



ERROL MCGIHON / POSTMEDIA NEWS

Construction site of the new Memorial to the Victims of Communism on Wellington Street in Ottawa.

Construction begins on rejigged memorial

Tribute to victims of Communism

BLAIR CRAWFORD

OTTAWA • Work has quietly begun on Canada's Memorial to the Victims of Communism, more than 12 years after the concept was first presented to Parliament — and after public outcry forced the project to be scaled down and moved out of its plum spot adjacent to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Workers began preparing the foundation for the memorial last month in Ottawa, on a corner of the Garden of the Provinces on Commissioner Street, off Wellington Street and kitty corner to Library and Archives Canada. Work is now suspended for the winter, but will begin again in spring with a planned completion in the summer.

It's been a long road for Tribute to Liberty, the charity backing the project, but its chairman, Ludwik Klimkowski says he couldn't be prouder.

"I'm profoundly moved. It's a reflection of the diversity of Canada that we're always talking about," Klimkowski said. "You have Viet-

namese Canadians, Koreans, Tibetans, Chinese ... all building this memorial together with Ukrainians, Poles, Czechs, Cubans and people from Africa. It's a delightful reflection of Canada." The winning design, called Arc of Memory, was submitted by Toronto architect Paul Raff, arborist Michael A. Ormston-Holloway, and landscape architects Brett Hoornaert and Luke Kairys and chosen as the winner of a juried competition in 2018. It features two gently curving four-metre-tall walls made up of more than 4,000 bronze rods that are aligned so that one rod is pointing directly at the sun every hour of every day. The memorial is now under construction in Raff's Toronto studio and will be shipped to the capital in the spring to be installed.

The site, and the original design of the Victims of Communism memorial — an enormous \$5.5-million concrete structure nearly as large as the National War Memorial — drew public ire. Even former Supreme Court chief justice Beverley McLachlin weighed in, complaining of the structure's "bleakness and brutality."

When the Liberal government of Justin Trudeau was elected in 2015, the project was sent back to the drawing board for a new design and the site was moved back across the street to the Garden of the Provinces. Raff's design was chosen in June 2018 and ground was broken that November with a planned completion in 2019.

Asked why it took so long for work to begin, NCC spokesman Jean Wolff said in an email, "It was necessary that all the design development requirements be met in order to proceed with construction."

Klimkowski said he's glad the controversy is over.

"I'm delighted that this project and this design and this location seem to be fully endorsed. There's no conversation about the need to

have (a memorial). There's no negativity of any sort," he said.

Like the Holocaust monument, now in place on LeBreton Flats across from the war museum, the Memorial to the Victims of Communism is an example of Canada standing up for what's right, he said.

"It goes in tandem with victims of the Holocaust monument. Neither of these took place in Canada, yet we as Canadians feel a moral obligation to stand up and speak up when we see evil that needs to be called out," Klimkowski said.

"When you see what's going on in Hong Kong today, people starving for freedom and resisting the oppression that is imposed upon them by the communist government in Beijing, they are giving us a shining example of what it means to stand up and fight for the rights of your fellow citizens."

Tribute to Liberty turned over its \$1.5-million portion of the construction two years ago, he said, but the organization will likely continue to exist as an education and advocacy organization.

Postmedia News

IN TANDEM
WITH VICTIMS
OF THE
HOLOCAUST
MONUMENT.



WAYNE CUDDINGTON / POSTMEDIA NEWS

The display board at the new site with an artist rendering of the Victims of Communism Memorial.



БОРЦЯМ ЗА ВОЛЮ
УКРАЇНИ
TO THOSE WHO DIED
FOR THE FREEDOM OF UKRAINE
MORTS POUR L'UKRAINE

СВІТЛА ПАМ'ЯТЬ
УСІМ БОРЦЯМ ЗА ВОЛЮ
І НЕЗВИСІМІСТЬ
УКРАЇНИ

PETER J THOMPSON / NATIONAL POST

The Russian Embassy has been tweeting images of what it labels “Nazi” monuments in Canada like this cenotaph at Oakville’s St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Cemetery.

MARIE-DANIELLE
SMITH
in Ottawa

FOLK HEROES OR WAR CRIMINALS?

RUSSIAN TAUNTS SPARK UKRAINIAN SELF-EXAMINATION

They were played up in October, and continued to trickle out through November: amid tweets about tennis, ambassadorial photo-ops and U.S. politics, Russia's embassy in Canada posted several comments about Canadian monuments to a Ukrainian independence leader and to soldiers from the Galician Division of Nazi Germany's Waffen-SS.

