



# Vancouver Artillery Association News

'The Vancouver Gunners'  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC  
V6J 2C7 [www.vancouvergunners.ca](http://www.vancouvergunners.ca)



# RUSI News

Vancouver  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7  
[www.rusivancouver.ca](http://www.rusivancouver.ca)

## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News – 7 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](mailto: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](http://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

### 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour

- May 08 Zoom Lunch meeting
- Jun 06 Screenings of *Gino - A Child of War*
- Sep 21/22 Canadian Walk for Veterans

## Canadian Gunner News / Les Nouvelles des artilleurs canadiens 30 April 2024 / 30 avril 2024

Click here to [\(Open in your browser\)](#)  
[\(Ouvrir dans votre navigateur\)](#)



## **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](mailto: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.**



## Wednesday Lunch – May 1

The May 1 lunch was another success. Numbers were down slightly but there was still a good crowd, and all enjoyed the meal. After eating members adjourned to the lecture room to view a documentary called *Finding Fred Lee*, produced by Jack Gin, detailing Jack's search for information on a Chinese Canadian WW1 soldier named Fred Lee. A question and answer session followed. All present found the documentary very interesting.



Some of the key attendees at the lunch. L-R:- HLV\Col Don Foster, Bob Mugford, the speaker/presenter Jack Gin, President RUSI Vancouver Kieth Maxwell, Al Woo, Ted Hawthorne.



All the happy diners enjoying a great meal. *Photos from Don Foster collection*

# **Russians Suffer Heavy Casualties in Ukraine Rocket Attack**

David Axe *Forbes Business Aerospace & Defense* May 2, 2024



*An ATACMS rocket. Lockheed Martin Photo*

Kuban, a settlement in Luhansk Oblast in eastern Ukraine, is 60 miles from the front line of Russia's 27-month wider war on Ukraine. Normally well beyond the range of most of Ukraine's anti-personnel weapons, it had been fairly safe for its Russian occupiers. This helps to explain why, on or just before Wednesday, potentially hundreds of Russian troops gathered out in the open in a field near Kuban—apparently for training. The problem, for the Russians, is the Army Tactical Missile System: an American-made precision-guided missile that, depending on the model, ranges as far as 190 miles and scatters at least hundreds—at most, nearly a thousand—grenade-size submunitions.

As the Russians milled about in broad daylight on that field outside Kuban, and a Ukrainian drone observed from high overhead, four of the two-ton ATACMS streaked down. One failed to explode. The other three popped open and scattered their lethal submunitions. Each rocket turned an area as wide as 2.5 acres into a nearly inescapable kill zone. One of the ATACMS burst directly overhead a crowd of approximately 116 unprotected Russians. *All* of the Russians may have died in the rain of submunitions, according to the Institute for the Study of War in Washington, DC. The Wednesday strike may have been one of the bloodiest of the wider war. And it's indicative of poor planning on the part of Russian commanders. They must have known such a strike had recently become possible—or even likely. Acquiring ATACMS from the United States, and then aiming them at the Russian army's vulnerable rear area, has been one of Ukraine's top military priorities in recent months. The United States has belatedly obliged repeated Ukrainian requests for the powerful rockets. Shortly before the US Congress finally overcame resistance from a small number of Russia-friendly Republican lawmakers and approved \$61 billion in fresh US aid to Ukraine late last month, the administration of President Joe Biden squeezed \$300 million in savings from a previously approved weapons contract the administration had brokered on Ukraine's behalf.

The White House spent much of that \$300 million on an emergency shipment of ATACMS. The total number of rockets exceeded a hundred, according to *The New York Times*. And when the White House rushed another \$1 billion in weapons to Ukraine the day after Congress finally approved fresh funding, the shipment may have included additional ATACMS. US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin told lawmakers last week the Pentagon would donate to Ukraine "as many [ATACMS] as we can." There are thousands of the rockets in the US arsenal. Many are expiring soon as their rocket fuel degrades, possibly motivating the Americans to give them away *fast*. The Russians knew ATACMS were coming. And they had ample warning that the Ukrainians would fire them at the most vulnerable concentrations of Russian forces—including training



grounds. After all, Ukrainian crews firing shorter-range rockets targeted large groups of Russian trainees at least three times during one horrific week in February, reportedly killing more than a hundred people.

