

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News – 21 May 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 22 Zoom Lunch meeting.
- May 25 Hyack Parade
- May 26 Coast to Coast Toast – See **Canadian Gunner News 30 April 2024**
- May 29 Zoom Lunch meeting - **Meeting will start at 1100hrs.**
VAA AGM on Zoom at 1900hrs
- Jun 05 Zoom Lunch meeting
- Jun 06 Screenings of *Gino - A Child of War*
- Sep 21/22 Canadian Walk for Veterans

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 etransfer 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 etransfer 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.**

Crown and Cannon

The Long and Intimate Relationship Between The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and the Sovereign. *David W Grebstad May 14, 2024*



On 11 May 2024, I had the very great honour to provide the Keynote Address to the Ottawa Branch of the Monarchist League of Canada's King's Birthday Luncheon. I spoke about the close connection between the Monarch and the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. Please find the text of my speech below.

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed members of the Ottawa Branch of the Monarchist League of Canada, distinguished guests, it is with great pleasure and honour that I stand before you today. I

am humbled to address such a distinguished gathering at this annual King's Birthday Luncheon. I am Colonel David Grebstad.

Crown and Cannon



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The Long and Intimate Relationship
between the Royal Regiment of Canadian
Artillery and the Sovereign

Colonel David W. Grebstad, CD
Regimental Colonel, RCA



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The job for which the King pays me my salary is the Director of Army Personnel Management in the Canadian Army Headquarters, however it is in the capacity of my secondary duty that I appear before you today, that is as the Regimental Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. In my capacity as Regimental Colonel, I am entrusted with three primary responsibilities: firstly, to foster connections with Canadians across our great nation; secondly, to nurture the bonds within our Regimental Family and thirdly to celebrate and preserve our esteemed regimental heritage.

One of the most important aspects of that Regimental heritage is the close relationship our Regiment has with the Sovereign. For that reason, the title of my talk with you today is “Crown and Cannon: The Long and Intimate Relationship between the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and the Sovereign.” As we gather here today to celebrate the birth of our Sovereign, it is fitting to reflect upon the enduring bond between the Crown and the cannons of the Royal Regiment, a bond that lies at the heart of our regiment's identity. To begin, allow me to provide a brief overview of who we are as the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery before delving into the rich tapestry of our association with the monarchy.

THE RCA IN BRIEF

The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery is a national institution, our regiment comprises over four thousand Canadian soldiers serving in both the Regular and Reserve Force of the Canadian Army. Spread across twenty-six reserve units, four regular force units, one school, and the RCA band, our presence spans from coast to coast in over thirty Canadian communities. Within our

ranks, we encompass three distinct elements: the field artillery, air defense artillery, and surveillance and target acquisition artillery, each playing a vital role in safeguarding our nation's security.

From the verdant shores of the Atlantic to the rugged terrain of the Rocky Mountains, our gunners stand ready to defend Canada and uphold the values of duty, honor, and sacrifice. They have served in every conflict to which Canada has been called to send troops including South Africa, the great wars of the twentieth century and Afghanistan. They have served their sovereign and their country with honor and courage in every circumstance.

THE RCA AND THE RA

Our regiment's relationship with the Crown is a testament to the enduring ties that bind Canada to its monarchical heritage. Any survey of the regimental heritage of the Royal Canadian Artillery must perforce refer to the Royal Regiment of Artillery because it is from the ranks of that British regiment that so much of what Canadian gunners celebrate as part of our own traditions and heritage have originated. Indeed, rooted in centuries of shared history and tradition, the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery has adopted almost all of the customs and traditions of its British counterpart, forging a bond that transcends national borders. For that reason, to understand the long and intimate connection between the Royal Canadian Artillery and the sovereign, our story must begin with the birth of the Royal Regiment of Artillery centuries ago in England. Artillery has been an integral part of land operations for centuries, even in early medieval times. And while massive cannons were known to be used against fortifications in the first millennium, the first recorded use of cannon in support of land manoeuvre was at the Battle of Crecy in 1346 when the English army of King Edward III defeated French King Philip VI with the help of a few guns and a handful of English gunners.