A military division formed in 1943, the Galician was made up of Ukrainians rallying against Soviet occupiers, whom Nazis were battling. Russian tweets about monuments to the Second World War fighters — “Nazi collaborators,” as the Russians describe them, or Ukrainian freedom fighters, as many in Canada's Ukrainian community prefer to think of them — have rekindled a long-standing debate over how Ukrainian-Canadians should commemorate their forebears.

Russia's Embassy to Canada is waging an online campaign even as it stokes conflict in eastern Ukraine and the Canadian government continues denouncing its 2014 annexation of Cri-

atic that Russians are the ones bringing it up.

“It would be refreshing and perhaps a form of self-healing ...” writes University of Alberta professor David Marples in a 2007 book on “heroes and villains” in Ukrainian national history, “if Ukrainians could offer a conception of their recent past that looked at all aspects of these events, recognizing in passing that heroes could be criminals.”

One of the monuments in question is at St. Volodymyr Cemetery in Oakville, Ont. It commemorates a major battle, the Brody, fought by the Ukrainian Galician Division of the German Waffen-SS against the Soviet Red Army, during which more than three-quarters of the Ukrainian soldiers perished.

The division was formed in 1943, after a majority of Ukrainian Jewish victims of the Holocaust had already

against them substantiated and “should not be indicted as a group.” This was, at least legally speaking, the end of the story.

Still, explained Dominique Arel, who holds the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa, individual members of the division had likely served in other German police units before joining the Galician Division, and any previous actions or crimes were not examined by the commission.

A bust of Roman Shukhevych, at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex in Edmonton, is the second monument being examined.

A spokesman for the complex, Paras Podilsky, rejected any notion that Shukhevych may have been involved in war crimes. “I have never heard in my life, and

ment. Arel said Shukhevych was involved in setting up another local militia known to have played a central role in the killings, however, and in 1942 he is said to have led a German police battalion in Belarus that was also implicated in civilian killings.

The same year, Shukhevych established the Ukrainian insurgency army, which acted as a “political arm” of the nationalist movement. Even though individual members of the nationalist movement were involved in the killing of Jews and a subsequent ethnic cleansing campaign against Polish people in Ukraine, the broader fight for Ukrainian independence — a fight waged not only against the Soviets but also against the Nazis, once it became clear they would not be allies — is

Shukhevych “symbolize this long and historical attempt by Ukrainians to resist, to defend themselves,” Arel said. “The Russian perspective is because there is a dark side, and the collaboration with the Germans, you reduce the entire insurgency to atrocities. And therefore the very idea that Ukrainians or any other group can resist Russian or Soviet occupation is delegitimized.”

What should Canadians think about the monuments, though?

“I think the question that Canadians really need to ask is, does the presence of these monuments in any way contribute to anti-Semitism, or to other forms of racism or bigotry in Canada today?” said Aidan Fishman, the interim director of the Jewish-Canadian organization B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights.

The answer seems to be

cluding the embassy of trying to create divisions in Canada as part of a broader strategy to subvert Western democracies — or at least trying to discredit Ukraine as conflict continues in the eastern Donbass region, where, although Russia has denied any involvement, reports from the front lines say it is backing anti-government troops. Canada is helping to train government forces on the opposite side.

But still others point out that Canada's support seeks to help preserve Ukrainian democracy, and part of democracy means looking at the past with critical eyes. Arel alluded to Canada's own attempts to grapple with horrors inflicted upon Indigenous people in the past. “Canada should support similar efforts in Ukraine to engage in these difficult questions,” he said.

Some in the community, such as an organization called the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, are already conducting efforts to reconcile with the past. It brings experts on Ukrainian and Jewish history together for roundtables with the ultimate goal of coming up with a combined narrative on which both scholarly communities agree.

“Unfortunately, the Ukrainian Canadian com-

and the Canadian government continues denouncing its 2014 annexation of Crimea. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has staunchly supported Ukraine.

Many are accusing Russia of intentionally sowing discord and attacking more than 1.3 million Ukrainian-Canadians by highlighting memorials that never intended to glorify Nazism — a distraction from Russians being accused of propping up anti-government fighters in eastern Ukraine.

“We know that our community is being attacked because of our and Canada’s support for Ukraine in the current war that Russia is waging there,” said Ihor Michalchyshyn, executive director and CEO of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. “The Russian government is trying to stir up controversy and sort of obfuscate from the current situation that’s taking place in Europe.”