## **Why ‘Military Grade’ is Just Another Way of Saying ‘Cheaply Made Junk’**

I do not think it means what you think it means. *Jeff Schogol Task & Purpose May 4, 2022*



*The US Army's Universal Camouflage pattern was one of the least functional uniforms ever issued to US troops. (Pfc David Hawk/US Army).*

When advertisers describe their products as “military grade,” they may not realize that troops and veterans have a vastly different understanding of the military industrial complex than consumers who look at MOLLE, picatinny rails, and abundant camouflage like taticool accessories rather than products that serve a specific purpose. And sometimes, they don’t even do that right. To wit: Your average American may think that a product that is “military grade” must be tough or efficient. Whereas troops and veterans assume that the military often awards contracts to the lowest bidder. For those who have been issued gear only to see it fall apart after the gentlest of wear and tear, something that is “military grade” is “a piece of shit.” Just ask any veteran who has fought in Iraq and Afghanistan how well the earplugs they were provided worked. The military also has a track record of buying absurdly useless camouflage uniforms, including the Army’s “Universal Camouflage Pattern,” which made soldiers actually stand out from the terrain, and the Navy’s blue Type I Navy Working Uniform, which sailors dubbed the “blueberries” and “aquaflage.”

Thus, when Ford boasts that its F-150 truck is “battle tested” because it is made from a “military grade” aluminum body, that may sound cool to someone who has never had to drive or repair an actual military vehicle. Ford describes the metal used to make F-150s as “high-strength, military grade aluminum alloy” because the trucks are made from the same aluminum alloy used to build Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Humvees, said Michael Levine, director of North American product communications for Ford Motor Company. That may not be a great selling point for anyone who has seen the movie “The Pentagon Wars,” based on the book by retired Air Force Col. James Gordon Burton, who fought with defense officials to reveal how the Bradley’s original aluminum armor would melt if hit by Soviet anti-tank rounds. The vehicles have since been redesigned.

Humvees also proved to be extremely vulnerable to explosions from underneath, which made them particularly perilous during the early days of the Global War on Terror when improvised explosive devices began seeing heavy use in Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, a 1994 report distributed throughout both the Army and Marine Corps determined that the Humvee “remained a deathtrap in the event of an anti-tank mine detonation,” even if it were fitted with extra armor. When Task & Purpose asked Ford if it still believed that stressing that F-150s are made out of the

same aluminum as Bradleys and Humvees is a selling point, Levine replied: “We’re proud of every Ford F-Series Truck we make, including the materials that make them Built Ford Tough. We’ve used high-strength, military-grade, aluminum alloy since 2014 and F-Series continues to be America’s best-selling truck for 45 years and best-selling vehicle for 40 years.” Nonetheless, troops and veterans know all too well that “military grade” does not mean “reliable” or “well designed.” “I doubt anybody would want to buy a truck that is overly complicated like a lot of modern military vehicles are because maintenance costs would be absolutely through the roof in that case,” said Marine veteran Dan Grazier.

*The infamous Type I  
Navy Working Uniform made sure  
that if sailors fell overboard,  
they would blend in with the water.  
(Specialist 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Jessica Pounds/US Navy)*



When veterans scoff at advertisements that use the term “military grade,” they typically think about some of the personal equipment that they had to haul when they were on active duty, said Grazier, who now works with the Project on Government Oversight. Grazier said he remembers how he was issued not one but three sleeping bags while he was in the Corps, but the first time he tried using them in the field, he shivered his ass off for the entire night. As he lay awake, Grazier thought about how his personal sleeping bag that he used on camping trips would have kept him warm and it weighed less than half as much as the three sleeping bags that he had lugged for 12 miles. “‘Military grade’ to a veteran is an understanding that this object made the minimum standards for ruggedness, based on the military’s standards, and it was made by the lowest bidder,” Grazier told Task & Purpose. “What you knew about it was that: Yeah, it worked, but there were much better products out there.” There is certainly a good deal of truth to that. Until 1984, the Defense Department awarded most contracts to companies that submitted the lowest bid. Then the Competition in Contracting Act allowed the military to take a “best value” tradeoff approach that allows the Defense Department to accept a higher bid to get better quality products.

While many Defense Department contracts are now awarded on the basis of both quality and cost, the military continues to use the “lowest price technically acceptable” process to buy products that are not complex. Yet contracting reforms have not stopped the Pentagon from defecating the proverbial bed on several big-ticket items, including the Littoral Combat Ships – which may go down as the most expensive artificial reefs in history – and the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, a plane that could ultimately cost American taxpayers \$1.7 trillion. Hey, for that much money, the F-35 must be the most technologically awesome piece of machinery that humanity has ever produced, right? *Oh, wait.* Given the civil-military divide, it is likely that advertisers will continue to

glowingly describe their products as “military grade,” while service members and veterans continue to chuckle at one of the greatest inside jokes of all time.

