

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News – 30 April 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

May 01 NO ZOOM LUNCH MEETING

RUSI Vancouver AGM Live meeting in lecture room at 1100hrs

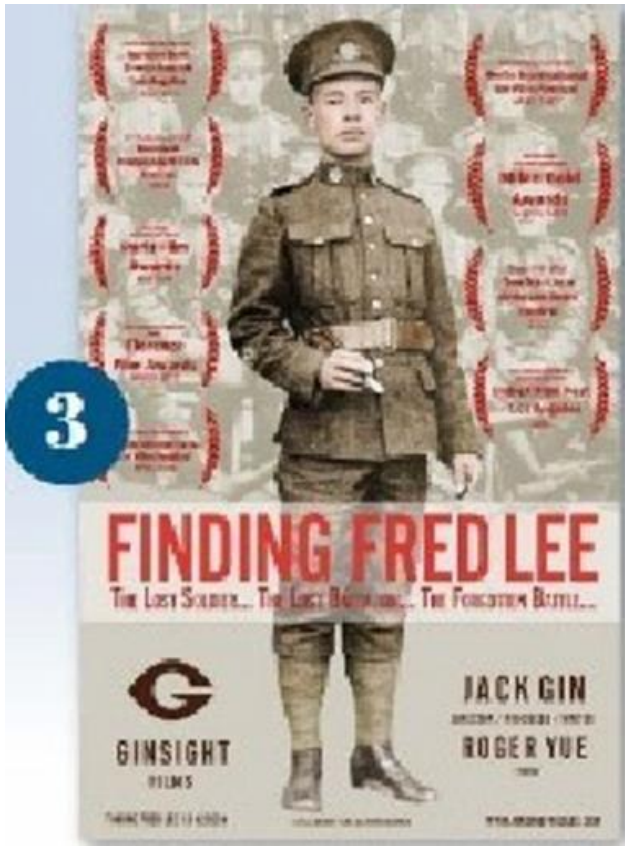
Lunch and speaker 1200hrs

Jun 06 Screenings of *Gino - A Child of War*

Next Wednesday Lunch and Speaker – 1 May 2024

Please join us on Wednesday, May 1st to welcome our guest speaker, Lunch starts at 1200hrs, and the presentation will take place in the lecture room at 1330hrs.

Our featured speaker will be Jack Gin (showing his documentary about a WW1 soldier named Fred Lee). Jack was astonished to learn that a Chinese Canadian kid named Fred Lee volunteered to fight for Canada during the first World War. "As a child who grew up in Canada and educated here, we never heard these stories"; says Jack. So, the engineer and entrepreneur went in search of Fred's story, and he created an award-winning documentary in the process.



Finding Fred Lee is told through Gins eyes as he journeys to Lee’s hometown of Kamloops to uncover traces of this forgotten son. Lee was an honour roll student and the son of a pioneer businessman. He signed up with the Rocky Mountain Rangers at a time when Chinese Canadians couldn't vote. Most could not hold a traditional job. He left town on the CPR— the railway that his father supplied with timbers and that thousands of Chinese men helped build. Lee survived Vimy with the 47th Battalion but was killed during the battle for Hill 70. The hill was captured but 1,877 Canadians lost their lives. His remains were never found.

The documentary takes viewers to a recently commemorated Hill 70 Memorial Park at Lens, France. A walkway emblazoned with maple leaves, named after Fred Lee, who is remembered on a panel dedicated to him. Jack Gin located Fred Lee’s

nephew, and the search continues for other family members. The film has screened in Kamloops, at the Canadian War Museum, and at the Asian Film Festival in Vancouver, and it has won the best short documentary award at the International Art Festival in Berlin. Private Fred Lee is no longer forgotten,

Cost is \$35 per person. Reservations and payment in advance are required. Those wishing to attend must RSVP HLCol Don Foster @ dgfoster60@gmail.com **Prepayment for lunch tickets required by 26 April**. 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 kdm Maxwell@gmail.com

Menu
Caprese spinach salad with balsamic reduction
Pork Milanese with lemon garlic sauce
Herbed mashed potatoes
Roasted vegetable medley
Assorted dessert squares
Coffee and Tea
Reservations required by 26 April

Screenings of Gino - A Child of War

GREATER VANCOUVER PREMIERE: Il Centro Italian Cultural Centre 'Screening of 'Gino: A Child of War 2:00 pm' FOR CADETS, CADET FAMILIES, SENIORS AND CIC/MILITARY MEMBERS on JUNE 2, 2024

This is a heartwarming, family friendly true story to please all audiences. We have organized a special **AFTERNOON MATINEE** for a reduced price of **\$16.00 for Cadets, Cadet families, Seniors, and CIC/MILITARY Members**, I would very much hope that the Associations who support cadet corps would consider sponsoring some tickets for their local cadet corps, with tickets also available for interested families to attend as well.

* Partial Ticket proceeds in Support of the Army Cadet League of Canada and Canadian Youth!!

Tickets are limited so get them early, so you won't be disappointed. The Premieres in other cities have been SOLD OUT well in advance of the screening so get yours today.