But others in the community suggest a hard look at the complex history of the Ukrainian independence movement, and its wartime entanglements, is long overdue — even if it’s problem-

in 1943, after a majority of Ukrainian Jewish victims of the Holocaust had already been targeted. The Waffen-SS was the military arm of the Nazi secret police that fought battles at the front lines but did not administer concentration camps.

Oleg Bezpitko, the manager of the cemetery, told the National Post the monument — to “whoever fought in this battle and never returned” — was probably erected sometime during the 1980s, before he himself immigrated to Canada. “Fighting on the German side doesn’t mean to be a Nazi, right,” he said.

“You have to understand, those were the people who were fighting communism.”

Bezpitko also confirmed that some buried at the cemetery were members of the division who had immigrated to Canada. Their presence here was part of a loud public debate that led to the Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals in Canada, named the Deschênes Commission after the justice who led it.

In 1986, it concluded that members of the Galician Division who immigrated to Canada hadn’t had charges

DOES THE PRESENCE OF THESE MONUMENTS CONTRIBUTE TO ANTI-SEMITISM?

I’ve known about Roman Shukhevych since I was little, about him being in any war crimes or anything we should be hiding,” he said.

Here’s what we know. Soviets took control of Western Ukraine in 1939, facilitated by a secret pact with the Germans. A far-right insurgency, the Organization for Ukrainian Nationalists, meanwhile sought German help to oust Soviets. In 1941, as Germany invaded the Soviet Union (and the secret pact dissolved), Shukhevych commanded one of two Ukrainian divisions attached to the German army, called the “Nachtigall.”

A pogrom that caused the deaths of thousands of Jews occurred in Lviv shortly after the battalion’s arrival in 1941. There’s no hard evidence proving its involve-

ment what the community remembers Shukhevych and other patriots for.

“Roman Shukhevych was the leader, very much respected even after the war, to continue this battle against the Soviet regime,” said Podiisky. “He’s completely seen as a hero, and respected to this day as a symbol of the fight for freedom.”

And it was a bloody fight. In taking full control over Western Ukraine around the end of the Second World War and onward, the Soviet Union killed more than 100,000 people and deported more than 200,000, Arel said. There was also the painful memory of the Holodomor, a man-made famine that killed between seven and 10 million people in that part of the Soviet Union in the 1930s.

Leaders such as

Brith Canada’s League for Human Rights.

The answer seems to be “no,” Fishman explained, since “the intent of these monuments is not to stir up hatred or to glorify crimes against Jews.” While B’nai Brith wouldn’t support any new such monuments, he said, it doesn’t see a need to demand for existing ones’ removal.

“I think that the communities that have established these monuments, so namely the Ukrainian-Canadian community, should take a critical look at these facts and should remind themselves that many of these people were engaged in collaboration with the Nazis,” said Fishman.

Michalchyshyn rejects any insinuation that Ukrainians collaborated with the Nazis. “I think that the premise of calling them Nazi collaborators is slanderous,” he said. “I think the real story here is about the Russian Embassy and what they’re trying to do to our community and how they’re trying to create an issue where there isn’t one.”

