



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE  
**PRESIDENT'S ENEWS**  
MARCH 2014

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### President's Comment

On March 12, 2014, a ceremony will take place at the Guthrie School in CFB Edmonton to commemorate the end of military deployment in Afghanistan. Canadian flags in Provincial Government establishments and local schools will be at half mast on March 12, 2014 and raised to full mast at twelve noon. Canadian Armed Forces have engaged in four major wars since dominion - WWI, WWII, Korean War, and the war in Afghanistan, which lasted the longest. The last group of soldiers are expected home on March 18. On behalf of the EUSI, I will be present on both events.

With the end of Canadian deployment in Afghanistan, there are major reductions in defence spending. Many defence projects are eliminated and others postponed. Yet our world is increasingly volatile. In the last two weeks, the conflicts in Syria threaten and have indeed escalated the tension between Lebanon, Israel, and Iran. On the far-east, North Korea fired short range Scud Missiles to test South Korea reactions. Russian invasion of the Crimea Peninsula threatens the stability and security of the entire Europe. Western allies appear to lack the will power or financial capability to take any meaningful actions. Unilaterally, the US Secretary of State and the Defence Secretary suggested economic and diplomatic sanctions against Russia. In the past, these measures have not stopped Iran, Iraq, Libya, and North Korea in their actions to destabilize regional peace and security. The war in Iraq and Afghanistan has been costly in terms of human casualty and financial burdens. This "battle fatigue" will ultimately determine the path of actions western allies will take in confronting aforementioned adversities. Russia, on the other hand, has promised financial assistance and economic aid to Ukraine. In addition, it has demonstrated its determination to maintain status quo in the Crimea Peninsula by flexing its military muscles. The outcome of the conflict in Ukraine is predictable and Canada should be prepared and reconsider any planned military reduction at this point in time.





### Among the Red Guns

Among the red guns,  
In the hearts of soldiers  
Running free blood  
In the long, long campaign:  
Dreams go on.

Among the leather saddles,  
In the heads of soldiers  
Heavy in the wracks and kills  
Of all straight fighting:  
Dreams go on.

Among the hot muzzles,  
In the hands of soldiers  
Brought from flesh-folds of women--  
Soft amid the blood and crying--  
In all your hearts and heads  
Among the guns and saddles and muzzles:

Dreams,  
Dreams go on,  
Out of the dead on their backs,  
Broken and no use any more:  
Dreams of the way and the end go on.



Canadian Uniforms



### Commonwealth Day

Commonwealth Day is celebrated on the second Monday of March. It is the day when Commonwealth countries, which represent a quarter of all humanity, acknowledge their common bonds and the contribution of the Commonwealth of Nations to the creation of harmonious global environment.

**Royal Commonwealth Society of Canada, Edmonton (RCSC) Dinner** will held on Saturday, March 8, 2014, at the Ramada Hotel, Kingsway, Edmonton. Cocktail at 6:00 PM and dinner at 7:00 PM. Cost is still \$75.00 per person. As the RCSC is a financial donor of the EUSI, I urge you all to make effort to attend this dinner. Must forward RSVP to [Alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com](mailto:Alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com) before Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

All EUSI members are invited to attend the Commonwealth Day Levee at the Ramada Hotel in Kingsway, Edmonton on Monday, March 10 at 5:00 PM. The House Speaker, representing Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, will deliver Commonwealth Day message and greeting. There is no cost and light refreshment is offered.

**EUSI Annual General Meeting** will be held at 1200 hours at the Ramada Hotel in Kingsway on Friday, March 28, 2014. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to the president at [Alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com](mailto:Alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com) or telephone ay 780/456-3392.



## HUMOUR

The phone rang at the motor pool and an authoritative voice demanded to know how many vehicles were operational. Paddy answered, "We've got twelve trucks, ten utilities, three staff cars and that Bentley the fat-arsed colonel swanks around in."

There was a stoney silence for a second or two.

"Do you know who you are speaking to?"

"No," said Paddy.

