiska. “The decision to evacuate the Kiska garrison was not taken lightly,” Kostka wrote. “But even the most aggressive Japanese commanders realized that Japan’s hold on Kiska was pointless, and manpower was badly needed elsewhere in the Pacific.” By the time the Allied forces attacked Kiska in full force on Aug 15, the island was empty, with the exception of a few stray dogs. Though Kiska was ultimately recaptured it came at great cost and serves as a cautionary tale of the effects of perception and assumption explained Kostka. It also shows that no military operation is ever without risk.

Drone Ships: What Are They and How Much Do They Cost?

BBC research suggests at least 10 attacks have allegedly targeted Russia's navy - including military ships. Reuters

Joshua Cheatham BBC News 3 Aug 2023



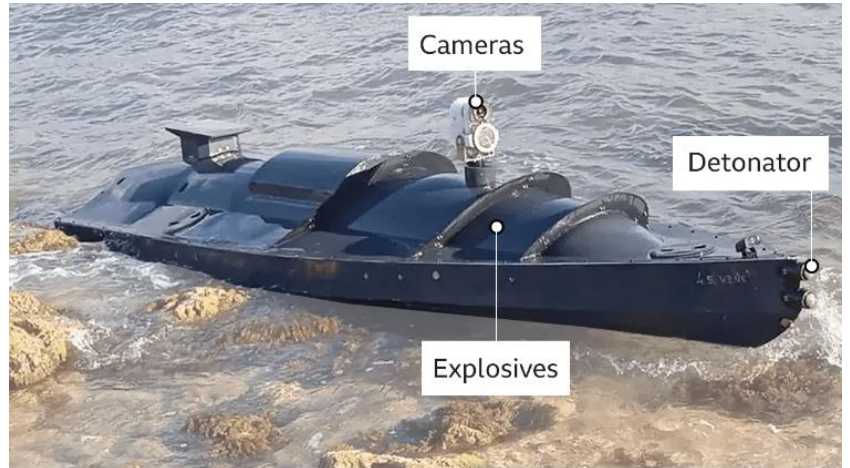
Two attacks by Ukrainian drone ships against Russian warships have been thwarted, according to Moscow. Ukraine's navy has denied any involvement.

While aerial drones have been used to great effect by Ukraine and Russia since the start of the war, a new form of drone technology has also been gaining momentum in the

Black Sea. Drone ships are small, unmanned vessels. Unlike aerial drones, these ones operate on or below the water's surface. There are many terms used to describe them, including drone boats, sea drones, and uncrewed surface vessels (USVs). They come in all shapes and sizes and are used for a variety of tasks, including environmental monitoring. These drones can be used for military purposes too - like clearing mines, carrying out surveillance or detonating near targets like enemy ships. Many drone ships have been pictured since the start of the war, including one which reportedly washed up on the shores of Russian-occupied Crimea.

Ukrainian Drone boats

As well as drones that operate on the water's surface, Ukraine recently unveiled a prototype of an unmanned, undersea drone called the Toloka TLK-150. Common drone ship features include built-in explosives and cameras which beam back images to the person controlling it. Long-range targets are typically pre-programmed into the drones when launched. They are then guided remotely by a human as it closes in on the target,



explains Sidharth Kaushal from the defence think tank RUSI UK. Some Ukrainian drone ships have been developed with help from crowdfunding campaigns. They are usually made with "off-the-shelf" components normally for commercial - rather than military - use, adds Mr Kaushal. Russian media and bloggers have claimed that Russia also used drone ships in an attack on a bridge in the port city of Odesa. However, the BBC has seen no evidence to support this.