Gino: A Child of War 2 min trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCTi9C5jWvM>

FOR AFTERNOON SCREENING - cut and paste this link:-

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/gino-a-child-of-war-tickets-866984392657?aff=oddtcreator>

For more information and Tickets:

Cathy Bach, National President

Army Cadet League of Canada 778-995-2306

For tickets sold in a block (10 or more) we would prefer an etranfer directly to Karen Storwick. That way we don't pay the Eventbrite ticket fee and the donation to the ACLC will be greater!!! Karen will then produce 'a ticket' and send it to me. I will have them printed and delivered either in person or by mail to you. This is the email info to use for etranfer to Karen directly for block purchases.

Karen Storwick karenstorwick@combinedforces.ca (403) 478-0435

Evening Showing - An evening showing has also been arranged, an '**adult only**' showing including a reception after. Doors open at 6:30 for 7:00 show. Tickets \$27.50.

Dress - Business Casual. * Partial Ticket proceeds in Support of the Army Cadet League of Canada and Canadian Youth!! At Il Centro Italian Cultural Centre, 3075 Slocan Street, Vancouver, BC.

Gino: A Child of War 2 min trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCTi9C5jWvM>

FOR EVENING SCREENING - cut and paste this link:-

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/gino-a-child-of-war-tickets-866984392657?aff=oddtcreator>

Or contact Karen Storwick 403-478-0435

See news story: <https://globalnews.ca/video/10029175/calgary-made-film-tells-story-of-soldiers-who-rescued-orphan-in-second-world-war-in-italy>

See Poster in poster section.

Canadian Military to Destroy 11,000 Second World War Era Pistols

The move comes as the Canadian Forces confirmed it has received the final deliveries of a new 9-mm pistol as part of a \$19.4-million project. *David Pugliese Ottawa Citizen Apr 24, 2024*



Browning Hi-Power pistol.

Photo By Canadian Forces /Supplied

The Canadian military plans to destroy 11,000 of its Second World War-era pistols by the end of this year. The move comes as the Canadian Forces confirmed it has received the final deliveries of a new 9-mm pistol as part of a \$19.4-million project. The military purchased the Sig Sauer P320, which is being

distributed to units. It replaces the Browning Hi-Power pistol that has been used by the Canadian Forces for decades. National Defence spokesperson Cheryl Forrest said all military units would send their Browning handguns to Canadian Forces supply depots in Quebec and Alberta for disposal. “The pistols have not yet been destroyed,” she said in an email. “We anticipate the pistols will be disposed of by the end of 2024.” Forrest said approximately 150 Browning Hi-Power handguns would be kept for museums, but at this point none had been distributed to those organizations. In addition, the Canadian Army is determining if a small amount of the Brownings should be kept for special purposes or specific training, she added. “The Canadian Army keeps a small stock of older small arms and small arms in service in other countries to assist with training for emergency situations and for recognition,” Forrest said. “The Browning may also retain some training value as a simulation/training tool.” But no final decision on that has been made, she added.

More than a million Browning Hi-Power pistols were manufactured since the Second World War and the gun has been used by dozens of militaries and police forces. The Canadian Forces previously removed another group of older weapons from its inventory when it provided modern rifles to the Canadian Rangers. That group had been using Lee Enfield rifles also from the Second World War era. Around 9,500 Lee Enfields were transferred to military cadets, mostly as non-functional rifles, for use in drills or training. Approximately 5,000 of the rifles were gifted to serving Canadian Rangers. Another 50 rifles were offered to museums affiliated with the Canadian Forces or military units as display artifacts, National Defence said. After that, around 1,500 Lee Enfields remained, and they were destroyed as the military ruled out sale of the surplus rifles to the general public. The Canadian Forces announced it had received the final deliveries of the new P320s on March 6. The delivery involved 16,500 of what are being called C22 pistols. Those are being used by the army, navy and air force. Another 3,200 new pistols, to be called the C24, were sent to military police units.

The federal government announced the awarding of the Sig Sauer P320 contract in October 2022. It was awarded to M.D. Charlton Co Ltd of Victoria, BC. The Sig Sauer P320 is in use with multiple militaries around the world including Denmark, France, and the United States. The Pentagon selected the P320 in 2017 and Sig Sauer is providing the US military with 420,000 of those guns. The Canadian military had been trying for years to replace its Browning Hi-Power pistols as it was running out of parts for the weapons. The acquisition project was stalled for years after small arms firms rejected in 2011 the federal government requirement that the new guns be built at Colt Canada in Kitchener, Ont. In addition, the companies balked at a stipulation that they had to turn over proprietary firearms information to Colt, a firm some saw as a competitor.

UK Puts Its Defense Industry On 'War Footing'

and gives Ukraine \$620 million in new military aid.