After Crecy, the artillery became an integral part of the English military establishment. One might wonder why gunners of British and Commonwealth artillery are usually dressed in dark blue uniforms rather than the familiar red jackets of the British Army. The answer lay in the fact that starting in the fifteenth century, the artillery fell under the authority of the Master-General of the Ordnance and later the Board of Ordnance. While Infantry and Cavalry units were authorized to sport the familiar red jackets as part of the British Army, the Board of Ordnance was originally a different department and its members, namely the gunners and engineers, wore blue. Although the artillery and engineer arms have long since come under the authority of the British Army, the tradition of using blue as a defining colour has continued both in Great Britain and in Canada.

Central to our regiment's relationship with the Crown is the venerable position of the Master Gunner St James's Park, an office endowed with historical significance and ceremonial pomp. The appointment of Master Gunner was instituted in 1678 originally as the Master Gunner of Whitehall and St James's Park, responsible for the artillery defence of Whitehall Palace and the Palace of Westminster. Eventually, the position became an honorary one held by a distinguished Royal Artillery officer selected and appointed by the sovereign. The Master Gunner serves as the Royal Regiment of Artillery's liaison to the Sovereign and is considered the senior gunner of the Commonwealth and thus, by extension, they are the Royal Canadian Artillery's interlocuter

with the sovereign. In this capacity the Master Gunner advocates on behalf of the other national artilleries of the Commonwealth and communicates frequently with their respective honorary heads. Today, Lieutenant General Sir Anthony Gregory holds the esteemed position of Master Gunner - St James' Park. Sir Anthony brings to this role a wealth of experience and a distinguished military career spanning decades. A consummate leader and strategist, Sir Anthony embodies the ethos of our regiment and upholds the noble traditions that define us as gunners. And while the Master Gunner may be the honorary head of the Royal Artillery and senior gunner in the commonwealth, that position relative to the Canadian Artillery is found in the appointment of Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Artillery. Presently held by Brigadier General David Patterson, the Colonel Commandant provides strategic direction to the Royal Regiment and represents the Regiment to the Master Gunner and of course the sovereign.

Returning to the story of the Royal Artillery and the Crown, the origins of our association with the monarchy can be traced back to the 18th century. Originally the artillery was manned by civilians who were hired in times of conflict, and then disbanded when the conflict ended. When the War of the Spanish Succession ended in 1714 this standard practice was followed, and the gunners of the artillery train were paid off and returned home. Shortly thereafter, the Jacobite Rebellion erupted in 1715, and the artillery train was once again mobilized. It took so long to hire gunners to man the artillery train, however, the rebellion was over before the it could be formed. To avoid repeating this dire situation, the leaders at the time realized that a permanent artillery branch was required. Consequently, two permanent companies of artillery were created by Royal Warrant issued by King George I on May 26, 1716. Henceforth this date has been celebrated as the birthdate of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and, in keeping with the close relations between the British and Canadian regiments, 26 May has become known as Artillery Day in Canada. Today, Artillery Day serves as a poignant reminder of our regiment's roots in the Royal Artillery and the enduring legacy of service to Crown and country. I must also say as both a proud gunner and monarchist, I see divine intervention in the proximity of Artillery Day and Victoria Day, the date on which the Sovereign's birthday is celebrated in Canada.

Six years after King George I issued his Royal Warrant creating the two companies of artillery, in 1722, King George I bestowed upon the British Artillery the esteemed title of "Royal," marking the regiment's distinguished status within the British military tradition. This royal patronage underscored the gunner's close allegiance to the Crown and served as a testament to the valor and dedication of our gunners. The rapid approval of the use of the title "Royal" is indicative of how important the artillery had become to the British military, and how close the bonds between the regiment and the Crown had become. This was reinforced fifty years later during an interesting dispute in Gibraltar. In 1773 the commander of the artillery in Gibraltar complained that the artillery had been moved from its rightful place at the right of the line. The complaint was taken all the way to King George III who upheld the Gunners' claim to the prestigious position. This was upheld fourteen years later when it was questioned whether the Royal Irish Artillery should parade on the right or left of the Royal Military Artificers who were the next in order of precedence after the Royal Artillery. The answer to this question was: "The Royal Artillery to be on the right, either English or Irish, there is no exception."