Drones approached the Russian Ivan Khurs ship in May

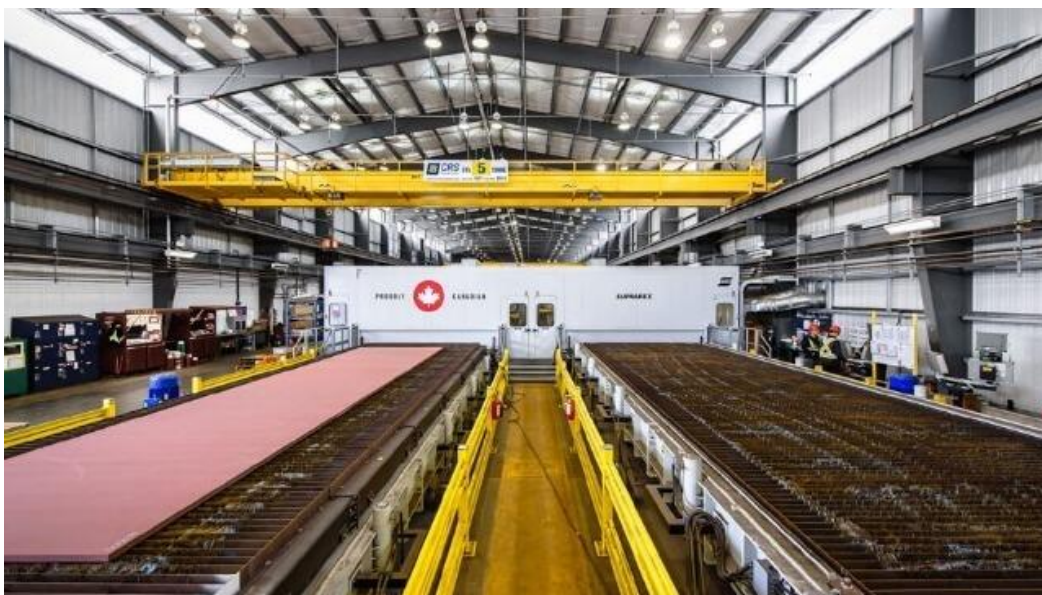
How many drones ships each side holds is not publicly known. It's also unclear how much they cost, but one drone publicised by the Ukrainian government has a price tag of \$250,000 (£197,000). That would be cheaper than many types of long-range missile. Drone ships can also be deployed quickly and without the need for a fully-trained crew. "Even if you intercept a lot of low-cost objects, all you need is one to get through and damage a much more expensive asset and the model has paid for itself," says Mr Kaushal. BBC Verify's research suggests Ukraine has carried out at least 10 attacks with drone ships - targeting military ships, Russia's naval base in Sevastopol, and Novorossiysk harbour. This is based on announcements by Russian and Ukrainian authorities, and local media reports. Ukrainian defence sources have told CNN that sea drones were also used in an attack on the Kerch Bridge in July. Some attacks have been far from Ukrainian shores. In May, footage

emerged showing drone ships approaching a Russian intelligence-gathering ship called the Ivan Khurs, but it's unclear if the ship was damaged. Russia says the incident took place 90 miles (140km) north of Turkey's Bosphorus Strait - around 120 miles (193km) from the Ukrainian coast. This suggests these drones can potentially travel long distances.

Ukraine's deployment of drone ships, at relatively low cost, marks a new era for naval warfare. The tactic poses an increasing risk to Russia, according to some analysts. Compared with naval vessels, drone ships are harder to detect on radar because they travel low on the water and they make far less noise. While Ukraine does not have a substantial navy, its surface drones have stopped Russia from taking full control of the Black Sea, says Katarzyna Zysk, a professor at the Norwegian Institute of Defence Studies. The attack on Russia's naval base in Sevastopol, back in October 2022, was the first in recorded history to use both ship and aerial drones. At least three Russian ships were damaged in the attack, according to GeoConfirmed, an organisation that analyses satellite and other open source imagery. Since then, Russia has significantly bolstered defences around the base according to recent satellite images seen by BBC Verify. Drone ships still have some disadvantages. On-board sensors may have a narrow field of view, which will make it hard to track moving targets without accurate location data or to spot camouflaged ships. Those with onboard cameras also need constant communication with their controller to direct them to a target, so any issues with streaming video will jeopardise their mission. "It's not a revolution as yet," says Prof Zysk. "We're still in an experimental phase". Nonetheless, Ukraine's strategy has caught international attention, and is "pushing other navies to develop these kinds of systems and their operational practice," she adds.