Vanessa Gera and Sylvia Hui Associated Press 23 April 2024



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, right, Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk, center, and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, left, visit the Armoured Brigade barracks in Warsaw, Poland, Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

*(AP Photo/Czarek Sokolowski)©
Provided by The Associated Press*

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The UK prime minister said Tuesday the country is putting its defense industry on a “war footing” by increasing defense spending to 2.5% of GDP by the end of the decade and pledged to send arms worth 500 million pounds (\$620 million) to Ukraine. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak described the increase as the “biggest strengthening of our national defense for a generation.” “In a world that is the most dangerous it has been since the end of the Cold War, we cannot be complacent,” Sunak said at a news briefing alongside NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg during a visit to Poland. “As our adversaries align, we must do more to defend our country, our interests and our values.” Sunak promised an extra 75 billion pounds (\$93 billion) in defense spending over the next six years. The target of 2.5% of GDP spending was a re-commitment of a target set by former Prime Minister Boris Johnson in 2022. Sunak previously said the goal would be met when economic conditions allow.

A decade ago, NATO leaders agreed to commit 2% of GDP to defense spending. Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine has given that effort new urgency. Britain has spent above that over the past decade but never higher than 2.35% in 2020, according to NATO data. “We will put the UK’s own defense industry on a war footing,” Sunak told British troops serving on NATO’s

eastern front near Ukraine. “One of the central lessons of the war in Ukraine is that we need deeper stockpiles of munitions, and for industry to be able to replenish them more quickly.” UK official figures show that defense spending last year was about 55.5 billion pounds. NATO data shows that amounting to about 2.07% of the UK’s GDP, ahead of countries including France and Germany but behind Poland, the US, Estonia and others. “It’s time for us to re-arm,” Sunak told a news briefing alongside Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, noting that Poland spends a larger percentage of its GDP on defense than any NATO ally. Sunak said that next year Britain would deploy its Typhoon fighter jets to Poland to help police its skies. Poland, which borders Ukraine, has seen several incursions of its airspace since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022.

Sunak also spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to confirm the new assistance to Ukraine and "assure him of the UK’s steadfast support for Ukraine’s defense against Russia’s brutal and expansionist ambitions,” Sunak's office said. UK authorities said the commitment included 400 vehicles, 60 boats, 1,600 munitions and 4 million rounds of ammunition, at a time when Ukraine is struggling to hold off advancing Russian forces on the eastern front line. The shipment will include British Storm Shadow long-range missiles, which have a range of about 150 miles (240 kilometers) and have proved effective at hitting Russian targets. Zelenskyy has pleaded for greater international assistance, warning that his country will lose the war without it. Britain's announcement came three days after the US House of Representatives approved \$61 billion in new aid for Ukraine. The Senate was voting on the package Tuesday. Ammunition shortages over the past six months have led Ukrainian military commanders to ration shells, a disadvantage that Russia has seized on this year — taking the city of Avdiivka and currently inching towards the town of Chasiv Yar, also in the eastern Donetsk region.

Don't Come, It's A Trap

Cuban mercenary fighting in the Russian army issues chilling warning to fellow countrymen.

Germania Rodriguez Poleo DailyMail.Com 23 April 2024

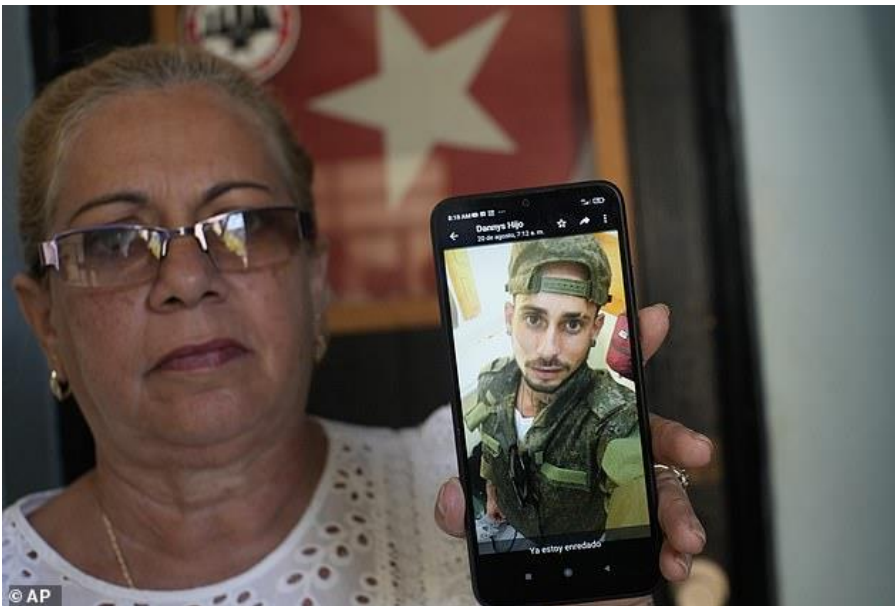


A Cuban mercenary has issued a warning to his fellow countrymen against fighting

for Russia in Ukraine. The unnamed man appears donning the Russian flag as he speaks in Spanish and in a Cuban accent about the situation at the front lines, claiming Cuban soldiers are not being paid what they were promised. 'This is a message for all the Cuban soldiers who are here in Ukraine,' he said. 'I've been here in the war for a while now and we are not being paid.

