



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News – 9 Jan 2024

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com to let me know you didn't get your copy.

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

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars – see poster section for details

Commemoration Cyprus 2024

80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour

- Jan 10** Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs
- Jan 17** Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs
BCR Concert for the Padre – with 15 Fd and BCR Pipes and Drums Bands
- Jan 24** Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs
- Jan 27** Ft Fraser Garrison, 78 Fraser Highlanders, Annual Burns Dinner
- Jan 31** Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs

US Bradley AFVs are Killing It on Ukraine Frontlines

Ellie Cook, Security & Defense Reporter Newsweek Jan 2, 2024

Russian soldiers packed into Moscow's tanks and infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs) are "afraid" to launch operations "when they know that a Bradley will be against them," said Kach, a Ukrainian commander of the country's 47th Mechanized Brigade who goes by his call sign, as is common among Ukrainian fighters. Kach is adamant—the US supplied Bradley saves Ukrainian lives along the hottest parts of the front line against Russian troops and armored vehicles. The M2 Bradley certainly did back in June 2023. One of the AFVs—only operated by the 47th Brigade—took a "direct hit" from a Russian Grad rocket, but every crew member onboard the struck AVF survived. It was quickly dragged away for repairs, and the incident showed the vehicle's "outstanding combat survivability," Hanna Maliar, former Ukrainian deputy defense minister, said at the time. The US has sent 186 Bradley IFVs to Ukraine to date, plus four Bradley fire

support team vehicles. Ukraine has likely been able to use between 100 and 120 in operations, with the rest utilized for parts or training and swapping in when one Bradley is taken out.



A US Bradley in Syria's northeastern Hasakeh province on April 20, 2022. Ukraine has had Bradleys for a little under a year, and first used them operationally in the summer of 2023.

It is fast, "very maneuverable" and shields its soldiers with its heavy armor, Kach told *Newsweek*. But it also packs a punch with its "powerful machine gun," the Ukrainian commander said. Western experts agree. "The M2 Bradley fighting vehicle is delivering on its long standing reputation as a superior Infantry Fighting Vehicle," said Daniel Rice, a former special adviser to Ukraine's lead commander, General Valeryii Zaluzhny. The survival of infantry soldiers is at the heart of the design, he added. They have made a real difference on the front lines and are all being used effectively together by the 47th currently deployed around the embattled town of Avdiivka, rather than sprinkled across different brigades, added Ed Arnold, a research fellow at the London Royal United Services Institute think tank. Ukraine has had Bradleys for a little under a year, and first used them operationally in the summer of 2023. Footage, particularly of the 47th and their Bradleys, has done the rounds on social media in recent months as a testament to Kyiv's success with Western-supplied aid. "Its speed, lethality and survivability are all superior to Russian infantry vehicles," Rice told *Newsweek*.

These are the headline advantages of the Bradley. Even when one is hit, the crew has a high chance of survival, and Ukrainian troops can move around very easily in the vehicle, while at once having the notable firepower of the 25mm cannon, 7.62 mm coaxial machine gun plus two TOW anti-tank missile launchers. The 25mm chain gun is "tearing apart Russian armored columns," Rice said, adding the TOW guided anti-tank weapons are affording Ukraine "increased range against armor." It is a "very highly valued" piece of equipment, lauded much as Ukraine has praised the US made Patriot air defense systems that have knocked Russia's hypersonic missiles from Kyiv's skies, Arnold told *Newsweek*. It has proven able to "engage some of the best Russian tanks," even if a Bradley taking on a main battle tank incurs real risks, he added. The Bradley is partly responsible for the eye watering Russian losses around Avdiivka, Arnold argued. The 47th has been battling away on this section of the front line, attempting to stop Moscow's creeping encirclement of the town to the north of Donetsk City. The Kremlin launched its onslaught on Avdiivka in early October, and its advances are enough to worry Kyiv significantly. But Moscow has paid dearly in casualties and armored vehicle losses.