Seaspan Starts “Prototype Block” for Canada's First Polar Icebreaker

The Maritime Executive Jun 2, 2023



Seaspan cut the first steel for a prototype block as it prepares to build Canada's new polar icebreaker (Seaspan Shipyards)

Canada's Seaspan Shipyards reported that work began this week as the next step in preparing for full scale construction of the Canada's first new heavy polar icebreaker in more than 60 years. The shipyard located near Vancouver in British Columbia cut the first pieces of steel in a test block they will be assembling to confirm the unique construction processes and train staff before work begins to build the vessel in 2024.

With Canada's current largest Icebreaker, the *CCGS Louis S. St-Laurent*, set to retire at the end of the decade after 60 years of service, the new polar icebreaker has become the cornerstone of the Canadian government's National Shipbuilding Strategy. Construction on the vessel however is far behind the original timeline with critics also saying that its costs will skyrocket before it is finally delivered. Canada first announced plans for the new vessel in 2018. The following year, Vard was retained to design work and then in September 2020, Seaspan Shipyards and Genoa Design announced that they had entered into an exclusive teaming agreement to design and build the future polar Icebreakers. The government has already announced plans for a second vessel before work had begun on the first ship.

Before full rate construction on the polar icebreaker begins, Seaspan is developing a prototype block to test the new systems, processes, people, and tools that are required to work with some of the very thick, specialized steel that is required to manufacture a heavy polar icebreaker. According to the shipyard, some of this steel will be up to 60-millimeters thick, to enable the ship to safely navigate through the multi-year ice that is found in the Arctic. "Cutting steel on the prototype block is a key milestone for the Polar Icebreaker Program and demonstrates Seaspan's capabilities across engineering, design, supply chain, planning and production," said Martin Edwards, Chief Program Officer at Seaspan Shipyards. He noted that the lessons learned from building the block will be used to help improve the quality and efficiency of the process for designing and manufacturing the vessel when production begins in late 2024.

Seaspan reports it has already gained significant experience designing and building polar Cclass vessels including three Offshore Fisheries Science Vessels which are now in service with the Canadian Coast Guard as well as an Offshore Oceanographic Science Vessel that is currently under construction at its Vancouver Shipyards location and a class of sixteen Multi-Purpose Vessels (also Polar Class) that is currently in design. They are highlighting that the Polar Icebreaker will be an incredibly complex ship, designed to operate in the Arctic's ice-covered waters, and will play a critical role in enabling the Canadian Coast Guard to transit and protect the Arctic coastline. With a displacement of 27,876 tonnes, the icebreaker will be 518 feet in length. It will be able to operate farther north, in more difficult ice conditions, and for longer periods than any of Canada's current or previous icebreakers.

Here Are 10 Strange Jobs US Troops Had to Do During WWII

Blacksmiths, pigeoneers, crystal grinders and other seemingly archaic jobs were essential parts of the US military in WWII. *Claudette Roulo, Task & Purpose US DoD May 8, 2020*

Today's military has some jobs that might surprise you — for example, did you know the Army and Marine Corps have instrument repair technicians? These troops repair musical instruments for the military bands. But during World War II, there were a lot of jobs that would seem strange in today's technologically focused military. Over the course of the war, technological advances reduced or eliminated the need for many manual occupations. This transition is captured in the War Department's list of military jobs from 1944, where entries like "horse artillery driver" appear just a page away from "remote control turret repairman."



1. *Blacksmith.* - During World War II, blacksmiths still made many of the items needed to repair equipment and machinery. They would make metal tools and parts, by hand, in coal or coke forges. They also made shoes for some of the tens of thousands of horses and mules that saw service during the war.

2. *Meat cutter.* Does what it says on the label: cuts meat. These troops were responsible for preparing whole carcasses, such as beef and lamb, for distribution to various units around the world.