Many of my friends have already been killed in combat and they don't pay us what they said they would.' Russia has recruited soldiers desperate to escape the Communist island by luring them with promises of salaries of \$2,000 a month. The monthly average wage in Cuba is less than \$20. However, the Cuban soldier in Ukraine claimed: 'There are a lot of things they are doing wrong and I want to say that the salary that they are paying us is not what is supposed to be. 'Many of my friends died at the front line with no documentation, they don't want to give us documentation. 'They continue to scam us and lie to us, and we keep dying and nobody does anything.'

The soldier then spoke directly to those in his position, saying: 'For all my fellow Cubans who are in combat like me: don't let them keep lying to you. Don't take up arms. Don't lose your lives, brothers, I'm telling you. Put down the weapons. We are dying and not getting paid.' The soldier then appeared to address the risk he is likely taking by filming the video. He said: 'I would rather be sent to Moscow than lose my life and have my family receive no money.' Cuba and Russia are political allies and Cubans do not require a visa to travel to Russia. Many go there to study or to work. However, the Cuban soldier in Ukraine claimed: 'There are a lot of things they are doing wrong, and I want to say that the salary that they are paying us is not what is supposed to be. 'Many of my friends died at the front line with no documentation, they don't want to give us documentation. 'They continue to scam us and lie to us, and we keep dying and nobody does anything.' The unnamed man appears donning the Russian flag as he speaks in Spanish and in a Cuban accent about the situation at the front lines, claiming Cuban soldiers are not being paid what they were promised. 'This is a message for all the Cuban soldiers who are here in Ukraine,' he said. 'I've been here in the war for a while now and we are not being paid. Many of my friends have already been killed in combat and they don't pay us what they said they would.' Russia has recruited soldiers desperate to escape the Communist island by luring them with promises of salaries of \$2,000 a month. The monthly average wage in Cuba is less than \$20.



Marilyn Vinent said that her son Dannys Castillo, 27, is one of the Cubans recruited in Russia.

Last year, Cuban officials arrested 17 people in connection with what they described as a network to recruit Cuban nationals to fight for Russia in Ukraine. In May 2023, a newspaper in the Russian region of Ryazan, about 100 miles southeast of Moscow, reported from a military enlistment office there that 'several citizens of the Cuba Republic' signed up to join the army. The Ryazanskiye Vedomosti newspaper quoted some Cubans as saying they were there to help Russia

'complete tasks in the special military operation zone.' It also said, 'some of them in the future would like to become Russian citizens.' In Havana, prosecutor José Luis Reyes told state TV that suspects are being investigated for crimes, including being a mercenary or recruiting mercenaries, and could face sentences of up to 30 years or life in prison, or even the death penalty. Marilyn Vinent, 60, said that her son Dannys Castillo, 27, is one of the Cubans recruited in Russia. From her home in Havana last September, she said her son and other Cubans traveled at the end of July to Russia after being promised work in a construction job. 'They were all deceived,' she said. Vinent showed reporters photos of her son in her cellphone, including some of him dressed in military fatigues.



Gunners from 43rd Separate Mechanized Brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine fire at Russian position in the Kharkiv region earlier this month.

She said that her son told her he had accepted the offer to go to Russia because he wanted to economically help the family, as the island is suffering an economic crisis, with people facing shortages of some products. 'I don't know if my son is alive. We don't know anything,' she said. 'What I would like is to talk to him.' Cuban seamstress Yamidely Cervantes told Reuters her 49-year-old husband Enrique Gonzalez, a struggling bricklayer, left their home in the small town of La Federal on July 19, 2023, to fight for the Russian army in Ukraine. Days later, he wired her part of his signing-on bonus of about 200,000 rubles (\$2,040) which she received in Cuban pesos, Cervantes told Reuters. That represents a windfall on the economically stricken communist-run island. It's more than 100 times the average monthly state salary of 4,209 pesos (\$17 in the informal market), according to the national statistics office. Cervantes' husband Gonzalez, speaking via video call from a Russian military base outside the city of Tula, south of Moscow, told Reuters he was one of 119 Cubans training there. When he arrived in Russia, he said, he had signed a contract to work for the military, translated into Spanish. 'Everyone here knew what they were coming for,' he said, smiling in military garb as he gave Reuters a digital phone tour of the camp, ringed by pine trees. 'They came for the war.' The US State Department has said it's aware of the reports. 'We are deeply concerned that young Cubans may have been deceived and recruited to fight for Russia in its brutal full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and we continue to monitor this situation closely,' it said. Russian law allows foreign nationals to enlist in its army, after signing a contract with the Defense Ministry. Since September 2022, foreigners who have served in the Russian army for at least one year are allowed to apply for Russian citizenship in a simplified procedure, without obtaining a residency permit first.

The Flame Throwing Robot Dog is Here

The company sells a variety of devices like the TF-19 WASP, a drone with a flamethrower attachment. [Patty Nieberg Task & Purpose Apr 26, 2024](#)



Throw Flame's robot dog equipped with its AFC flamethrower, known as the Thermonator.