BAE Systems to Build New M777 Howitzer Structures for US Army

Jen Judson Defense News Jan 4, 2024



Ukrainian artillerymen fire an M777 howitzer toward Russian positions on the front line of eastern Ukraine on Nov. 23, 2022, amid the Russian invasion of the country.

(Anatolii Stepanov/AFP via Getty Images)

WASHINGTON — BAE Systems will build M777 lightweight howitzer structures for the US Army, which could lead to the firm restarting the weapon’s production line, according to the UK based business. The deal is limited to \$50 million and “allows BAE Systems to start delivering on the howitzer program, while finalizing the details of the contract and its total value with the customer,” the company said in a Jan. 4 statement. The contract “presents optimum conditions for a likely restart of the M777 production.” The US, Canada and Australia have sent M777 towed howitzers to Ukraine to support its fight against Russia’s full-scale invasion, which began in February 2022. According to a Pentagon fact sheet issued last month, Ukraine has received nearly 200 155mm howitzers from the US alone, which includes the M777.

Howitzers of many varieties have played a critical role on the artillery-centric battlefield — and have reinvigorated the appetite for such weapons in the US and among its partners and allies. BAE will reboot its supply chain in the UK and the US to build the titanium structures — the basis of the gun — with plans to deliver the first in 2025. The US Army was BAE’s first M777 customer. Part of the production work took place in Barrow in Furness, England, with a final integration assembly and test facility in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, which has been closed for roughly a decade. Orders from the Army slowed down over the last decade, and the service ordered its final 18 guns in 2019. BAE delivered that howitzer to the service in February 2023, according to Lisa Hillary-Tee, a company spokeswoman. BAE began closing its production line overall as it built the final guns, she told Defense News. “BAE Systems has seen an increase in interest from across Europe, Asia, and the Americas in the M777 gun system,” the company said in its statement. The new contract “presents an opportunity to new and existing users to join a new M777 production initiative and take advantage of the benefits from a hot production line and economies of scale.” She noted the company will likely build the first structures using some of its existing supply chain, plus internal capabilities.

It’s unlikely M777 production will return to Barrow in Furness because it is now almost entirely dedicated to the Dreadnought submarine program, she added, “but nothing has been finalized.” BAE said there are more than 1,250 M777s in service with the US, Ukraine, Canada, Australia and India. Meanwhile, the US Army is working on a new artillery strategy to determine both

capability and capacity of what exists, and what the Army may need, the head of Army Futures Command, Gen James Rainey, told Defense News last year. 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.

US Army Selects Bombardier's Global 6500 for Recon Aircraft Prototype

The aircraft will be the Army's first large cabin business jet used for aerial intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. *Kimberly Johnson Flying Magazine Jan 4, 2024*



The US Army awarded a firm-fixed-price contract to Bombardier Defense to buy a Global 6500 business jet for prototyping as an aerial intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platform.

[Courtesy: Bombardier Defense]

The US Army has selected the Bombardier Defense Global 6500 jet as the platform for its new spy plane prototype for the High Accuracy Detection and Exploitation System, known as

HADES. The firm fixed price contract was awarded to Bombardier on December 12 by the Army Contracting Command, Redstone Arsenal, in coordination with the Army Fixed Wing Project Office, the service announced Wednesday. The HADES prototype will be the Army's first large-cabin business jet used for aerial intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), able to provide advanced deep-sensing capabilities.

The Army's Guardrail Common Sensor aircraft is based on a Beechcraft King Air B200 and designated as RC-12X.

[Courtesy: US Army]



For nearly 50 years, the Army has operated the Guardrail Common Sensor ISR legacy special electronic mission aircraft. The Cold War era turboprop fleet based on a Beechcraft King Air B200 is facing obsolescence, forcing the Army to source parts from the boneyard, Defense News reported.