3. *Horse breaker.* Horsebreakers would train horses and mules so they could be issued to mounted units. They also trained them to carry packs and to be hitched to wagons and carts. Although they weren't used in World War II to the extent they were used in the First World War, troops still relied on horses and mules to cross terrain impassable to mechanized units. For example, the 5332nd Brigade, a long range patrol group created for service in the mountains of Burma, was largely self-sufficient due to the

3,000 mules assigned to it — all shipped from the United States.

4. *Artist and animation artist.* Today's military has jobs for skilled multimedia illustrators, but in World War II, military artists and animation artists created paintings, illustrations, films, charts and maps by hand. A number of successful artists served in World War II, including Bill Mauldin, who drew Willie and Joe, archetypes for infantrymen on the front line; and Bill Keane, who went on to draw Family Circus after his military service ended. The military's animation artists were quite busy during World War II. The Army even stationed soldiers at Walt Disney's studios for the duration of the war to make patriotic films for the public and instructional or training films for service members.



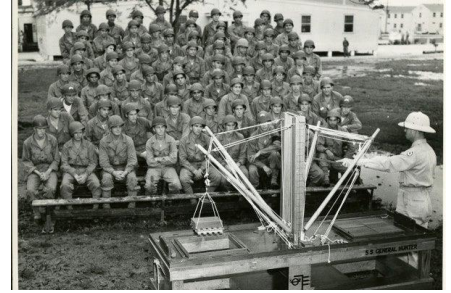
"That can't be no combat man. He's lookin' for a fight."



5. *Crystal grinder.* During World War II, many radios still required crystals to operate, usually galena. Crystal grinders would grind and calibrate these crystals to pick up specific frequencies. Personal radios were forbidden on the front lines, but crystal radio sets lacked external power sources, so they couldn't be detected by the enemy. For this reason, troops often improvised crystal radios from a variety of materials — including pencils and razor blades — in order to listen to music and news. These contraband radio sets were dubbed "foxhole radios."

6. *Cooper*. Troops who worked as coopers built and repaired the wooden buckets, barrels, casks and kegs used to pack, store and ship supplies and equipment. They used hand tools to plug holes with wood and salvage damaged barrels. Wood was used to package a wide range of goods for transport all the way through World War II, but improvements in metal and cardboard packaging technology marked the beginning of the end for wooden barrels and crates.

7. *Model Maker*. Military model makers were charged with creating scale models of military equipment, terrain and other objects to be used in movies, as training aids and for operational planning. The models built by these troops were used in what was perhaps one of the greatest examples of wartime deception, Operation Fortitude. Operation Fortitude was aimed at convincing the Germans that Allied troops heading to France for the D-Day invasion would land in Pas de Calais in July, rather than Normandy in June. Dummy buildings, aircraft and landing craft were constructed by model makers and positioned near Dover, England, in a camp built for the fictitious First US Army Group. The deception was so complete that Hitler held troops in reserve for two weeks after D-Day because he believed another invasion was coming via the Dover Strait.



8. *Pigeoneer*. Pigeoneers were responsible for all aspects of their birds' lives. They would breed, train and care for pigeons that were used to deliver messages. Some birds would be trained specifically for night flying, while others learned that food could be found at one location and water at another. According to the US Army Communications Electronics Museum, more than 90% of the messages carried by pigeons were successfully delivered.

9. *Field Artillery Sound Recorder*. These troops had the sickest beats. Until the development of radar, sound ranging was one of the most effective ways to locate enemy artillery, mortars and rockets. The process was first developed in World War I and continued to be used in combat through the Korean War. From a forward operating post, a field artillery sound recorder would monitor an oscillograph and recorder connected to several microphones. When the sound of an enemy gun reached a microphone, the information would be recorded on sound film and the data from several microphones could be analyzed to locate the enemy gun. The technology is still in use today by many countries, which often use sound ranging in concert with radar.