Photo from the company's Instagram page.

Prepare to update the safety brief again: a flame-throwing robot dog can now be yours for less than \$10,000. The Thermonator is the first-ever robot dog equipped with the ARC Flamethrower “to deliver on-demand fire anywhere.” The company behind the dog, Throw Flame, has made a name for itself creating commercial flame throwing devices like the TF-19 WASP, drone flamethrower attachment. The ARC Flamethrower, which is attached to the robot dog, can send 30-foot-long streams of fire up and be mounted on other devices like a tripod, rifle or utility task vehicle, or UTV. The company is marketing the robot-flamethrower combo for uses like wildfire control and prevention, snow and ice removal and of course, entertainment. For \$9,420, Throw Flame will ship the Thermonator anywhere in the U.S with a lifetime warranty.

When Throw Flame produced the WASP drone in 2020, its CEO told Task & Purpose that there had been an uptick in its backpack-style flamethrowers during the emerging threat of the so-called murder hornet. “It’s hard to correlate these things, but we’ve seen an uptick in our traditional backpack-style flamethrowers, but we’ve gotten a lot of interest and recommendations on our drone flamethrower platform,” Quinn Whitehead, the company’s CEO told Task & Purpose. Since Throw Flame advertises its tech for agricultural management or ecological conservation, we’ve got one thing on our mind this year: cicadas. The loud and rather ugly insect hordes that make a terrible crunch and screaming sound when stepped on are about to infiltrate the U.S. in record numbers. Several “broods” of cicadas are expected to hatch this summer so to that we say: no thanks, bring in the flamethrowing dogs.

In 2015, the company released its X15 Flamethrower for commercial use which sparked an uproar over its legality. A New York Congressman even tried twice to pass legislation titled “H.R. 4901 — Flamethrowers? Really? Act” which would have classified flamethrowers as akin to automatic machine guns, generally outlawing their sale or use by civilians. But this is America, and you can still own a flamethrower. “Flamethrowers remain federally unregulated,” according to Throw Flame’s website. “This means that anyone can buy one without background checks or a

waiting period. With quick shipping, just like an Amazon package, Throwflame has delivered thousands of X15s around the globe.” If you think this is the stuff of Hollywood and the big screen, you’re also right. Their flamethrowers have appeared in *The Purge*, *Quarry*, *Punisher*, *The Darkest Minds*, and Burger King commercials, according to the website. A state Senator from Ohio, Niraj Antani, featured an XL18 flamethrower in his campaign ad for Ohio’s 2nd Congressional district, as a challenge to Democrats that he would bring the heat. “In Congress, I’ll take a flamethrower to the Biden agenda and the weak Republicans who betray us,” Antani said.

*A US Army soldier uses a flamethrower to ignite a controlled fire to eliminate brush from roadsides so bombs cannot be concealed, near Al Anafisah, Iraq, Sept 11, 2008.
DOD photo.*



While the technology sounds like something better left to professional militaries, it’s unsurprising that a flame-throwing robot is available for public consumption. The Department of Defense is increasingly buying civilian technology for military purposes, including robot dogs and commercial drones. Flamethrowers have a long history in the military but have often been generally less effective than their fearsome reputation. In fact, the idea goes back to the Roman Empire, whose navy used a still-mysterious burning gel known as Greek Fire to attack other ships, a substance that would stick to enemy hulls and could not be extinguished with water. In the modern world, German soldiers introduced the *Flammenwerfer* apparatus at the Battle of Verdun in World War. British military leaders reportedly labeled the weapon “an inhuman projection of the German scientific mind” — a sinister, sadistic tool of wanton destruction. The first American man-portable flamethrower made its first “successful combat appearance” on Jan 15, 1943, at Guadalcanal, according to the Army Center of Military History but troops in the field often lacked the training or tactics to use them properly. Commanders, the Army found, often “selected untrained men and ordered them to take a flame thrower and ‘burn out the Japs,’ a mission which promised little chance of success.” The DOD ramped up its research on man-portable and vehicle-mounted incendiary weapons following WWII, but incendiary weapons fell out of favor during the Vietnam War as horrifying imagery of their aftermath emerged, including pictures like “Napalm Girl,” the 1972 Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of a naked 9-year-old girl fleeing after surviving a napalm attack. As the American public turned against incendiary weapons, the DOD issued a directive effectively retiring the weapon from the battlefield in 1978. Since then, the flamethrower has only returned for specific use cases, including during operations in the Middle East. One DOD photo from September 2008 in Iraq, shows an American soldier using a flamethrower to ignite a controlled fire on a roadside to reveal bombs concealed by brush.

Military Family Resource (Mainland BC) 2024 Scholarships

EDITOR'S NOTE: The links attached below will take you to the MFRC (BC) links for information on scholarships available to the families of our serving members on the Mainland of BC.

Mainland BC MFRC is pleased to offer two scholarships (up to \$2000 each) each year. Scholarships are for those entering or continuing in a post-secondary program leading to a certificate/diploma/degree from university, trade school, school of fine arts, or community college.

