



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

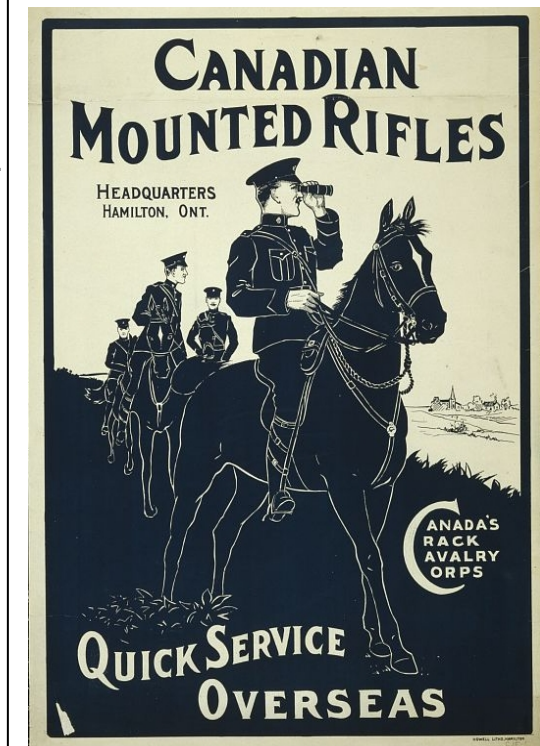
## PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

MARCH 2015

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### Presidents' Comments

Last Thursday, there was an article at the Edmonton Journal written by a young lady who is an immigrant from the Philippines. This young lady was from a middle class family and had worked as an engineer for 15 years when she immigrated to Canada to pursue a new life in her now chosen homeland. Ms. Tan wrote about her experience dealing with our cold climate, working in service industries that taught her humbleness and finally led to a great job with a global company. Most of all, Ms. Tan wrote about the "joyful journey to citizenship" and how proud and emotional she was when she sang O Canada during the Citizenship oath taking ceremony. Ms. Tan stated that she cannot change her roots, but she can add something to Canada. "By belief, nationality, and loyalty, I am a proud Canadian". So, here we have a non Canada born Canadian who wants to be a Canadian and respect that one do not have to challenge Canadian customs and values to be recognized that they have different background and beliefs. With this, I would like to praise Prime Minister Harper for his insistence that the Citizenship oath taking ceremony represents not only allegiance and loyalty to Canada, but also symbolic of the equality of all races and gender, which is the building block of Canadian values.



The second Monday of March each year is celebrated all over the Commonwealth of Nations or the Commonwealth countries as the Commonwealth Day. There are 53 countries span from Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Pacific that are members of this voluntary organization. This year, March 9<sup>th</sup>, Monday is the Official Commonwealth Day. In Edmonton, the High Level Bridge will light up with the different colours of the Commonwealth, these are, green, red, yellow/orange and blue.

The Royal Commonwealth Society of Edmonton have enjoyed a very close relationship with EUSI and we celebrate the Commonwealth Day with a Mess Dinner on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at the Ramada Hotel. On Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, members of the Royal Commonwealth Society of Edmonton will be received by the Speaker of the House at the Legislature. And a levee/reception will take place at the Foyer at the Ramada Hotel. The deadline for RSVP for these functions is February 28, 2015. However, if you contact the President, EUSI, ASAP, I will make sure you are included in the guest list.



A poem dedicated to Lieutenant Colonel Colin Reichle, Past President of EUSI, a former “gunner” who passed away in November, 2014, and all the veterans suffering from PTSD, we appreciate the pain you feel and the memory of battles that cannot be erased.