It was also during this period that the Sovereign agreed to adopt the Royal Appointment of “Captain General” of the Royal Artillery, bestowing upon the British gunners a tremendous honour. In 1952, the Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Artillery formally requested that this prestigious title be extended to our regiment, a request that was granted. The Royal Appointment of Captain General did not automatically transfer on the passing of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, but last August it was happily announced that His Majesty King Charles III had agreed to continue this worthy tradition for the Royal Artillery. Sadly, we still await confirmation from Rideau Hall that His Majesty will continue the same role with the Royal Canadian Artillery. But we are hopeful he will. Let us turn to the nineteenth century and the young Dominion of Canada, where we find a proud tradition of artillery excellence that stretches back centuries. Born from the pre-Confederation militia, the Royal Canadian Artillery has stood as a bulwark of defense and a beacon of national pride.

Canadian Militia Batteries have existed as long as our country has. Indeed, some are even older. Take for example the 3rd Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery in St John, New Brunswick. It was created as the Loyal Company of Artillery on 4 May 1793 in response to the threat posed by French privateers. Sadly, regulations in the Directorate of History and Heritage essentially sever unit historical timelines at the date of confederation, but fortunately the gunners in St John have been allowed to add the honourific title “The Loyal Company” to the regiment’s official title. Almost a century after the Loyal Company formed, the Canadian Government took a major step forward in asserting its commitment to our national self defence with the creation of the first two permanent elements of what would become the Canadian Army. When the British decided to recall their foreign garrisons in 1871, the young Dominion Government was forced to take steps to replace the garrisons which had manned the fortifications and equipment of Fort Henry in Kingston and the Citadel in Quebec City. Consequently, Militia General Order 24 was issued on 20 October 1871 authorizing the creation of A and B Batteries to man the fortifications in those cities and serve as schools of artillery for the Militia. A and B Batteries still exist as sub-units of the 1st Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in Shilo, Manitoba. In recognition of their service to crown and country, on the 150th anniversary of their creation, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was kind enough to allow members of the Regiment to perform guard duties at various royal locations in London from 4-22 October 2021. Moreover, Her late Majesty bestowed upon A Battery the honourific “the Queen’s Battery.” A Battery is now known officially as A “The Queen’s” Battery, RCHA. Known originally as “Canadian Garrison Artillery”, on 10 August 1883, the “Regiment of Canadian Artillery” was officially created, and ten years later, on 24 May 1893, Queen Victoria was kind enough to bestow upon the Regiment the title “Royal.”

From the creation of the first permanent batteries in Kingston and Quebec in 1871 to our present-day deployments in theaters of conflict around the world, the Royal Canadian Artillery has remained steadfast in its service to Crown and country, and as such the connection between crown and cannon resonates throughout our heritage and traditions. From the recognition of the sovereign as our Captain General, a tradition we hope we will return to in Canada, to the long-established tradition bestowed by the sovereign of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery when on parade with their guns, taking the right of line in army parades, the connection between the regiment and the sovereign is profound. Even today, the Royal Cypher is etched on the howitzers

of the Royal Regiment, bestowing upon each gun recognition as a Regimental Colour deserving of the proper respects when paraded past.

In conclusion, let us reaffirm our allegiance to the Crown and rededicate ourselves to the noble ideals that unite us as monarchists and defenders of tradition. As we celebrate the King's Birthday, let us honor the timeless bond between the Crown and the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, a bond that has endured through the ages and will continue to inspire generations to come.

Explanation of the photos above

1. Her Late Majesty inspecting gunners of the RCA performing guard duties in London in October 2021.
2. 30th Field Regiment, RCA (The Bytown Gunners) from Ottawa firing the coronation salute on Parliament Hill.
3. The Badge of the Royal Artillery and Royal Canadian Artillery.
4. The Cypher Badge used on the camp flag of the units of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery.
5. An example of the sovereign's cypher etched on the barrel of a gun, designating it a regimental colour, to be saluted when paraded past.
6. One of the casings of one of the 96 rounds fired in honor of her late majesty. Gifted to me by the soldiers of 26th Field Regiment, RCA in Brandon Manitoba after they fired the salute on the Legislative Grounds in Winnipeg.
7. Soldiers of the RCA parading in London.
8. Full achievement Badge of the RCA

"Even with the most deeply held differences, treating the other person with respect & as a fellow human-being is always a good first step towards greater understanding."
- Queen Elizabeth.