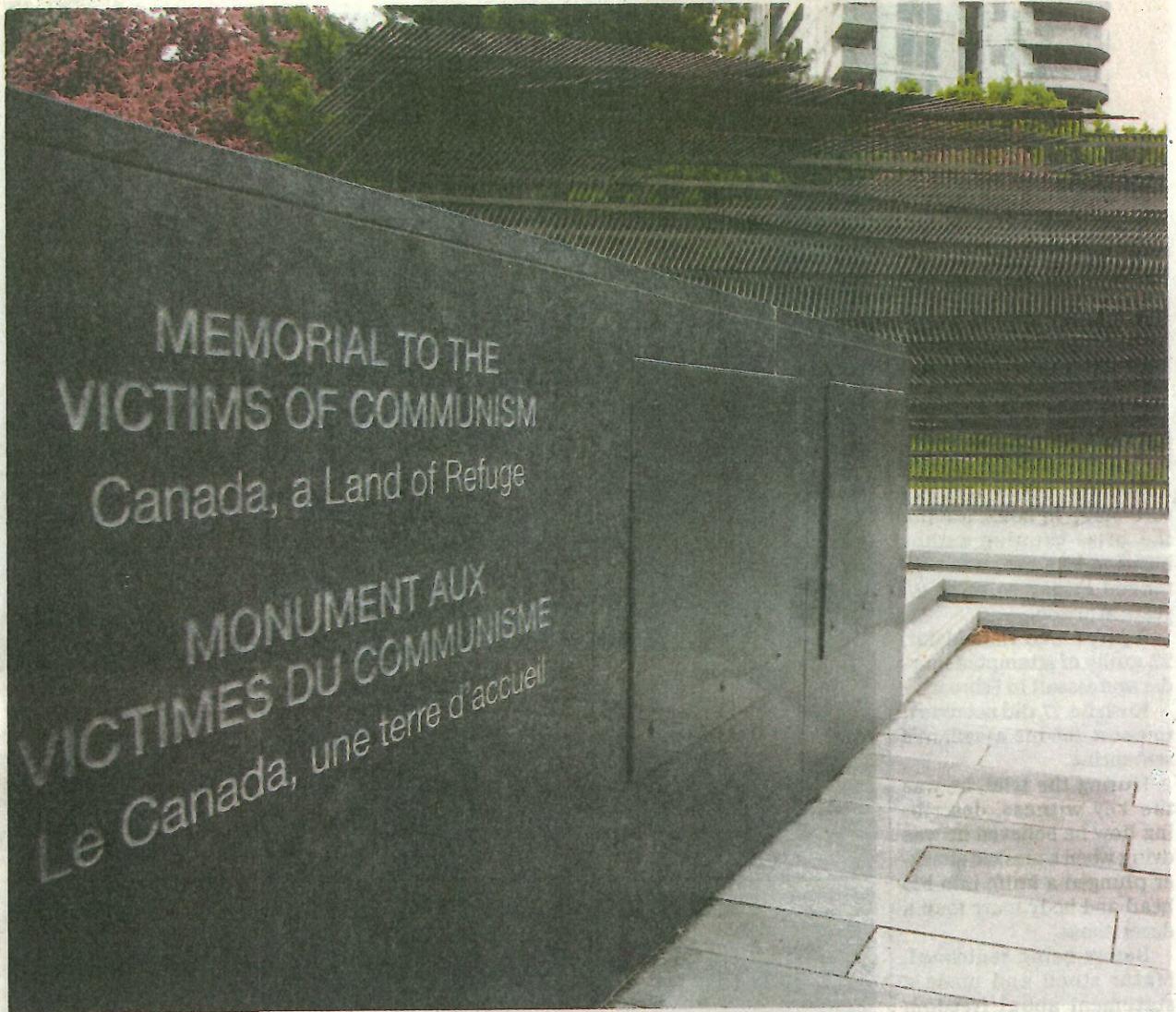
The Russian motivation merits scrutiny: some are ac-

“Unfortunately, the Ukrainian-Canadian organizations have not shown real readiness to discuss these issues,” Arel said. “On the whole, there’s a great deal of resistance.”

John-Paul Himka, another University of Alberta scholar and the uncle of Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, reports being banned from most Ukrainian-Canadian publications for trying to bring research about Ukrainian involvement in the Holocaust to light.

“It’s about time that somebody paid attention to it,” he said by phone from Ukraine. “The fact is the Ukrainian government and the diaspora have been honouring Holocaust perpetrators and war criminals for a long time.”

The West should put greater emphasis on confronting the past, Himka added. “I do think they’re neglecting their role if they’re not putting pressure on Ukraine to do an honest confrontation with the events of the Second World War.”



JULIE OLIVER / POSTMEDIA NEWS

Originally there were to be 553 entries on the The Victims of Communism Memorial's Wall of Remembrance in Ottawa, but a report recommended removing as many as half of the names due to potential links to the Nazis.

5/17/25

Nazi collaborator's name initially engraved on monument

OTTAWA

Man helped round up about 350 Latvian Jews

DAVID PUGLIESE

The name of a Nazi collaborator was initially engraved on Canada's newest national monument, despite warnings to the Department of Canadian Heritage in 2021 that the man participated in the executions of Jews during the Holocaust.

The nameplate commemorating Janis Niedra was installed on the memorial in downtown Ottawa in 2023, according to government records released under the Access to Information Act. It was later removed and there were no names inscribed on the memorial when it opened in late 2024.

Canadian Heritage has not explained why it allowed the commemorative nameplate for Niedra to be installed on the monument despite warnings from the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.

Research data was provided to the department in 2021 by the organization showing that Niedra led a group of 40 men to help the Nazis round up and execute around 350 Latvian Jews. Those killed were women, children and senior citizens.

Niedra, who would later go on to serve the Nazis in various positions in Latvia, came to Canada after the war. He died in 1969.

The existence of the nameplate honouring Niedra was first reported by Ricochet Media, an investigative online news outlet.