## **New Tech Aims to Make Marines More Lethal Shooters**

*Todd South Marine Times May 1, 2024*



*Marines prop their rifles on shooting barricades during an annual rifle qualification course. (Lance Cpl Noah Braswell/Marine Corps)*

WASHINGTON — Marines might soon see some new, high-tech tools to help them become more lethal shooters. Top leaders in weapons training and marksmanship shared a series of technologies that the service is experimenting with that would give Marines more accurate and realistic ways to practice shooting while also instantly gathering data on how they’re performing and how to improve. Col. Howard Hall, chief of staff for training and education command, said that a 2018 Operational Analysis Directorate study showed that Marines in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan only had a 30% chance of making a lethal hit on a target if the target or Marine was moving if there were multiple targets or if the target was at an unknown distance.

Hall told the audience at the Modern Day Marine Expo that study helped drive changes to the annual rifle qualification in 2021 — the first major overhaul in a century. The changes included switching the order of fire from starting at the 100-yard line and moving back to the 500-yard line to the reverse, starting farther out and moving closer in, as a Marine would do in combat. The qualification also added shorter range, quick drill fires at 25 yards, added moving targets and the use of barricades, among other changes. The new tech that Marines are experimenting with aims to tighten those shot groups and speed up Marine shooting to make it more lethal. Much of that is coming in the form of making more training options off the range in weapons drills and simulators. Other efforts include more accurate data collection and real-time feedback for shooters to adjust their technique. The package of tools includes the Mantis X10 and Unit 4 equipment that can be inserted into an M4 or M27 and allow users to practice dry fire, use a laser and feel recoil without using live rounds. These provide corrections to shooting techniques the Marines never got from the “snap-in” barrel. A snap-in barrel is a barrel, typically an empty 55-gallon oil drum or similar sized item that is painted white and then painted with small versions of the target shapes used on the rifle range. Those smaller shapes simulate the size of the target like what a shooter would see on the range but at a shorter distance. Marines then dry fire their rifles on those targets, practicing breath and trigger control. “This is a digital snap-in barrel, and it provides you feedback,” said Col. Greg Jones, commander of weapons training battalion. The Mantis system is being experimented with the Marine Corps recruit depot shooting ranges at Parris Island, South Carolina, and Edson Range, Camp Pendleton, California.



The joint marksmanship assessment package uses either a smartphone or tablet, with software application, an acoustics measuring device and smartwatch to monitor movement. It measures shooting in the short-range portion of the annual rifle qualification that goes from the 25 yards in. The joint marksmanship assessment package can gather up to a company's worth of data in under four hours and develop plans to improve marksmanship based off the results. The Corps is currently looking at a radar-based system that also would measure shooting from the 500-yard to 100-yard line for the rifle qualification. If both are adopted, it would fully digitize rifle qualification. In November 2023, the Corps awarded an \$11.3 million contract for the advanced small arms lethality trainer to Valiant Integrated Services. The simulation system adds more scenarios and capabilities to the long-running indoor simulated marksmanship trainer. The advanced small arms lethality trainer will be fielded to all major installations such as Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; Camp Pendleton, California; Quantico, Virginia and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California.

## **Canada Hosts NATO to Discuss Reserve Force Capabilities**

*Captain Jonathan Link, Chief of Reserves Defence Stories April 30, 2024*



Over 30 international NATO National Reserve Forces Committee (NRFC) Staff Officers met in Toronto in March 2024 to discuss best practices regarding their Reserve Forces. This meeting was the first with representation from Sweden as NATO's newest member. In addition to NATO members, Canada welcomed staff officers from a number of close international partners from

Europe and the Indo-Pacific. Colonel Kim Pedersen from Denmark, NRFC Secretary General, stressed "the Committee is an important forum for knowledge sharing between member states and partner nations – ways to implement best practices on Reserve matters are presented and discussed, including how to enable full-time capability though part-time service." "In the past decade, the significance of reservists within national armed forces has increased," Colonel Pedersen, a reservist himself, noted. "With reservists comprising a significant portion of national forces in some NATO countries, it is helpful to discuss the diverse national approaches to both generating and employing Reserve Forces". "In the past decade, the significance of reservists within national armed forces has increased," Colonel Kim Pedersen, a reservist himself, noted. "With reservists comprising a significant portion of national forces in some NATO countries, it is helpful to discuss the diverse national approaches to both generating and employing Reserve Forces".