“HADES will bring the Army increased range, speed, endurance, and aerial ISR depth,” said Colonel Joe Minor, project manager for Army fixed-wing aircraft. “HADES will operate at higher altitudes than legacy turboprop platforms. Higher altitudes equate to an ability to sense farther and more persistently into areas of interest. Deep sensing is the Army’s No 1 operational imperative for the Army of 2030.” Under the deal, the Army will buy one Global 6500 jet and retains the option to purchase two more over the next three years. The first prototype aircraft is to be delivered by October 1.

Canada Promised to Deliver a \$400M AD System to Ukraine a Year Ago.

It still hasn't arrived. *In April 2023, then-Defence Minister Anita Anand falsely claimed the missile system was already “en route” to Ukraine.* David Pugliese Ottawa Citizen Jan 02/24



A September 2022 file photo of a demonstration of the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System, known as NASAMS.

Photo By Raytheon /Handout

A \$400 million air defence system promised almost a year ago by Canada to Ukraine has yet to be delivered as plans are still being developed. The Liberal government announced with great fanfare on Jan 10, 2023, that it was acquiring the advanced air defence system and associated munitions for Ukraine at a cost of \$406 million. But the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System, or NASAMS, hasn't been delivered, and plans are still being worked out, National Defence confirmed to this newspaper. “A National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System has been purchased from the United States, through a Foreign Military Sales case,” department spokesperson Andrew McKelvey said. “Details on plans, including delivery timelines, are still under development with the United States.” National Defence did not provide an estimate on when the air defence system would arrive in Ukraine. Ukraine’s government has repeatedly stated that it’s in dire need of air defence systems as Russia increases attacks on its cities and military positions.

NASAMS is a short- to medium-range ground-based air defence system that protects against drone, missile and aircraft attacks. The air defence system donation has figured prominently in speeches by Liberal government ministers as they highlight more than \$9 billion in Canadian government support provided to Ukraine. At the time of the original announcement, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for the donation. “Dear @JustinTrudeau, your true leadership in standing for democracy and human rights has been vividly proven again,” Zelenskyy stated on X, the social media platform formerly known as

Twitter. “Thank you for helping us to protect our sky. NASAMS procured for us by Canada will be a strong shield for our cities and citizens.” Zelenskyy, in a statement on X issued on Monday thanked Trudeau again for the NASAMS but no details were provided on when the system would be delivered. In an interview with CBC News in April 2023, Anita Anand, then defence minister, falsely claimed the missile system was already “en route” to Ukraine. According to the federal government website on donations of military equipment to Ukraine, the eventual plan will have the US deliver the system on Canada’s behalf. The website noted that “updates on delivery will be provided in due course.” Those updates have not been given.

Canada has not provided details about the companies supplying the air defence system, but, according to the US government’s Congressional Research Service, the system is designed and developed jointly by Raytheon of the US and Kongsberg Defence of Norway. Since February 2022, Canada has committed more than \$2.4 billion in military assistance donations to Ukraine, including M777 howitzers, ammunition and small arms, Leopard tanks, armoured vehicles, anti-armour weapons and rocket launchers. But obtaining some of the details about where the purchased equipment is being sourced from as well as how donated equipment will be replaced has been difficult. For instance, when asked by this newspaper for a dollar estimate on the cost of replacing equipment donated to Ukraine, the Canadian Forces recently responded with an email statement: “We do not yet have a full cost estimate of the investment to replace these capabilities or equipment.” That statement had been approved for release by Army commander LGen Joe Paul and Troy Crosby, Assistant Deputy Minister of procurement.

But just a week earlier MGen Rob Dundon, chief of staff for National Defence’s Materiel Group and formerly the Director General of Land Equipment Program Management told a publication produced in collaboration with the army that the cost was \$220 million. National Defence did not explain why it provided a less than forthright response to this newspaper. In other cases, National Defence has declined to provide details on the sources of ammunition purchases financed by Canadian taxpayers. In April 2023, Trudeau stated that Canada would send 2.4 million rounds of ammunition to Ukraine, but the actual source of the ammunition is considered secret. The government would only say that the ammunition was being ordered from Colt Canada in Kitchener, Ont. Eva Svobodová, spokesperson for Colt CZ Group, said the ammunition was “sourced” from Colt Canada. She did not provide further details, but Colt Canada does not make ammunition. Some parliamentarians, such as Conservative MP Kelly McCauley, have continued to raise concerns about the transparency and accountability of defence procurement spending.