Canadian Heritage spokesperson Caroline Czajkowski said in an email that Niedra's name was removed from the memorial before its public inauguration. It was flagged in 2023 after a Canadian Heritage employ-

ee raised concerns about Niedra's Nazi connections. The documents show the main concern in the department was that the public or news media might see the name engraved on the memorial.

The nameplate, along with other nameplates for the memorial, "are being stored at a National Capital Commission facility," according to the department.

Czajkowski would not say exactly where the items were being stored. Canadian Heritage declined to say how many names were engraved on the panels that were supposed to eventually be installed on the Ottawa memorial.

Czajkowski didn't comment on why Canadian Heritage previously claimed that no names had been engraved on the monument, despite government records clearly showing that wasn't the case. She wouldn't comment on what will happen now with the nameplates.

DESPITE OUR REPEATED WARNINGS ... THE NAME OF A NAZI INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF JEWS DURING THE HOLOCAUST WAS ULTIMATELY ENGRAVED ON THE MONUMENT.

It is unclear whether Canadian Heritage will eventually install Niedra's name on the national monument or have the plate destroyed.

Jaime Kirzner-Roberts, a senior director at the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center, said the organization repeatedly warned Canadian Heritage that numerous individuals slated to be honoured on the memorial weren't victims at all. Instead, they were Nazi collaborators responsible for the Holocaust and other crimes against humanity, she added.

"Over the years, we have submitted documentation

detailing the atrocities committed by several individuals on the (memorial) list — including in 2021, when we provided comprehensive evidence of the war crimes committed by Janis Niedra against Latvia's Jewish population," said Kirzner-Roberts. "It is deeply disturbing that, despite our repeated warnings and the clear, documented evidence, the name of a Nazi involved in the murder of Jews during the Holocaust was ultimately engraved on the Memorial. This is simply unacceptable."

The memorial, which is located near the corner of Wellington and Bay streets, is supposed to honour those who suffered under communism. But concerns have been raised over the years by Jewish organizations and historians that names of eastern Europeans who collaborated with the Nazis in the Holocaust have been put forward in an attempt to whitewash their past.

In 2021, the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center revealed that Roman Shukhevych, a Ukrainian nationalist who collaborated with the Nazis and was linked to the massacres of Jews and Poles, was one of those being commemorated. Only after the group repeatedly raised the matter with the department was Shukhevych's name removed.

The monument has been the focus of multiple controversies over its exact purpose, location, size and cost over the last 15 years. The price tag for the project ballooned to an estimated \$7.5

million — including \$6 million in public funds — from an original budget of \$1.5 million. The cost of the memorial was supposed to be funded entirely through private donations from Tribute to Liberty, the organization behind the monument. But those fundraising efforts fell far short and taxpayers had to foot most of the cost.

Ludwik Klimkowski, chairman of Tribute to Liberty, did not respond to a request for comment.

But in a Dec. 14, 2024 post on the social media platform X, Klimkowski responded to concerns the monument was honouring Nazi collaborators.

"Let's stop the nonsense of the Nazi commemoration perpetrated by Canadian Marxists and the agents of the Kremlin's regime," Klimkowski wrote.

Federal officials in other departments have also continued to warn Canadian Heritage that the inclusion of Nazi collaborators on the memorial will cause international embarrassment.

"It's important to note that many anti-Communist and anti-Soviet advocates and fighters were also active Nazi collaborators, who committed documented massacres," Global Affairs Canada officials warned their counterparts at Canadian Heritage in 2021. Those records were obtained by the Ottawa Citizen using the access law.

In addition, on Oct. 7, 2024 the Ottawa Citizen revealed that a report prepared for Canadian Heritage recommended more than half of the 550 names planned to go on the memorial should be removed. That was because of potential links to the Nazis. As originally planned, there were to be 553 entries on the memorial's Wall of Remembrance.

The department had already determined that 50-60 of the names or organizations were likely directly linked to the Nazis, according to the documents.

Postmedia News

A worker stands next to the Nord Stream pipeline turbine that was repaired in Canada where it remains at the Siemens plant in Germany Thursday.

Status of Canadian deal to buy shells for Ukraine uncertain

Talks underway to buy ammo from S. Korea

DAVID PUGLIESE

Canada is in discussions with arms companies to obtain further equipment for Ukraine but it's unclear whether a critical deal to purchase 100,000 rounds of artillery ammunition for that country will proceed.

Canadian officials have been talking with their counterparts in South Korea to acquire the 155-millimetre artillery ammunition, this newspaper reported in late May. Canada would then provide those 100,000 rounds of ammunition to Ukraine, which has been warning for the last month that it is running out of artillery shells.