US Special Operators Set to Pick Light Machine Gun in New Caliber

Todd South Defense News May 8, 2024



Soldiers with 4th Infantry Division fire the M240 machine gun during a training at Fort Carson, Colo, on April 19, 2023.

(Capt Tobias Cukale/US Army)

TAMPA, Fla. — US special operations officials are set to select a new machine gun in the coming months to give shooters .50-caliber-like performance in a lightweight machine gun package, according to the program manager for special operations lethality. Army Lt Col Tosh Lancaster said here Tuesday during

the Special Operations Forces Week conference that Special Operations Command will select its so-called Lightweight Medium Machinegun, or LWMMG, by Oct 1. First announced in 2017,

the project focused on the .338 Norma Magnum to provide shooters with more distance and lethal punch in a weapon that one person could carry and use. The .338 Norma Magnum is a new entry into military operations. The three companies competing for the contract are Ohio Ordnance Works; Sig Sauer; and a True Velocity and Lonestar Future Weapons team. Lancaster previously said the weapon is scheduled for fielding in fiscal 2026.

Sig Sauer in recent years won the Modular Handgun System contract to provide a 9 mm sidearm to all military branches as well as the Army's Next Generation Squad Weapon rifle and automatic rifle contract. Companies delivered three weapons each in February and a total of a dozen each in late April for endurance testing, according to documents.

Basic specifications of the Lightweight Medium Machinegun from the competitors are:

- **Ohio Ordnance Works Recoil Enhanced Automatic Precision Rifle, or REAPR:** a 26.8-pound, 54.5-inch weapon with a rate of fire of 550 rounds to 660 rounds per minute.
- **Sig Sauer's MG 338:** a 24.1-pound, 50-inch weapon with a rate of fire of 600 rounds per minute.
- **True Velocity's Recoil Mitigation 338:** a 25-pound, 49-inch weapon with a rate of fire exceeding 500 rounds per minute.

US troops began noticing range limitations in Afghanistan with their M240 machine guns, chambered in 7.62 mm, that reached about 1,500 meters. The M2 .50-caliber machine gun could reach farther, up to 2,000 meters, but weighs 84 pounds. Weapons and ammunition experts in the Army, Marine Corps and other government groups began evaluating the small arms suite of ammunition and platforms as those reports emerged. One specific effort on the .338 included the Irregular Warfare Technical Support Directorate. In 2021, Army snipers began using the .338 Norma Magnum for the MK22 Precision Sniper Rifle; SOCOM has fielded an advanced sniper rifle that can fire the .338 Norma Magnum, .300 Norma Magnum or 7.62 mm with barrel changes.

Marines Unveils Latest Network, Command-and-Control Effort

Megan Eckstein Marine News May 1, 2024



US Marine Corps Cpl Miguel Hernandez, left, and Lance Cpl Brad Wilson conduct systems and functions checks on an RQ-20B Puma drone at an expeditionary advanced base on San Clemente Island, Calif, on Jan 10, 2024. (Gunnery Sgt Antonio Campbell/US Marine Corps)

The US Marine Corps' technology lead has provided an update on how the service will contribute to the Pentagon's plan to connect all weapons and sensors across the military. The Corps' work on networks and command-and-control systems comes as it prepares for operations involving small units deployed as observers and shooters for a larger coalition force. "It's all about data," Kevin Murray said April 30 during a panel discussion at the Modern Day Marine

conference in Washington, D.C. After all, Marines can't conduct small-unit operations if they lack additional surveillance data from other sources or are unable to pass along targeting data they collect. To that end, Murray said, the Corps is working on both Project Dynamis — the service's contribution to the Pentagon's Combined Joint All-Domain Command and Control initiative, or CJADC2 — and a network unification plan.

US Marines monitor the horizon in search of notional targets by using binoculars and employing a radar system at an expeditionary advanced base on San Clemente Island, Calif., on Jan. 10, 2024.