Parks Canada Offers Free Visits to Military and Veterans

Michele McDougall The Brandon Sun Jan 3, 2024

The new year brought in a change for military personnel at the gates leading into Canada’s national parks. People who currently or formerly served in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and their immediate families will be able to visit any of the country’s national parks for free. The changes came into effect Jan 1. Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Shilo base commander LCol Dave Cronk said the move is “great news.” “Anytime someone makes an offer like this we are reminded that Canadians do appreciate the work we do on their behalf. It may seem like a small

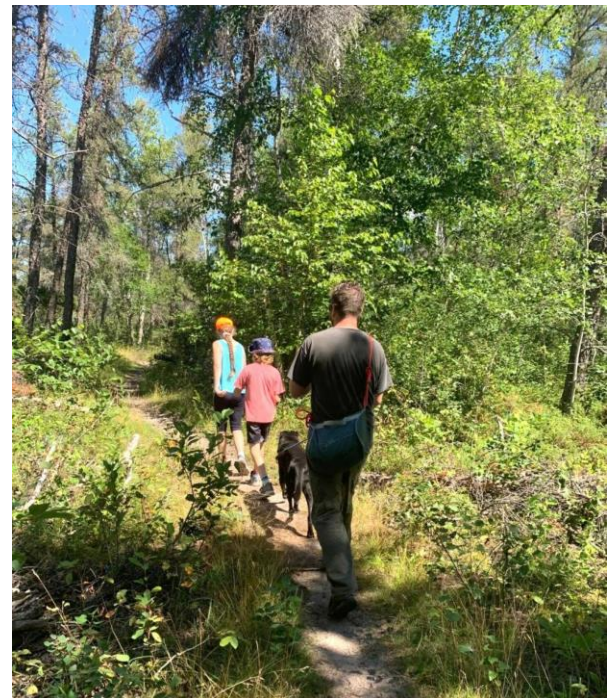
thing, but it is appreciated,” Cronk said. Cronk took over as base commander in June 2022, after moving from Poland where he had been posted with NATO Multinational Division Northeast. He grew up in BC and has lived in Alberta, but last summer was the first time he and his wife had been to Manitoba, and their first day trip was to Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP). “It is a fabulous park that really impressed us with its natural beauty and amenities. It reminded me of the great national parks that I explored in my younger days,” Cronk said.



Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Shilo's base commander LCol Dave Cronk. (File)

“Riding Mountain National Park is a favoured destination for many military families at CFB Shilo. The incentive offered by Parks Canada will encourage our soldiers and their families to use these outdoor spaces more and that will

contribute to the health and wellness of everyone.” Federal Defence Minister Bill Blair said he applauds the decision by Ottawa and Parks Canada. “Free daily admission to Parks Canada facilities is a great way to thank CAF members, veterans, and their families,” Blair said in a news release. “In addition, Parks Canada facilities provide our military community with important opportunities to stay healthy — both mentally and physically.” The free daily admission will be granted when CAF members present their CF One Platinum (CFOne) card, which is administered through Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS) and issued to currently serving CAF members and veterans. Veterans can also show their Veteran’s Service Card, which is available to any former CAF member who successfully completed basic training and was honourably discharged. The daily fee for RMNP is \$9 for an adult, \$7.75 for a senior, \$17.50 for a family or group, which is defined as up to seven people in a single vehicle. There is no charge for children aged six to 17 years. In Alberta, Banff National Park is Canada’s oldest and most visited national park. The cost at the gate is \$11 for an adult, \$9.50 for a senior, and \$22 for a family or group.