The Liberal government has already provided Ukraine with Canadian Forces M777 artillery guns that can use the 155-mm ammunition.

Defence Minister Anita Anand said Thursday that Canada is talking to a number of defence firms about equipment for Ukraine. That nation is fighting off a Russian invasion that started Feb. 24.

But Anand declined to say whether the Canadian government would actually proceed with the South Korean deal, which could cost Canadian taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. "It would be imprudent for me to announce any transaction before it is finalized," she noted. "It is not my style."

Ukrainian government officials say a continued supply of artillery shells is critical to their war effort. "This is an artillery war now," Vadym Skibitsky, deputy head of Ukraine's military intelli-

gence told the Guardian newspaper June 10. "And we are losing in terms of artillery."

Russia has large stocks of artillery and ammunition for those guns. Ukraine is firing between 5,000 and 6,000 artillery rounds a day at Russian positions, its military officials say.

But Ukrainian officials and defence analysts estimate Russia is firing an estimated 20,000 artillery rounds a day. Some Ukrainian government officials claim that figure is as high as 60,000 rounds but those numbers can't be confirmed.

Canadian taxpayers have already financed the dona-

THIS IS AN
ARTILLERY
WAR NOW ...
AND WE ARE
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ARTILLERY.

tion of \$626-million worth of weapons and other military equipment to Ukraine. That has included anti-tank systems, .50-calibre sniper rifles equipped with silencers, 60-millimetre mortars, grenade launchers, pistols, C6 and C9 machine-guns, thermal-imaging binoculars, cameras, scopes and medical supplies.

In addition, drone cameras have also been sent.

Canada has also funded the purchase of 20,000 artillery rounds from the United States to donate to Ukraine's military. That deal cost \$98 million.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced June 30 that Canada is also pro-

viding Ukraine with 39 light-armoured vehicles. Those vehicles, being built by General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada, were originally for the Canadian Army. But instead, they will be diverted to Ukraine.

Those vehicles are expected to arrive in Europe in the coming weeks.

Anand also announced Thursday that the Canadian military will resume training Ukrainian soldiers. Up to 225 personnel, most from 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry based out of Edmonton will be sent to the United Kingdom to instruct Ukrainian military recruits in that country. The deployment will initially be for about four months, according to Canadian defence officials. Training is expected to start Aug. 25 at a location in southeast England.

Anand could not say how many Ukrainian soldiers are expected to be trained.

Canada had previously trained over 33,000 Ukrainian military personnel in a program that was launched in 2015. That training was suspended in February just before the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

NATO nations have been sending large amounts of weapons to Ukraine since the Feb. 24 invasion. Some NATO officials view the war as an opportunity to either force regime change in Russia or to seriously weaken that country militarily.

The Ukrainian military has put up a spirited defence of its country since thousands of Russian forces launched their assault. But those early battlefield successes and the ensuing grinding war in the east have not been without a cost.

The Ukrainian government reported in June that 10,000 of its soldiers had been killed since Russian forces invaded, with thousands more wounded and missing.

Officials have also said that between 100 and 200 Ukrainian troops are being killed every day and hundreds more wounded.

Postmedia News, with additional reporting from The Canadian Press

'PUTIN'S DECISION'

TURBINE Continued from NP1

He said "you need to be able to explain to the Germans and the French and the Italians how they're going to survive the winter."

But the return of the turbine hasn't solved the issue. The turbine is now stuck in Germany, with Russia blaming western sanctions for the hold up, while Germany says there is nothing preventing its return. Russia has also cut gas flowing through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to 20 per cent of capacity.

Joly repeated Thursday that sending the turbine called Russian President Vladimir Putin's "bluff"

"With the issue of turbine maintenance taken off the table, Putin has nothing left to hide behind. When the flow of gas slows down, the world now knows with certainty that it was Putin's decision and his alone," Joly said.

Those statements were echoed by German ambassador Sabine Sparwasser, who told the committee that "we did not want to fall into Putin's trap" after he "pretended" the lacking turbines were to blame.

She said Russia is now finding "more and more pretext not to take the turbines back."

"Now it's clear for all to see Russia is using energy to exert pressure on Europe. It's trying to pit one ally against the other," Sparwasser said.

She said if the turbine hadn't been returned, it would have given Putin a "strong argument in the disinformation war" that "we brought the lack of gas on ourselves."

Wilkinson said the government looked into an alternative proposal for Ukraine for a pipeline route through that country but decided it wasn't feasible.