(Gunnery Sgt Antonio Campbell/US Marine Corps)

During a recent reorganization of its acquisition offices at Marine Corps Systems Command and Program Executive Office Land Systems, the service created a Marine Air-Ground Task Force Command

and Control program office. Previously, ground-based command-and-control systems fell under MCSC, while aviation-related C2 systems fell under PEO LS. Despite the new program office, Murray said the Corps still lacked the ingredients to build and coordinate its contribution to CJADC2. "We're not going to solve CJADC2 for the joint force, but we are going to figure out how we contribute and fit into that," he said of Project Dynamis. Work is ongoing to align with US Indo-Pacific Command's Joint Fires Network, a battle management system; the Navy's secretive Project Overmatch initiative; the Army's experimental series Project Convergence; and the Air and Space forces' DAF Battle Network and Advanced Battle Management System.



US Marine Corps Cpl Ashley Arentz, right, and Lance Cpl Theodore Brooks set up a portable radio communications radio at the helicopter outlying landing facility on Camp Pendleton, Calif., during the 2017 exercise Dawn Blitz. (Lance Cpl Roderick Jacquot/US Marine Corps)

Brig Gen David Walsh, the head of Marine Corps Systems Command, said "the ability to communicate across the Marine Corps, across the joint force, across our coalition of partners — it is the No1 capability I think we need to accelerate." For his part, Brig. Gen. Stephen Lightfoot, the director of the Capabilities Development Directorate that oversees Marine Corps requirements, said that as much as the service enjoys its self-sufficient Marine Air-Ground Task Force, "we are probably never going to go into any battle in the future as the Marine Corps; we're going to go into it as the United States with our allies and partners." "And that's how we're going to have to fight, which just shows the criticality of CJADC2," he added. "If our systems don't work together, then we'll have to be partitioned. They have to work together so that we can work together." Even as the Corps considers how data will flow between joint and combined C2 systems, it's also worried about how data flows inside its own web of networks.

Murray said all the services have various network modernization plans underway, noting Marines are focused on ensuring the Marine Corps Enterprise Network can extend all the way to the tactical edge. Cloud computing and processing power has evolved such that Marines in the field can pose significant data processing power in a very small form factor. But they could have even more processing power for even greater data-informed operations if they were connected to the Corps' larger network. However, the fleets worry that setup will diminish their effectiveness if they lose connectivity. Murray said the goal for network unification is to allow for any Marine on the ground in Luzon, Philippines, for example, to "connect all the way back into the big-data clouds, but if he gets cut off he can still operate tactically with his [Ultra Light Tactical Vehicle] and the amount of storage and capability he's got right there, continue to work off the data he has locally available to him. And then when they reconnect back into [the cloud], when it becomes more permissive, then the opportunity to re-synchronize with the greater architecture is all about what we're trying to do for the network unification." Murray said the plan also comes with cybersecurity benefits. "Our legacy network architecture was not really defensible. It was all over the place; some of it was tactical networks that didn't have a cyber defense plan," he noted. "This unification really helps us to streamline the network, visualize it and then defend it."

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

Vancouver Artillery Association AGM- The Vancouver Artillery Association Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 29 May 2024 at 1900 hrs. It will be held via Zoom and the Zoom coordinates will be emailed separately to all registered members.

Only 1 Week away! 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 10 vehicle allowance (50 person max) with the booking (additional fees for extra vehicles and day guests

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2024.html>

Hyack Parade and Festival - Watch for the Field Artillery Tractor and 25 Pounder in the annual parade in New Westminster. The Regiment will also have an entry in the parade although we haven't been able to get any details.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/hyack-parade-25-may-2024>

Museum Meeting - Members of the 5th Field Museum travelled to Vancouver for a meeting with 15th Field Museum. Unfortunately, no one brought a camera and they all forgot to use their phones. If there are no photos on social media, does that mean the event never happened?