Applicants must be the children currently serving Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members (Regular, PRes, Canadian Rangers, COATS-CIC/GSO). Siblings of currently serving CAF members may apply if both the CAF member and the sibling have their primary residence with their parents. Additionally, spouses/partners of CAF members may apply for the scholarship. Applicants must reside within the mainland BC area. One scholarship will be available for those 19 or under at the time of application deadline, and one for those 20 or older at the time of application deadline.

Deadline to apply: May 3, 2024

<https://cfmws.ca/mainland-bc/services-for-families/mainland-bc-post-secondary-scholarship>
<https://cfmws.ca/mainland-bc/services-for-families/mainland-bc-post-secondary-scholarship>

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

Yorke Island Excursion - The 85Vics are planning their annual weekend cleanup visit to Yorke Island on the first weekend of May 2024. Interested in joining them? Send me an email. president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

68 Battery 30'ish Year Campout Reunion - May 24 at 4 PM – May 26 at 12 PM - Harrison West - Camp Cove Campground. Anne Nikodem (former Bombardier Anne Edwards) and Terry Stratton (former Bombardier Terry Stratton) are organizing another 68 Battery camping reunion. Same as last year, its a a 10 vehicle allowance (50 person max) with the booking (additional fees for extra vehicles and day guests. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2024.html>

OP Take Post 2025 - Check out The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery website for the latest update on OP Take Post 2025 - an 80th Anniversary Liberation of Holland Commemorative Battlefield Tour from 2 to 11 May 2025. <https://rca-arc.org/the-rca-association/op-take-post/>

Photos - Have you got any photos of past regimental activities? Send them to president.vcrgunners@gmail.com and we'll post them to the website.

Wednesday Lunch Zoom Meeting - No meeting this week.
Host attending lunch at Armoury.

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: Ingoldby Transporter. Almost nothing is known about this machine except that it was designed by Ingoldsby of Vickers to provide a tracked cross-country vehicle which could be driven by any driver without special training.



This Week: John is still recovering from a medical problem so no witty narrative to go with the picture, other than ‘**who is this simian**’?



From the ‘Punitentary’

Have you heard the joke about the roof? Never mind, it’s over your head anyway.

Murphy’s Other Laws

Don’t ever be the first, don’t ever be the last and don’t ever volunteer for anything.

Quotable Quotes

Never miss a good chance to shut up. *Will Rogers*

No Zoom Meeting this week. Host will be at lunch.

Finding Fred Lee – Bio of Jack Gin



Profile – Jack Gin

2 pager - Update Jan 2023

J.M. (Jack) Gin, P.Eng

Business Mentor – Advisor – Director - Entrepreneur
Writer – Editor – Filmmaker - Philanthropist

Email: jackgin20@gmail.com

Phone: +1.604.807.3492

Residence: Burnaby, BC, Canada

URL: www.JackGin.com

Nationality: Canadian

Key Skills

- **Leadership:** Former President, CEO and Chairman of TSX listed technology firm. Has also held senior executive positions with other public and privately held companies over 25 year international business career. Director, business advisor and mentor.
- **Commercial:** Startup to IPO to exit-sale entrepreneur of security technology firm with five international offices. **Notably skilled in international business development of industrial and technology products and services** to Fortune 500 and government organizations
- **Technical:** Engineering background with proven history of innovative problem solving in fields ranging from construction to electro-optics.
- **Other:** Raised financing on the TSX exchange and holds record of continuous profitability and successful exit as a publicly listed company. Became an industry expert, public speaker and writer for globally recognized security tech company.

Professional Experience

- *Documentary Writer / Editor / Producer*
Finding Fred Lee 1.0 ... (not yet released)
GinSight Films – (Vancouver 2017 to present)
- *Project Review Committee – independent (2017 to 2019)*
Sustainable Development Technology Canada
- *Director* (Vancouver – 2008 to present)
Saltworks Technologies Inc. – desalination, clean tech startup
- *Director* (Vancouver – 2011 to 2022)
SemiosBIO Technologies Inc. – sustainable technology startup
- *President & Director* (Vancouver – 2008 to 2010)
Seanees Capital Corporation – Capital Pool Corporation (TSX-V)
- *President, CEO and Chairman of the Board* (Vancouver - 1997-2008)
Extreme CCTV Inc. (EXC:TSX) – manufacturer night vision specialty surveillance
- *Director* (Quebec City – 2003-2008)
Obzerv Technologies Inc. – electro-optics technology startup
- *Director* (United Kingdom – 2001-2008)
Derwent Systems Ltd. – manufacturer night vision specialist
- *VP Business Development, Director* (Vancouver - 1994-1997)
Silent Witness Enterprises Ltd (SWE:TSX) – manufacturer surveillance equipment
- *VP Business Development* (Vancouver - 1990-1994)
Weatherhaven Resources Ltd – manufacturer air transportable industrial shelters

Professional Associations

- Professional Engineer in BC (APEG BC) - RETIRED
- Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD)

Education

- Bachelor of Applied Science - Engineering – University of British Columbia (1983)
- Institute Corporate Directors – Directors Education Program DEP8 (2011)