"It is the so-called fat-arsed colonel you so insubordinately referred to."

"Well, do you know who you are talking to?"

"No," roared the colonel.

"Well thank goodness for that," said Paddy slamming the phone down.

## Do you know that?

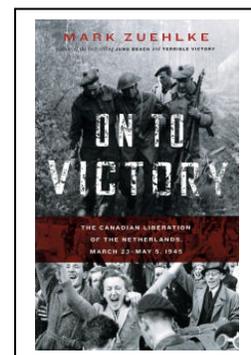
The term Brevet is a temporary higher rank, for example, a captain being a brevet colonel. It was not unusual for British colonial officers on loan to another regiment to be temporarily classed as a higher rank in that regiment but be paid for the lesser rank of their actual regiment. (Old French, diminutive of brief letter)



## CANADIAN MILITARY READING

### **On To Victory: The Canadian Liberation of the Netherlands, March 23-May 5, 1945**

March 23, 1945. Tens of thousands of Allied troops, following on the heels of a massive artillery barrage, lunge across the Rhine River aboard amphibious craft, while even more land from the skies. Operations Plunder and Varsity aimed to smash the German forces determined to stop this crossing, which sought to unleash a breakout into the heartland of Germany and the Netherlands and bring about a rapid end to the war.





## CANADIAN GEAR

### TOW

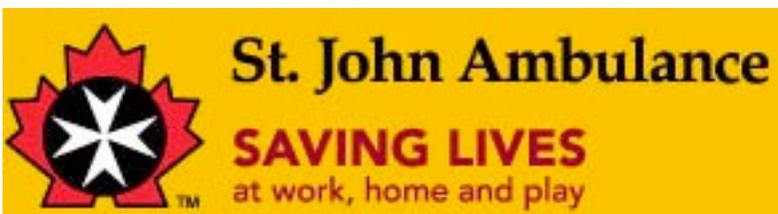


The Tube launched Optically tracked Wire guided (TOW) missile system is the primary long range anti-tank weapon for the army. Although normally vehicle mounted it can be carried short distances by the weapon crew. When mounted in a vehicle, the system consists of the launcher, sight unit, missile guidance set and the TOW encased missiles. The addition of the tripod and traverse and elevation units allows the system to be removed from the vehicle and operated from a remote location by the weapon crew. Three vehicles can currently mount the TOW missile system: the Iltis, the BV 206 (TOW variant – BV2063) and the M113A2 TWO Under Armour (TUA). The TUA allows the TOW to be fired while the operator is protected by the armour of the turret. The TUA turrets will be transferred to the LAV III by 2005. A total of 71 LAV TUA are being procured.

The TOW has a Thermal Image capability that allows the gunner to see through total darkness, rain, fog and smoke.

The TOW system is fairly simple to operate and only requires that the gunner place keep the crosshairs of his sight on the target to ensure a hit. This is a great improvement over the earlier missile systems that required the gunner to fly the missile using a joystick.

The Canadian Army has two different missiles in its inventory. The TOW 2A features a tandem high explosive charge warheads that can penetrate almost a full metre of steel in addition to any explosive reactive armour protection on the target. The TOW 2B missile flies over the target and fires two explosively formed penetrators down through the thinly protected top. This allows the 2B missiles to be used against targets hiding in depressions in the ground or behind walls.



Get trained!



## What's Out There

### MD-2 Assault Rifle (Brazil)

The MD-2 assault rifle was developed by IMBEL (Industria de Materiel Belico do Brazil). Development began circa 1982, first prototype, named MD-1, appeared in 1983 and final version, named MD-2, came out circa 1985 and later was adopted by Brazilian military. MD-2 started as a simply scaled down FN FAL rifle (manufactured in Brazil under license as IMBEL LAR), but during the design time the FAL locking system (tilting block) was replaced by M16-type rotating bolt.



### Alexander Tsang CD

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**IT IS TOO LATE TO SHARPEN SWORDS, WHEN THE DRUMS OF WAR ARE BEATING**