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/museum-meeting>

Fort Macauley Day - Will you be in Victoria on 25 May? Check out the Fort Macauley Day event. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/victoria-bc-25-may-2024>

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 - Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies. Click on this link:-

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72758359360?pwd=XE0y7bIBCNvTYsIFcFlZ6g1e1pfzMP.1>

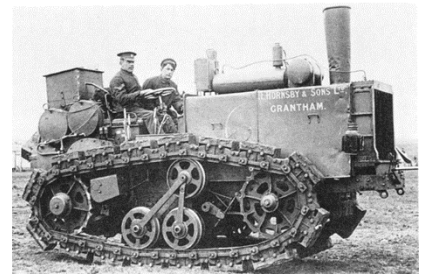
or use Meeting ID: 727 5835 9360 Passcode: pFPey6

Host will be at Amoury and will attempt to open the meeting at noon using the new wifi access. If I have problems and can't start by 1215 I will shut down.

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: Hornsby Chain Tracked Tractor (1907)



Hornsby is credited with producing and selling the first oil-engine tractor (similar to modern-day tractors) in Britain. The **Hornsby-Akroyd Patent Safety Oil Traction Engine**, which had typical tractor wheels, was made in 1896 with a 20 hp engine. In 1897, the tractor won a Silver Medal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. That tractor would later be returned to the factory and fitted with a *chain-track*.

In 1903 the military held a competition with £1000 first prize for a tractor that must weigh under 13 tons ready for the road, could haul 25 tons for 40 miles at 3 mph average speed including gradients of 1 in 18, and should be capable of 8 mph with half load and be able to climb 1 in 6 slopes towing that half load. Other conditions included winch capability of 15 tons, and ability to cross 2 feet of water. The results of the trial were reported in The Automotor Journal When the trials were held only one vehicle attended, the Hornsby Heavy Oil Tractor. Not only did it win the £1000 prize for meeting the criteria laid down, but it received a bonus of £180 for completing 58 miles towing its 25-ton load before requiring fuel or water. Unlike the earlier single cylinder tractor made by Hornsby, this was a twin cylinder, with the cylinders at an angle to each other in a vertical plane and sharing a common crankshaft. The engine ran at 350 rpm and had a governor which operated by cutting the fuel supply in a hit and miss method, though the driver could override the governor for "spurts". The cylinders were each 13 inch diameter and 18 inch stroke. Starting was by compressed air after pre-heating the vaporisers with Bunsen torches. Sliding spur gears offered forward speeds of 1.5, 3, 5 and 8 mph, and a reverse.

In July 1907, an improved chain track was demonstrated at the British Army's HQ at Aldershot. Roberts explained that he had plans for a trailer, also fitted with a chain track, on which a gun could be mounted. Roberts completed his tracked trailer and demonstrated it to the Royal Artillery in November of the same year. Holt Company photographer Charles Clements was

reported to have observed that the tractor crawled like a caterpillar and Holt seized on the metaphor. "Caterpillar it is. That's the name for it! There was a further demonstration at Aldershot in 1908, at which King Edward VII was present. The tractor and trailer with dummy gun in place are considered to have performed impressively, crossing various types of obstacles and ground, and the demonstration became national news. A horse team that became bogged down was easily hauled out of the mud by Roberts's machine. The Mechanical Transport Committee was amongst those that considered the system to have great potential.

A third machine was tested at Aldershot in May 1910, and towed a 60-pounder gun and its ammunition over rough ground. It was here that Major W. E. Donohue of the Mechanical Transport Committee suggested to Roberts that a single tractor unit might be fitted with a gun and bulletproof shields, thus creating some sort of self-propelled gun. Roberts did not pursue the idea, and later expressed regret at not having done so. The Mechanical Transport Committee remained convinced of the tractor's possibilities, provided it was used in careful conjunction with horse teams. However, the Royal Artillery disagreed. The Director of Artillery, Brigadier General Stanley Brenton von Donop, emphasized the tractor's shortcomings and was unenthusiastic. By 1911, the prospects for Hornsby's machine were fading. The War Office was uninterested and refused the Mechanical Transport Committee permission to buy a Holt Tractor for evaluation, and Von Donop's opinion was the same. Roberts had spent five years on the project, barely covering his development costs with the fees received from the Army, and had secured no orders, either military or civilian. Benjamin Holt of the Holt Manufacturing Company in America registered "Caterpillar" as a trademark on August 2, 1910.^[5] Hornsby sold his patents to Holt for £4,000 in 1911. Holt later merged with C L Best and became the Caterpillar Tractor Company.