Adding capacity to the Regular Forces through individual augmentation from the Reserve Forces has been the priority in Canada and most other NATO countries. While this focus has not gone away, adding capabilities is now recognized as one means to address certain skills shortages created by civilian workforce demands (and salaries). Hiring Reservists with these expert skills not only maintains these militaries capabilities, it keeps them current as they upgrade their skills



in their civilian occupation. “[Reservists] bring invaluable expertise in areas such as drones, information technology, cyber, logistics, human resources, finance, and medical,” said Colonel Pedersen, “... and given the salaries these trades can command in the civilian world, offering part-time service in these fields maybe the only way to enroll these folks”.

Canadian Commander David Mercer presented A New Vision for the Reserve Force for Canada. “This is what [Canada’s] New Vision document addresses; we are building full-time capability through part-time service,” said Canadian Brigadier General Shawn Bindon, Director General Reserve Force Strategic Initiatives, “It’s a plan to project and employ the Reserve Force to support Force Posture and Readiness. It’s also a plan to address what the individual modern reservist needs and make sure we are offering it.” “Some of the member states can recruit a significant percentage of the population and provide the initial military training,” said Colonel Pedersen, “... but there is a general lack of manpower for the military in most nations so any inspiration on how to attract and retain soldiers is highly relevant.” Given the current situation on some of NATO’s borders, the next question is: How fast can any nation build and mobilize their Reserves in an emergency? How NATO nations address these matters was the subject of several of the presentations at the NFRC meeting.

## **Canadian Walk for Veterans - September 2024**

Canadian Walk for Veterans through One Veteran Society and True Patriot Love, Canada’s Foundation for the military community is proud to announce a strategic merger aimed at enhancing support for Canada’s military, Veteran, first responder communities and their families. Effective immediately, True Patriot Love will become the lead organizer of the Canadian Walk for Veterans, working in collaboration with the team formerly known as One Veteran Society. This new home for the Walk will enable better support for team leads, walkers and donors as we continue to grow the event across Canada. We are thrilled to continue to support this incredible event and to honour the history, traditions, and success of the Canadian Walk for Veterans, both in 2024 and long into the future. True Patriot Love Foundation is Canada’s leading charity dedicated to supporting military members, Veterans, and their families and working closely with sector partners to support the evolving needs of servicemembers in Regular Force, on Reserve, and in transitioning to civilian life and as Veterans.

True Patriot Love recognizes the invaluable contributions made by our service members and Veterans and is committed to ensuring that they receive the support they need as they transition to civilian life and beyond. With a focus on enhancing rehabilitation and recovery journeys, True Patriot Love harnesses the power of sport, expeditions, alternative therapies, and global initiatives like the Invictus Games – of which True Patriot Love is the main funder of Team Canada. True Patriot Love has granted \$41 million for Veterans and their families, reaching more than 40,000 beneficiaries, and supported over 1,000 community-based programs across the country. Through this partnership, True Patriot Love and the Canadian Walk for Veterans will combine their resources and expertise to expand their reach and impact and we cannot wait to have you join us! The 2024 Canadian Walk for Veterans will take place September 21 and 22, 2024.

# **Vancouver Gunners Website Update**

## **Yorke Island Spring Cleanup**

The 85Vics conducted their annual Yorke Island spring cleanup. Their volunteer work is really appreciated and does wonders in keeping Yorke Island going. The flag has a bit of a story this time around. Seems the President Vancouver Gunners forgot to lower the flag the last time he was on the island in August 2023. It's stood up to the winter weather quite nicely.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/yorke-island-may-2024.html>

## **Warrant Officer Class II George Chow**

Warrant Officer Class II George Chow was remembered by Veterans Affairs with a commemorative banner hung at Vimy Ridge.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/warrant-officer-class-ii-george-chow>

## **Brigade Command Team Visit**

On 1 May 2024, the Brigade Command Team paid a visit and shared insight with the members of the Regiment on future plans. The Commander presented Warrant Officer Melissa Sumpton with a Commander's Commendation for her exceptional work during last year's Op LENTUS! Congratulations Warrant Sumpton.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/command-team-visit-may-2024>

## **15th (Vancouver) Coast Brigade - 1940**

Some new, old photos from the Second World War. These were from the Sergeant Frederick Gordon Trounce collection. He appears to have originally been a Rocky Mountain Ranger before joining the 15th (Vancouver) Coast Brigade and serving at Point Grey. Check out all the photos on this page and let me know if I've got the story correct.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/point-grey-trounce.html>

## **15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Open House**

Additional photos have been added! <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/open-house-2024.html>