He said the government consulted with the EU and Germany and "technical experts from the International Energy Agency" and in the

end concluded it wasn't viable, for technical reasons but also because the plan would have been dependent on Russia's willingness to provide gas for the alternate pipeline. "The likelihood of Russia doing this is not high," he said.

Later Thursday, Joly proposed the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians study allegations that Canada did not heed warnings about the safety of its Ukraine embassy's local staff ahead of the Russian invasion.

The Globe and Mail reported this week that in the lead-up to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Global Affairs Canada received Five Eyes intelligence that said Ukrainians working for western embassies were likely to be on lists of people Moscow intended to hunt down.

Citing three unnamed diplomatic sources described as having direct knowledge of the situation, the newspaper reported that the department instructed embassy leaders in Kyiv to withhold the information from Ukrainian employees — even as the Canadians were recalled to Ottawa.

Joly told MPs on the committee that she, her political staff and the department did not have information about "kill lists" specifically targeting Canadian diplomats and locally engaged staff.

She says she will make herself available to the national security committee if they decide to take up the issue.

National Post, with additional reporting from The Canadian Press



Yulia Kovaliv



Memorials in Canada to Nazis and Nazi collaborators

Canada has several monuments and memorials that to varying degrees commemorate people and groups accused of collaboration with Nazi forces.

Monuments and memorials include or have included a statue of Draža Mihailović in Ontario, two monuments in Ontario and Alberta connected with the Waffen-SS, a statue of Roman Shukhevych, streets and parks named after Alexis Carrel and Philipp Lenard, a mountain named after Philippe Pétain, and two streets named after a commander of Nazi German forces and his ship. There are two monuments to members of the 14th Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS (1st Galician), which have caused controversy.

Existing

Draža Mihailović statue, Hamilton

There is a statue in Hamilton, Ontario of Draža Mihailović, a Yugoslav Serb general during World War II. He was the leader of the Chetniks, a royalist and Serbian nationalist movement and guerrilla force, who collaborated with the Nazis following the German invasion of Yugoslavia in 1941.^[1]



Draža Mihailović Monument in Hamilton, Ontario.

Ukrainian

Monuments in Canada to members of the Ukrainian Waffen-SS have been vandalized by activists at differing times as "Nazi monuments", as have monuments to members of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. Leaders of the Canadian Ukrainian community said the Ukrainian monuments are not related to Nazism.^[2]

Roman Shukhevych statue, Edmonton

The bronze bust^[3] of Ukrainian nationalist leader Roman Shukhevych, who collaborated with the Nazis from February 1941 to December 1942 as commanding officer of the Nachtigall Battalion in early 1941,^[4] and as a Hauptmann of the German Schutzmannschaft 201 auxiliary police battalion in late 1941 and 1942,^[5] units which were complicit in the Galicia-Volhynia massacres of ethnic Poles and in the Lviv pogroms (1941) against Jews. The bust was built in 1972 by Ukrainian World War II



The Shukhevych statue vandalised (left) and normally (right)

veterans on private land near the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex in Edmonton, Alberta.^{[6][7][8][9]} The statue was vandalised in 2019 when someone added the words "Nazi scum".^[10] It was vandalised again in 2021 when someone added the words "Actual Nazi" in red paint.^[7]

Memorial at St. Michael's Cemetery, Edmonton

A memorial reading *For those who fought for Ukraine's Freedom* was constructed in St. Michael's Cemetery in Edmonton in 1976 by former members of the Ukrainian Waffen-SS division: 14th Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS (1st Galician).^[11]

The International Military Tribunal's verdict at the Nuremberg Trials declared the entire Waffen-SS a "criminal organization" guilty of war crimes^[12] but the Canadian Deschênes Commission of October 1986 concluded this Ukrainian division should not be indicted as a group.^[13]



Vandalism of the memorial at St. Michael's Cemetery

In 2021 the memorial was vandalized by painting "Nazi monument to 14th Waffen SS".^[14] A spokesperson for the Canadian Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center said "These monuments are nothing less than a glorification and celebration of those who actively participated in Holocaust crimes as well the mass murder of Polish civilians."^[15] Jewish organizations requested the removal of the damaged memorial.^[14] However, the Ukrainian Catholic Church called the vandalism "part of the decades-long Russian disinformation campaign against Ukraine and Ukrainians to create a false Nazi image of Ukrainian freedom fighters."^[15] The St. Michael's monument is dedicated to "Fighters for the Freedom of Ukraine". One of its plaques is an abbreviation for the First Division Division of the Ukrainian National Army.^{[16][17]} On April 25, 1945, the Waffen-SS Galizien was officially reorganized as the First Division of the Ukrainian National Army, and swore a new oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people.^[18] Bernie Farber of the Canadian Jewish Congress wrote that "removing this monument will require the Ukrainian-Canadian community to take a hard look at its own history."^[19] University of Alberta historian Jars Balan told CBC News that the history of the monument and the Shukhevych statue were "complicated", saying that some people had fought in German uniforms in order to achieve Ukrainian independence.^[14]