10. *Airplane Woodworker*. Although wood was largely phased out in favor of tubular steel in aircraft construction by the time World War II started, there was still a need for airplane woodworkers to repair and maintain existing aircraft — especially gliders and some training aircraft. Wooden gliders like the Waco CG-4A — the most widely used American troop/cargo military glider of World War II — played critical parts in the war. The CG-4A was first used in the invasion of Sicily in July 1943. They most commonly flew airborne troops into battle, most

famously for the D-Day assault on France on June 6, 1944, and Operation Market Garden in September 1944. They were also used in the China-Burma-India Theater.

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

Our Italy tour is winding down quickly. The Colonel Commandant and the remaining participants have departed while we've headed back to a nice villa in Cassino. Our flight is scheduled to depart on Wednesday. I say schedule as there's been a great deal of airline rerouting for all the participants.

August Social Event

Have you got plans for Friday, August 11? How about getting together with some other Gunners and talk over some new and old stories. Bring your partner. The plan is to hold the event in the Officers' Mess with everyone bringing an appetizer to share. We'll bring the barbecue. The only thing missing at the moment is an orderly officer. Stay tuned.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/social-event-friday-11-august-2023>

Yorke Island Adventure

The boat is starting to fill up for both the one day adventure and the 4 day dirt digging adventure. Check out the details and send me an email. President.vcrgunners@gmail.com

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yorke-island-2023>

Yorke Island Master Gunner's Residence

Did you know that you can now donate online for the Master Gunner's Residence project through the RCA Association? Check it out here.

<https://rca.member365.com/publicInj/fundraisingCampaign/makeDonation/UpNB6CaTJDQznJlsGLD9Jw>

Wednesday Lunch

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies. Click on this link:- This is a new link!

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71810323784?pwd=ehLJDhj9zIqI0HvnBIMCYmw0p6ZDwe.1> or

use <https://zoom.us/j/71810323784> or use Meeting ID 718 1032 3784 and the secret passcode is 6L6qz0 (fourth digit is a lower case Q and the last digit is a Zero)

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

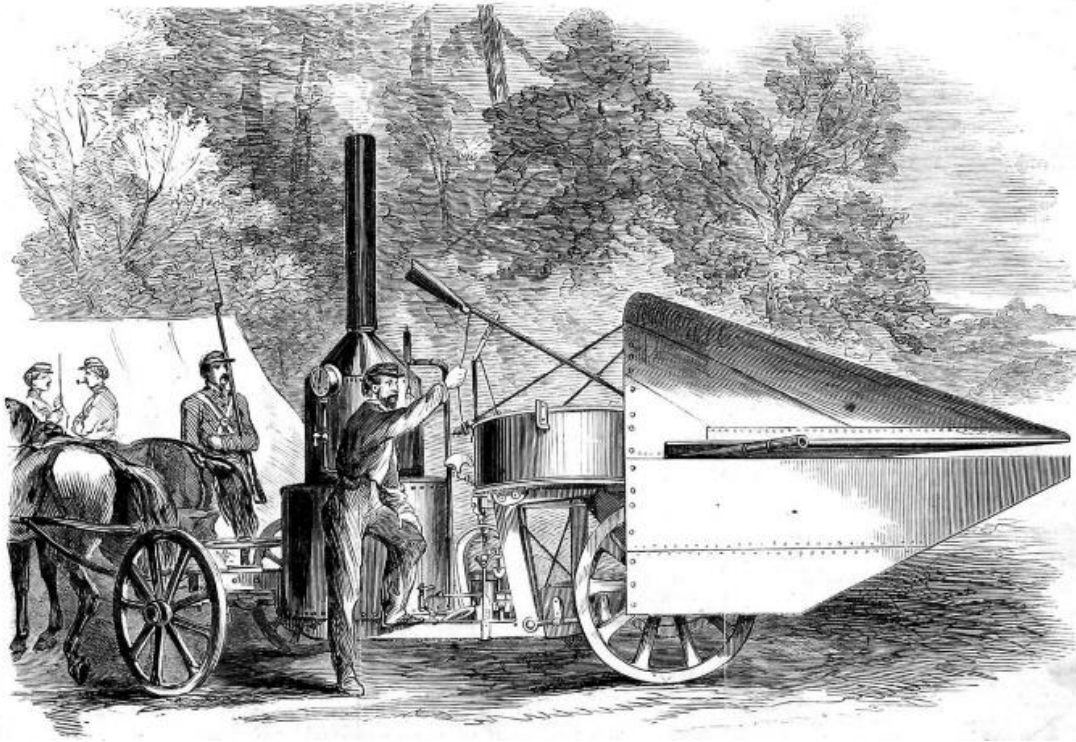
Who (or What) Is It?