Three members of the Purdy family on a hike last summer in one of Manitoba's parks. (Submitted)

Jenn Purdy and her husband Mike are both posted to CFB Shilo, and they have a son and a daughter. Lydia is 14, and their son Gabe is 10. Purdy said they are avid campers who “love to get out, see stuff, and have adventures.” The family of four has been to Banff, to Gros Morne National Park, a world heritage site located on the west coast of Newfoundland, to Cape Breton Island on the Atlantic coast, and to Clear Lake in RMNP. “I think this is great. When you’re posted to a new base sometimes it’s hard to find things to do in a new environment. This lets military families get out and explore,” said Purdy. The Purdys were stationed at Shilo from 2006 to 2011, and then for eight years were posted elsewhere. They returned to the Keystone province in 2019. “Since moving back to Manitoba we’ve been looking for new campgrounds and adventures, so this is a great opportunity to get out and see what the Prairies have to offer that we haven’t explored yet,” Purdy said. “We get some hiking in, head to the beach, and our dog Beau absolutely loves swimming, so a dog friendly beach is important. We like history and relaxing also, so a campground with good amenities is a bonus.”



*Mike Purdy with his two children, 10-year-old daughter Lydia (left) and 10-year-old Gabe, in Banff National Park.
(Submitted)*

While Parks Canada is offering free daily admission to all national parks, regular fees still apply for camping and reservation fees, as well as the cost to experience the Canadian Rockies Hot Springs in Alberta and BC. There are 171 national historic sites, 47 national parks, five national marine conservation areas and one national urban park in Canada. Camping reservations for the 2023 season at RMNP open Feb 2, 2024, at 8 am.

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

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

No update this week. Leon and Catherine are wandering around in Southern California and not always Wi-Fi accessible.

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: The **Pedrail Machine** was an experimental British armoured fighting vehicle of the First World War. It was intended initially to be used as an armoured personnel carrier on the Western Front. Following discussions by Captain Murray Sueter of the Royal Naval Air Service and Bramah Diplock of the Pedrail Transport Company, the machine was designed by the British engineer Colonel REB Crompton on behalf of the Landship Committee. The brief was for a vehicle that could carry a unit of troops - a "trench storming party of 50 men with machine guns and ammunition"- under protection



across No Man's Land. Crompton's design as presented to the committee used two sets of continuous tracks in a vehicle around 40 feet (12 m) long, weighing around 25 tons and armed with a 12-pdr gun. Protection was 8 mm (0.31 in) of armour to the sides and 6 mm (0.24 in) on top. Two 46 hp (34 kW) Rolls Royce engines drove the machine. This led to an order for twelve machines being placed with the Metropolitan Carriage and Wagon Company in Birmingham. The Committee realised the design as supplied would not be able to readily manoeuvre through French villages and it was reworked to articulate it in the middle. At the same time the armour protection was increased to 12 mm (0.47 in).

The original order for 12 was reduced to one, and then Metropolitan asked to be removed from the project to concentrate on other war work. The task of finishing the single vehicle went to William Foster and Co at Lincoln but with other, more promising, armoured vehicle projects coming along, even the building of a single Pedrail was cancelled by the authorities. In July 1916 the machine was transferred to Stothert & Pitt in Bath, for completion as a mobile flamethrower. The finished chassis was handed over to the Trench Warfare Department in August and sent for trials to the government research centre at Porton Down. It was deemed too heavy to be practical, and at the end of the war was taken to Bovington Camp, where it was eventually scrapped.

This Week: There is a saying amongst the aviation crowd that if something looks right, it will fly right, or words to that effect. This can be shown by looking at our nation's most famous aircraft (and I don't mean the Beaver, although it is a swell ship, too). I speak or write of the Avro Arrow. It looked great, and flew very well, too, according to its test pilots. It also was seared into the imagination of the nation, to the point that even now, over sixty years since its cancellation, books, blogs and whatnots are being published about it. There is even a term for its staunchest aficionados, "Arrow Heads". Are you one? The latter tend to be bit on the OTT side of things, inhabiting dens replete with models, books, and photos of the Arrow, adding swept wings to their vans, and not having girlfriends, save for the rare few who share their enthusiasm. Some still think that the aircraft still exist, hidden away in a barn in some forest in Ontario, or in a Cold War cavern on the Prairies. All tend to have John Diefenbaker's photo on their dart boards.