When the First World War broke out, Britain had to purchase caterpillar tractors from Holt to tow the Army's heavy guns, and the designers of the tank had to start from scratch, basing their ideas on imported American machines. Hornsby's chain-track played no direct part in the development of the tank, although Lt Col. R E B Crompton, who later had an important role in its creation, had been present at some of the early trials and was influenced to some extent by the Hornsby. In the event, the first British tanks had no sprung suspension, and the track plates were an improved version of those of another American vehicle, the Bullock tractor. Central to British tank development was William Foster & Co., agricultural machinery manufacturers, based at Lincoln, only about 25 miles from Hornsby's.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Hornsby_%26_Sons

This Week: Flying boats, as opposed to float planes, are rarely seen in local skies, although in the not too distant past aircraft such as the Grumman Goose, the Canso/Catalina, and even the mighty Martin Mars could be seen in our wild blue yonder. Some of you might even remember the Supermarine Stranraer that was long moored on the Fraser River, just south of the main aerodrome. Thankfully, it was rescued and is now preserved at the Royal Air Force Museum in London, UK.

Even the navy used flying boats, chucking them off the side of cruisers and battleships in a manner that ensured they usually got airborne. Originally, they were used for gunnery spotting, then antisubmarine tasks, and finally, for air-sea rescue. This was the case regardless of the nation involved. One of the most famous types of these ship-launched craft was the Supermarine Walrus, of which the Royal Navy and Royal Australian Navy had many. In fact, the latter actually used the boat as a fighter-bomber in Somaliland, not something it was designed for. Although the Walrus is possibly the most famous of these smaller flying boats, other nations used similar types. In fact, flying boats continue to be built and operated by nations such as Russia, China, and Japan, with Canada rejoining the club with a re-started Canadair CL-415, now called the DHC-515 Firefighter, a much-needed tool in the forest fire kit.



This week's photo is of a flying boat that seems to resemble the Walrus in both design and age but is missing a wing. Your task is two-fold: identify the type and tell us which regime operated the ones in the photo. If you are a smarty-pants, contact the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitary'

The local bakery burned down last night. Now the business is toast.

Murphy's Other Laws

The things that come to those that wait may be the things left by those who got there first.

Quotable Quotes

What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make. - *Jane Goodall*

Coast to Coast Toast – May 26, 2024



Register now!

Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant !

The RCA Association is pleased to invite you to register for our next Web event to be held on **26 May 2024 at 5pm ET.**

L'Association de l'ARC a le plaisir de vous inviter à vous inscrire à notre prochain événement Web qui se tiendra le **26 mai 2024 à 17h ET.**

The Coast to Coast Toast for Artillery Day

Le Toast d'un océan à l'autre pour la Journée de l'artillerie

We will be joined by:

Nous serons accompagnés par

- **Gunners across Canada**
- **Senior members of the Artillery family**

- **Artilleurs à travers le Canada**
- **Membres dirigeants de la famille de l'Artillerie**

Come toast The Royal Regiment with us!

Venez porter un toast au Régiment royal avec nous !

► **Stay with us after the main event for some time to reconnect with old friends.**

► **Restez avec nous après l'événement principal pour reprendre contact avec de vieux amis.**

Editorial

Lots of activity in the Royal Regiment these days, as evidenced by the many posts and images I found on SM. There have been a number of Open Houses across the country and I was happy to attend the one in Vancouver, as a member of the RCA Association.

You'll want to read the quarterly Unit SitRep for a comprehensive view of what our serving members have been up to. The Colonel's SitRep should be released early in May and will likely contain more information on senior appointments for our Regiment.

The Govt of Canada has released *Our North, Strong and Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada's Defence*. Read the full document linked in the Defense and Security News section, as well as the CDA Institute's statement on the Defence Policy.

L'Édito

Le Régiment royal est très actif ces jours-ci, comme en témoignent les nombreux messages et images que j'ai trouvés sur les médias sociaux. Il y a eu un certain nombre de journées portes ouvertes dans tout le pays et j'ai été heureuse d'assister à celle de Vancouver, en tant que membre de l'Association de l'ARC.