Last Week: The Del Mar DH-20 folding medevac helicopter. The **DH-20** was a proposed design for an easily portable med-evac chopper from 1968. It was designed to carry a pilot and up to two passengers and operate in areas inaccessible by normal sized helicopters. It was also designed to fold up somehow, maybe it was more collapsible than foldable. Since the need for such an aircraft declined, the DH-20 was never put into production or flown

operationally.

This Week: While trolling through some old coffee table books, the sort that would include titles such as “Boys Own Book of Grenades”, “Scenic Leutonia”, or “Ski Slopes of Polynesia”, we came across one published during the centenary of a distant war. In it was this interesting engraving. Now, be forewarned, as engravings, and etchings, are not the same as photographs, although they can be taken from the latter. To prove the point, one retired colonel once invited a young lady to his rooms in order to view some etchings he had collected, and...well, such never happens in these days of correct behaviour!



In any case, photographs never lie, right? However, engravings might exaggerate the truth, although research shows that this impressive machine did exist, and was used in its intended role. Just what it was is up to you, our military researchers, to discover. We can see that it was horse drawn but had a steam engine on

board. Sticking out of the slot in the rear, or front, or whatever, seems to be gun of some sort. From the fairly slovenly dress of the soldiers, and their obvious lack of pluck, we can assume that they are not of our tradition. Imagine our chaps with beards and unkempt hair! Unimaginable!!

So, using your expertise, can you tell us what this device is, and who used it in what conflict? If so, please contact the slightly-bearded editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the well-kempt author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Have fun!

From the ‘Punitary’

Why did the ship’s captain have a problem docking in a very tiny space?
He was under a lot of pier pressure.

Murphy’s Other Laws

Field experience is something you don’t get until just after you need it.

Quotable Quotes

Dreams will get you nowhere, a good kick in the pants will take you a long way.
Baltasar Gracian.

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=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)



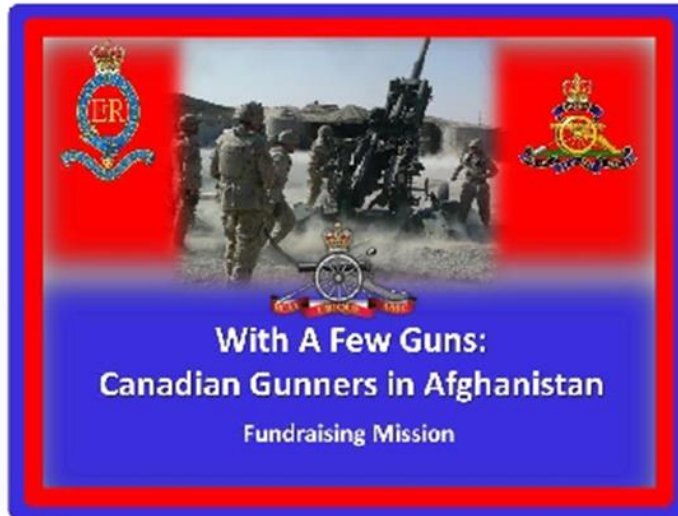
Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars across mobile, desktop, and room systems. Zoom Rooms is the original software-based conference room solution used around the world in board, conference, 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.

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.

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](#)