That is certainly not the case with this week's fairly nice-looking aeroplane. It looks as if it was a capable beast, featuring some advanced features, such as contra-rotating pusher propellers, and a cockpit that gave an impressive view. Sadly, it failed initially to do something that is expected of all aircraft: fly. This was later rectified, but history passed the machine by, and it never entered production.



So, dear Air Heads (not a pejorative, I hope), can you tell us what this sleek machine was? Who built it, and in what great nation? Send your answers to the right-looking editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the less-flyable author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitary'

Did you hear about the pig on the baseball team? She played snort stop.

Murphy's Other Laws

Exceptions prove the rule - and destroy the battle plan.

Quotable Quotes

People who know little are usually great talkers, while those who know much say little.
Jean-Jacques Rousseau

78th Fraser Highlanders Garrison Burns Supper



Fort Fraser Garrison



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

Garrison Burns Supper

to be held in

The Officers' Mess at Bessborough Armoury,
15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

Saturday, 27 January 2024

1800hrs for 1900hrs

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

Tariff: \$100 per Person

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

ASAP! (before 20 January)

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

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

Looking forward to seeing you there

James Barrett, Maj. Officer Commanding

BCR Concert for the Padre

15th Field Artillery
Regiment Band

BC Regiment
Irish Pipes & Drums

Concert for the Padre

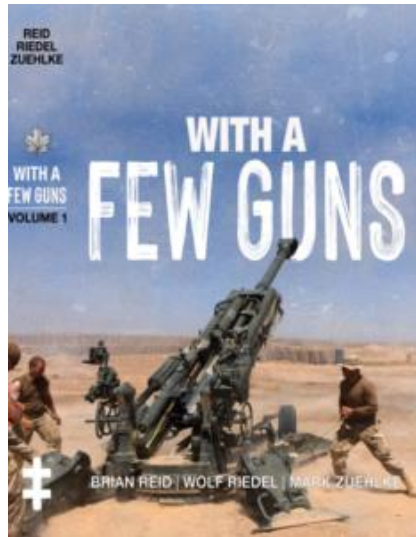
Net proceeds to support the Dean's pastoral
work with the men and women of the military

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

Tickets by donation
thecathedral.ca

Select Regimental Ministries
on the donations page





**With A Few Guns –
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery in Afghanistan
Volume I 2002-2006**

Authored by Col (Retd) Wolf Riedel and Mark Zuehlke,
building on the work of LCol (Retd) Brian Reid

This two-volume set captures the experiences of Canadian Gunners and the Regimental family during the Afghanistan era.

- Volume 1 – 2002-2006, publication date **4 December 2023!**
The translation “Avec quelques canons” is expected for autumn 2024.
- Volume 2 – 2007 to 2014, targeted publication date 2024/2025

[READ SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM VOLUME 1](#)

<https://rca-arc.org/excerpts-from-with-a-few-guns/>

We can't complete Volume 2 without your help. Be part of this significant undertaking – tell your story, submit your photos. Even the smallest detail touches someone!

Contact mrgnrsmith@gmail.com and make sure *our* story is recorded for generations to come!

“With A Few Guns” is dedicated to the greater family of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery—from those who served with distinction in the face of danger in Afghanistan, to those who trained and supported them to become mission-ready, and especially to those who kept the rest of the family together at home. In memory of “Reid B.A of the RCA” (1939-2023) and his dedicated service to the Guns, his sage advice and his literary prowess in recording parts of the Canadian Army’s rich history.