Vous voudrez bien lire le RapSit trimestriel de l'unité pour avoir une vue d'ensemble de ce que nos membres en service ont fait. Le RapSit des colonels devrait être publié au début du mois de mai et contiendra probablement plus d'information sur les nominations à des postes supérieurs au sein de notre régiment.

Le gouvernement du Canada a publié *Notre Nord, fort et libre : Une vision renouvelée de la défense du Canada*. Lisez le document complet dans la section Nouvelles sur

There are a number of reunions and get-togethers happening in coming weeks. The Atlantic Gunners are still taking registrations for their Reunion (May 24-26), the Kingston Gunners are holding a breakfast on Artillery Day and you'll want to join us for the [Coast to Coast Toast that same day, at 1700 ET.](#)

The registration date for OP TAKE POST 2025 - 80th Anniversary Liberation of Holland Commemorative Battlefield Tour has been extended. See all the details in the Associations News below.

If you haven't read it yet, *With a Few Guns* is available in several formats, including e-book, audiobook and regular paperback. The French translation is underway and the scheduled release for *Avec quelques canons* is 4 Dec 2024. Work on Volume 2 is progressing but the authors would so much appreciate receiving more stories and photos from those who served in Afghanistan starting 2009. [Details here.](#)

Till next month, stay healthy and stay connected!

Catherine Gagnon
Editor - Canadian Gunner News

la défense et la sécurité, ainsi que la déclaration de l'Institut de la CAD sur la politique de défense. (en anglais seulement)

Un certain nombre de réunions et de rencontres auront lieu dans les semaines à venir. Les Atlantic Gunners prennent encore des inscriptions pour leur réunion (24-26 mai), les Kingston Gunners organisent un petit déjeuner le jour de l'artillerie et vous voudrez vous joindre à nous pour [le Toast d'un océan à l'autre ce même jour, à 17 heures \(heure de l'Est\).](#)

La date d'inscription à la visite des champs de bataille commémorative de l'OP TAKE POST 2025 - 80e anniversaire de la libération de la Hollande a été prolongée. Vous trouverez tous les détails dans les Nouvelles des associations ci-dessous.

Si vous ne l'avez pas encore lu, *With a Few Guns* est disponible en plusieurs formats, notamment en e-book, en audiobook et en livre de poche classique. La traduction française est en cours et la sortie d'*Avec quelques canons* volume 1 est prévue pour le 4 décembre 2024. Le travail sur le volume 2 (en anglais) progresse, mais les auteurs apprécieraient beaucoup de recevoir davantage de récits et de photos de ceux qui ont servi en Afghanistan à partir de 2009. [Pour plus de détails, cliquez ici.](#)

Jusqu'au mois prochain, restez en bonne santé et restez connectés !

Catherine Gagnon
Rédactrice en chef

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:-

(this link will take you **straight to the waiting room** – no password needed)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72758359360?pwd=XE0y7bIBCNvTYsIFcFIZ6g1e1pfzMP.1>

or use Meeting ID 727 5835 9360 **and the secret passcode is pFPey6**

Bring your own lunch and beverage of choice.

Apparently, there is now a wifi connection at the Armoury. I will be at the Armoury on Wednesday for Hyack parade preparations, and I will try to start the meeting from there. If you try to join and can't connect it means my attempt failed so see you next week.

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 Italian Contemporary Film Festival VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA

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 bond 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

[i]ff 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

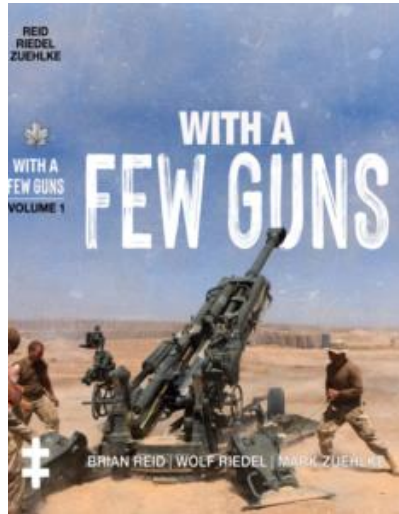


For Tickets scan the QR code or call Karen (403) 478-0435

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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, 1945



- 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



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](#)