Memorial at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Cemetery, Oakville

A granite memorial entitled *Pamiatnyk Slavy UPA* (English: Monument to the Glory of the UPA) celebrating the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, a Ukrainian nationalist force that allied with the Nazis in 1942-43 before fighting against them in 1943-44, was inaugurated on May 26, 1988, in the St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Cemetery in Oakville, Ontario.^[20] A cenotaph to veterans of the 14th Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS (1st Galician) was added shortly afterwards, with the SS division's insignia.^[20]

The SS cenotaph was vandalised in mid-June 2020 when someone added the words "Nazi war monument".^{[21][22]} Canadian police apologized for originally stating that the vandalism was motivated by hate.^{[23][24]}

Both monuments were the subject of complaints from the Russian Embassy to Canada in 2017.^[25] Ihor Michalchyshyn, the CEO of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress accused Russia of obfuscation.^[26]



Jewish B'nai Brith organization and the Canadian Polish Congress called for the SS monument's removal in a joint statement, saying that the presence of monuments that whitewash the Holocaust and Nazi ideology is unacceptable in Canada.^{[27][28]} Oakville Mayor Rob Burton stated that he would remove the SS monument but he can't, because municipalities have no right to regulate private cemeteries.^[29]

Streets and Parks named after Alexis Carrel

In 2015 CTV News reported that in Quebec a street in Gatineau was named after Alexis Carrel, as well a street and park named after him in 1972 and 1988 respectively in Montreal community Rivière des Prairies, and a park and streets named after him in Boisbriand and Châteauguay.^[30] Carrel won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1912, and was a supporter of eugenics and the Nazis, advocating for the elimination of "undesirables", and was involved in the Vichy government of France.^{[31][32][33]} In 2015 the street in Gatineau was renamed after Marie Curie.^[33] In 2017 it was announced that the street and the park in Rivière des Prairies, Montreal would be renamed. This followed a campaign from the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs of Quebec, who said that they hoped Boisbriand and Châteauguay would follow the lead of Montreal and Gatineau.^[34]

Removed

Mount Pétain

A mountain on the border of British Columbia and Alberta was named for Nazi Collaborator Philippe Pétain until British Columbia removed its name in 2022 following Alberta's decision to remove the mountain's name in 2019. It was named for Pétain in 1919, at which point he was considered a hero for leading forces to victory in the 1916 Battle of Verdun in World War I. Later, during World War II, Pétain led the collaborationist Government of Vichy France.^[35]

Langsdorff Drive & Graf Spee Crescent

The town of Ajax, Ontario is named for HMS Ajax, which fought in the Battle of the River Plate in the Second World War.^[36] In the municipality, one of the streets was named Langsdorff Drive in honour of Hans Langsdorff, a battleship captain who commanded Nazi Germany forces in the battle.^[37] The naming was supported by the River Plate Veterans Association. The street received a naming ceremony, with Langsdorff's daughter and son-in-law in attendance.^[38]

This name was changed in 2021 in response to public opposition.^[39] In 2020 Ajax tried to honour Langsdorff and his ship the *Admiral Graf Spee* by naming a street Graf Spee Crescent. This was also changed after the public became aware and brought it the attention of Ajax Mayor Shaun Collier. Collier put forward a motion to change this name, stating, "We did Langsdorff, which I did support ... This, I think, has crossed the line a little bit."^[40] Many of Ajax's streets are named after people involved in the Battle of the River Plate.^[41]

Philipp Lenard Street

A street in Gatineau, Quebec, used to be named after Philipp Lenard, who won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1905. He was also a strong supporter of the Nazis and acted as an advisor to Hitler.^[42] In 2015 the street was renamed after Albert Einstein following a campaign from the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs of Quebec.^{[30][33]}

See also

- Monuments in the United States to Nazi collaborators
- List of Holocaust memorials and museums in Canada
- List of Holodomor memorials and monuments in Canada
- Monument of Lihula, Estonia
- Monuments to Stepan Bandera

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