80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour

*The
Royal Canadian Artillery
Association*



*L'Association de
l'Artillerie royale
canadienne*

13 October 2023

RE: 80th Anniversary Liberation of Holland Commemorative Battlefield Tour, May 2025

Dear Sirs, Commanding Officers, et al

I am writing this letter to solicit your interest in participating in a May 2025 Battlefield tour to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Holland. The organisation of a trip of this magnitude involves a lot of time and resources and we, at the RCAA, would like to ensure that we have sufficient interest from all the units across the country before we start planning. For those of you that participated in the last significant commemoration, the 75th Anniversary of D-Day in 2019, we would like to build on it's success and use the lessons learned to make this trip better.

Why

- The 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland will be a major event – the very last major event while veterans of the Second World War are still with us. These commemorative events in Holland every fifth year are always a big deal – but this one will be special.
- The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery played a major role in the Second World War, especially in the Liberation of Holland.
- Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) will be the lead Department for Canada in official ceremonies, and the Department of National Defence (DND) will support the VAC efforts (typically a multi-service Guard, Band, Logistics support, Security, VIPs, airlift, etc.). Elements of the Gunner community will most certainly be involved in the VAC-led events, but so will all elements of the CAF be represented.
- Separate from the "official" GOC activities, many Branches/Corps, Regiments, Associations, and travel companies will be organizing commemorative trips to participate in the 80th Anniversary of Liberation of Holland.

Mission

- To enhance cohesion, morale, and esprit de corps of the Royal Regiment by commemorating and celebrating the accomplishments of our predecessors during the Liberation of Holland 1945.

Rationale

- Remember and commemorate those Gunners who served in WWII, and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.
- Build cohesion and morale amongst serving members, Regular Force and Reserve.
- Connect the serving generation of the RCA with retired members
- Support and reinforce the goals and objectives of the RCA Association.
- Supplement the professional development of serving members.
- Re-learn lessons of the Artillery at war in a theatre of operations in North-West Europe.

*Administration
27048 35B Avenue
Langley, B.C. V4W 0C3*

*Au service des artilleurs canadiens depuis 1876
Serving Canadian Gunners Since 1876*

*Finance
10 Lancewood Crescent
Brampton, Ont. L6S 5Y6*



Concept and Scope

- Conduct a ten-day battlefield study immediately prior to and during the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands.
- Aim for 30 to 40 deserving Non-Commissioned Members and Junior Officers representing every Regular Force and Reserve Artillery unit, who will be sponsored through raised donations.
- Invite other serving, retired Gunners and their families, Association members and others, who will pay their own way.
- Aim for two bus loads of participants (80-90 pax).
- Engage a professional company that specializes in battlefield studies, with professional historians.
- Arrange all travel activities (flights, land travel, hotels, meals, insurance, etc.) through a professional travel agency.
- Conduct with the assistance of the RCAA, a major Non-Public fundraising campaign at national, local, and unit level to raise approximately \$6,000-6,500 per person. Ideally each participating member should contribute \$500 towards the trip.
- Identify a point of Contact per unit that will engage with the national organising committee.

Conclusion

The RCAA want to ensure the participation of serving gunners and we are willing to put the time and resources however, this trip cannot happen without your support and commitment. Please advise us of your interest in supporting and participating in this trip by the 31st of October by notifying Major (R) Richard Gratton at rgratton1534@gmail.com.

Following the returns, timelines and more information will be coming your way. If you have any questions, please also contact Maj (Ret'd) Richard Gratton at rgratton1534@gmail.com.

Ubique!

Bill Kalogerakis

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

Commemoration Cyprus 2024



Comméoration Chypre 2024



Commemoration Cyprus 2024



Mission

...commémorer la contribution du Canada à la mission de l'ONU à Chypre à l'occasion du 50e anniversaire de la guerre de 1974.

...commemorate Canada's contribution to the UN mission in Cyprus on the 50th anniversary of the 1974 war.



WHAT - Cyprus 2024 Pilgrimage.

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

WHEN - November 2024.

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

WHERE - Nicosia Cyprus, lodged at the Hilton Hotel.

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

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

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

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

QUOI - Pèlerinage à Chypre 2024.

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

QUAND - Novembre 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

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