Patents

- **U.S. Patent 6,912,007** / China Patent 02 8 29969.8 - Securable Corner Surveillance
- **Canada Patent 2,438,939** – Dual Surveillance Camera System
- **U.S. Patent 7,346,196** – Rotatable Switchbox Camera / Illuminator for Face Rec
- **China Patent 02 8 27154.8** – Dual Camera Surveillance and Control System

Philanthropy

- **Jack & Sylvia Gin Foundation (JSGF)** – a registered Canadian giving charity
- **Jack Gin Family Foundation (JGFF)** – a donor advised fund at the Vancouver Foundation

Focus on at-risk women and children locally and globally

Organizations Supported (partial list) since 2008:

- Union Gospel Mission – Vancouver ... ongoing projects
- Seeds of Hope Children’s Ministry – Zambia ... ongoing projects
- Ratanak – Cambodia ... various projects
- St Paul’s Hospital (new) – Founder’s Wall
- Various other hospitals, schools, libraries

Community Involvement

- **Community Preview – Finding Fred Lee – StoryTelling Centre** – Vancouver 2022
- **Community Preview – Finding Fred Lee – Kamloops BC - 2022**
- **Honourary Rocky Mountain Ranger – Kamloops BC - 2018**
- **Patron – Chinese Canadian Military Museum – 2018**
- **City of Burnaby 2013** – Environmental Sustainability Strategy Committee
- **Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee 2012** – Medal Program for Gov Gen office
- **Entrepreneur-in-Residence** - SFU Venture Labs (2012 to 2017)
- **Mentor-in-Residence** - SFU Venture Connection (2010 to 2012)
- **Vancouver 2010 Olympics Volunteer** – Technology Sector (2009-2010)
- **Torchbearer** – Vancouver 2010 Olympics
- **BCIT Entrepreneurship** - Program Advisory Committee (2005-2008)

Background

Born, raised and educated in Vancouver Canada, where he resides as an active citizen involved with startup technology businesses and various charities. An **E&Y Entrepreneur of the Year**, he acts as a mentor, advisor and/or Board Director to various people and organizations. He is a rare startup-to-ipo-to-exit-sale entrepreneur. The establishment of his own charities upon the exit sale of Extreme CCTV in 2008 has allowed for significant community giving in perpetuity.

Export market development has required a history of travel - 38 countries, mostly in the Asia-Pacific and Europe, and extensively throughout North America. His work as an independent director, philanthropist and **story-telling filmmaker** requires a full agenda in time and travel.

He is an outdoor sports enthusiast currently focused on golf and downhill skiing. He is a father to three, a grandfather to three, and a member of the Vancouver Golf Club.

Jack’s 4G Rule ... Live to Give. Do Good. Thank God. Play Golf. **Live-Do-Thank-Play**



Screenings of Gino - A Child of War



ILCENTRO ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

IS PROUD TO PRESENT

A ROBERT CURTIN FILM
GINO FARNETTI-BRAGAGLIA MARIANGELA RONDINELLI GIANNI BLASI & HARRY ANTHONY KOONAR

GINO

A CHILD OF WAR

A COMBINED FORCES PRODUCTION

TICKETS \$16 MATINEE

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

icff VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA Canadian Film Institute Deep Film Festival

Sunday June 2nd, 2:00pm Matinee, doors open at 1:30



For Tickets scan the QR code or call Cathy Bach (778) 995-2306

IL CENTRO ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE, 3075 SLOCAN STREET, VANCOUVER, BC

"Gino: A Child of War" is an inspiring docu-drama, shedding light on an incredible story of hope and boundless kindness of the human spirit amid the chaos of war. The film narrates the story of Gino Farnetti-Bragaglia, a five-year-old boy who was orphaned, frightened, hungry, and wandering amidst the war-torn ruins of Torrice, Italy, in 1944, by compassionate Canadian soldiers. For the next ten months, Gino found shelter, nourishment, and care among his Canadian 'guardian angels'. A special relationship developed between Gino, Lloyd 'Red' Oliver and other Canadian soldiers. This film portrays their remarkable relationship and the story that connects them to this day.



Evening event – Adults only



IL CENTRO ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
IS PROUD TO PRESENT

A ROBERT CURTIN FILM
GINO FARNETTI-BRAGAGLIA MARIANGELA RONDINELLI GIANNI BLASI & HARRY ANTHONY KOONAR

GINO

A CHILD OF WAR

A COMBINED FORCES PRODUCTION

TICKETS \$27.50 EVENING

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

[iCFF] Italian Contemporary Film Festival
VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA
Canadian Film Centre
United Film Festival Production Group Presents