## **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>

## **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](mailto: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

## Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

*Jackie the baboon shaking  
hands with a young fan.*

*Daily Mail*



## Who (or What) Is It?

**Last Week:** This was Jackie, a Chacma baboon who served in the 3<sup>rd</sup> South African Infantry Regiment during World War I. Jackie the baboon, started out as a pet to a man named Albert Marr. Marr found Jackie wandering around his farm and decided to take him in and train him as a member of the family. As one does. Jackie lived with Marr for several years, learning how to be a respectable young baboon. Then, in 1915, Marr was enlisted to join the war. Unwilling to leave Jackie behind, he asked his superiors if Jackie, too, could join the army. Much to everyone's surprise, they said yes. Once he was enlisted, he was treated just like all the other soldiers. He was given a uniform, complete with buttons and regimental badges, a cap, a pay book, and his own set of rations. He even acted like all the other soldiers. When he saw a superior officer pass by, he would stand and salute them correctly. He would also light cigarettes for his fellow soldiers and stand sentry, a job he excelled at due to his heightened sense of smell and hearing.

Because of his dedication to the army, he became the official mascot of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Transvaal Regiment and was taken everywhere with the soldiers. He spent time in the trenches in France and was even wounded by enemy fire. During an explosive shootout in one of the trenches, Jackie was seen building a wall of stones around himself for protection. While he was preoccupied, a piece of shrapnel flew over his wall and hit his right leg. The regiment's doctors took Jackie via stretcher to the camp's hospital and tried to save his leg, but unfortunately, it had to be amputated. Due to being knocked out with chloroform, and the unknown effects of chloroform on baboons, the doctors were not confident that he would recover. However, within a few days, Jackie had done just that.

For his bravery, Jackie was awarded a medal for valor, as well as promoted from private to corporal. Eventually, near the end of the war, Jackie was discharged at the Maitland Dispersal Camp in Cape Town. He left with his discharge papers, a military pension, and a civil employment form for discharged soldiers. Like a true friend, Jackie returned to the Marr family farm, giving up his life of service for a life of leisure as a pet, until his death in 1921. To this



day, Jackie the baboon is the only baboon to have achieved the rank of Corporal in the South African Infantry, as well as the only baboon to fight in World War I.

**This Week:** Our quest for gunners who became famous in later life continues. We are sorry to hear that Jackie the Baboon, last week's star, did not serve in the artillery, as his maths scores were not up to scratch. However, he was very good at scratching, both for his own fleas, and the faces of those he didn't like. Fortunately, the latter were mostly evil Huns.



This week's "Gunner Who Gained Fame" was never noted for his fleas. In fact, as far as we can tell from his biography, that was never an issue for him or for his family. He was, however, noted for his duty and service whilst serving as an artillery officer, ending his career with an MiD, and seeing action with the Special Operations Executive, something about which he seldom spoke, but did write about in a semi-autobiographical book, published shortly after the war.

Post-service, he was noted for his skill in both theory and application of his new career. In fact, he often called upon his inner-arty officer to excel in that which he then chose to do. Giving any concrete examples would be telling you too much, as you would instantly determine his calling, and hence his identity. So, forgive the lack of opaqueness.

That said, you should have little difficulty in identifying this interesting gunner, as he didn't change much through his life. If so, send your ideas to the equally talented editor, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com)), or the less well-known, vastly-changed author, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)).

### **From the 'Punitary'**

Did you hear about the elephant who went to the beach? He wanted to see something new in trunks.

### **Murphy's Other Laws**

Density of fire increases proportionally to the curiousness of the target.

### **Quotable Quotes**

There's a difference between a philosophy and a bumper sticker. *Charles M Schulz*

# Screenings of Gino - A Child of War

ILCENTRO

ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

IS PROUD TO PRESENT



TICKETS  
\$16  
MATINEE

**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

[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**



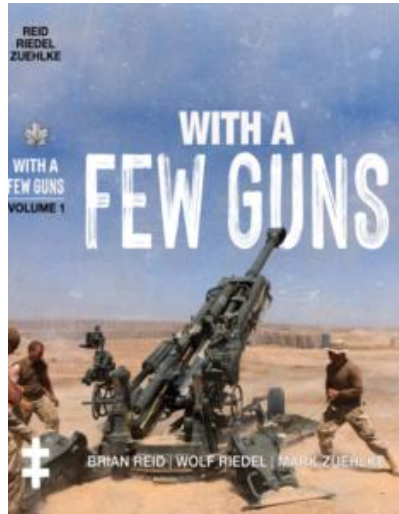
**For Tickets scan the QR code or call Karen (403) 478-0435**

**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](mailto: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>

# 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour



## **OP TAKE POST To Gunners and friends**



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

## **80<sup>th</sup> 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 in the 'Victory' town of 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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 50<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