Sunday June 2nd, 7:00pm Evening, doors open at 6:30

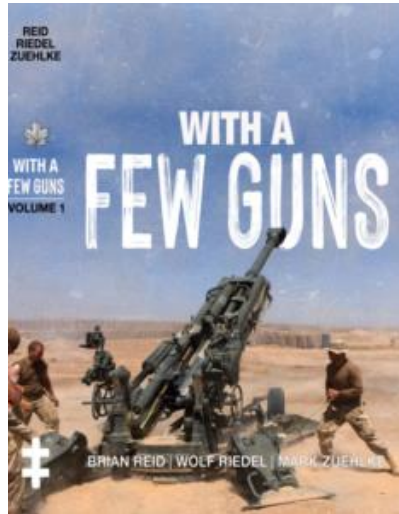


For Tickets scan the QR code or call Karen (403) 478-0435

IL CENTRO ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE, 3075 SLOCAN STREET, VANCOUVER, BC

"Gino: A Child of War" is an inspiring docu-drama, shedding light on an incredible story of hope and boundless kindness of the human spirit amid the chaos of war. The film narrates the story of Gino Farnetti-Bragaglia, a five-year-old boy discovered frightened, hungry, and wandering amidst the war-torn ruins of Torrice, Italy, in 1944, by compassionate Canadian soldiers. For the next ten months, Gino found shelter, nourishment, and care among his Canadian 'guardian angels'. A special bond formed between Gino, Lloyd 'Red' Oliver and other Canadian soldiers. This film portrays their remarkable relationship and the untold story that connects them to this day.

With a Few Guns



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.

[With a Few Guns E-Book - Now Available on Amazon](#)

See: <https://www.amazon.ca/Few-Guns-Artillery-Afghanistan-2002-2006/dp/1990644864>

80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour



OP TAKE POST To Gunners and friends



**Fields of Fire Tours
and Merit Travel Canada**
presents

80th Anniversary of Victory Tour 2-11 May 2025 Gunners in the Liberation of the Netherlands



An American in the back of a tank of the 101st Airborne Division after the victory in the Netherlands.



- Attend the Canadian ceremony at Wageningen on Liberation Day.
- Visit important Canadian battlefields in the Netherlands
- Pay tribute to Canada's war dead of the Victory Campaign
- Visit the Dutch Army Artillery Museum
- Visit monuments, museums, and Commonwealth War Cemeteries
- Led by experienced military historians and veterans.

For more information contact Merit Travel
TZajkovski@MeritTravel.com or BTrudeauSt.Onge@MeritTravel.com, or
call 866-341-1777 | Trina #6214 or Brianne #6902

80th Anniversary of Victory Tour

Day 1 – 2 May ... Depart Canada for Amsterdam.

Day 2 – 3 May ... We arrive in Amsterdam, meet our bus and then drive to our hotel. In the afternoon we will visit the Airborne Museum in Arnhem to examine this epic battle. We will check into our hotel for the next eight nights:

Mercure Hotel Nijmegen

Day 3 – 4 May ... Today is the Dutch Remembrance Day and we will attend the Canadian memorial ceremony at Holten Canadian War Cemetery and the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery.

Day 4 – 5 May ... This is the big day for ceremonies: Liberation Day. We will join the crowds of people in Wageningen for the Canadian commemoration and parade. Some of our group will march in the parade.

Day 5 – 6 May ... We will hit the battlefields today when we look at the largest Canadian directed operation of the war: Op Veritable. We will end the day with a visit to Groesbeek Cemetery and the nearby Liberation Museum

Day 6 – 7 May ... Today we will visit the Dutch Artillery Museum in t'Harde. The day will wrap up with the Heroes March across the Oversteek Bridge in Nijmegen.

Day 7 – 8 May ... Today we will be back on the battlefields as we tour the sites of Operation Blockbuster, the Hochwald, and the capture of Xanten.

Day 8 – 9 May ... Our last day on the battlefield will see us visiting the crossing of the Rhine in Op Plunder and the battles for Emmerich. We will also see where the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion landed on Op Varsity.

Day 9 – 10 May ... Several options today, including a free day in the Nijmegen area, or a daytrip to Amsterdam by train or bus, where the resistance museum and the art galleries are highly recommended. Our last night in Nijmegen.

Day 10 – 11 May ... We will depart early to get our flights back to Canada from Amsterdam airport. Anyone staying on in Europe can make easy connections from the airport.

Tour Price (Land Only)

CAD \$3700 – (per person, Double occupancy)
(single supplement: **\$1150** – limited availability)

Airfare can be added, see with travel agent and will vary according to point of departure.

\$600 per person non-refundable deposit required by the 1st of April 2024
Balance of payment required 29 January 2025

Price includes:

- * all breakfasts and a bagged lunch daily
- * all travel by coach bus
- * accommodation as shown in the itinerary
- * opening reception and final dinner
- * services of historian/guides

Not Included:

- * return airfare from Canada to Amsterdam
- * travel insurance
- * train trip to Amsterdam on free day
- * Lunch & dinner on 11 May
- * items of a personal nature such as beverages

Note: limited single room availability – “first come, first served”

All terms and conditions available at www.foftours.com

For more information contact Merit Travel
TZajkovski@MeritTravel.com or BTrudeauSt.Onge@MeritTravel.com, or
call 866-341-1777 | Trina #6214 or Brianne #6902

Commemoration Cyprus 2024



Commémoration 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](#)