**The Artilleryman's Vision - By Walt Whitman, first published in 1871.**

While my wife at my side lies slumbering, and the wars are over long,  
And my head on the pillow rests at home, and the vacant midnight passes,  
And through the stillness, through the dark, I hear, just hear,  
the breath of infant,  
There in the room as I wake from sleep this vision presses upon me;  
The engagement opens there and then in fantasy unreal,  
The skirmishers begin, they crawl cautiously ahead, I hear the  
irregular snap! snap!  
I hear the sounds of the different missiles, the short t-h-t! t-h-t!  
of the rifle-balls,  
I see the shells exploding leaving small white clouds, I hear the  
great shells shrieking as they pass,  
The grape like the hum and whirr of wind through the trees,  
(tumultuous now the contest rages,)  
All the scenes at the batteries rise in detail before me again,  
The crashing and smoking, the pride of the men in their pieces,  
The chief-gunner ranges and sights his piece and selects a fuse of  
the right time,  
After firing I see him lean aside and look eagerly off to note the effect;  
Elsewhere I hear the cry of a regiment charging, (the young colonel  
leads himself this time with brandish'd sword,)  
I see the gaps cut by the enemy's volleys, (quickly fill'd up, no delay,)  
I breathe the suffocating smoke, then the flat clouds hover low  
concealing all;  
Now a strange lull for a few seconds, not a shot fired on either side,  
Then resumed the chaos louder than ever, with eager calls and  
orders of officers,  
While from some distant part of the field the wind wafts to my ears  
a shout of applause, (some special success,)  
And ever the sound of the cannon far or near, (rousing even in  
dreams a devilish exultation and all the old mad joy in the  
depths of my soul,)  
And ever the hastening of infantry shifting positions, batteries,  
cavalry, moving hither and thither,  
(The falling, dying, I heed not, the wounded dripping and red  
heed not, some to the rear are hobbling,)  
Grime, heat, rush, aide-de-camps galloping by or on a full run,  
With the patter of small arms, the warning s-s-t of the rifles,  
(these in my vision I hear or see,)  
And bombs bursting in air, and at night the vari-color'd rockets.



Canadian Uniforms



## What's Out There?

### Type 81S Assault Rifle (China)

Type 81 assault rifle appeared in the early 1980s.

This is a further development and it is easily distinguished by the separate pistol grip, handguards and buttstock instead of the SKS-style wooden stock found on earlier types.

The Type 81 was more than a single assault rifle – it was a family of infantry firearms, much

like the Soviet Kalashnikov AK / RPK family. Type 81 weapons were made as an assault rifle with a fixed butt, an assault rifle with a folding butt for paratroopers (Type 81-1), and a heavy barreled Type 81 Squad Automatic weapon / light machine gun, fitted with a bipod and issued with 75-round drum magazines instead of the typical 30-round boxes. Despite being externally somewhat similar to the AK-47, it is significantly different from it, with its most easily distinguishable feature being an exposed muzzle part of the barrel, with the foresight moved back. This was done to be able to fire rifle grenades from the barrel.



Get trained!



## HUMOUR

Long ago, when sailing ships ruled the waves, a captain and his crew were in danger of being boarded by a pirate ship. As the crew became frantic, the captain bellowed to his First Mate, "Bring me my red shirt!" The First Mate quickly retrieved the captain's red shirt, which the captain put on and led the crew to battle the pirate boarding party. Although some casualties occurred among the crew, the pirates were repelled. Later that day, the lookout screamed that there were two pirate vessels sending boarding parties. The crew cowered in fear, but the captain, calm as ever bellowed, "Bring me my red shirt!" And once again the battle was on, however, the Captain and his crew repelled both boarding parties, although this time more casualties occurred. Weary from the battles, the men sat around on deck that night recounting the day's occurrences when an ensign looked to the Captain and asked, "Sir, why did you call for your red shirt before the battle?" The Captain, giving the ensign a look that only a captain can give, exhorted, "If I am wounded in battle, the red shirt does not show the wound and thus, you men will continue to fight unafraid." The men sat in silence marveling at the courage

of such a man. As dawn came the next morning, the lookout screamed that there were pirate ships, 10 of them, all with boarding parties on their way. The men became silent and looked to the Captain, their leader, for his usual command. The Captain, calm as ever, bellowed, "Bring me my brown pants!"

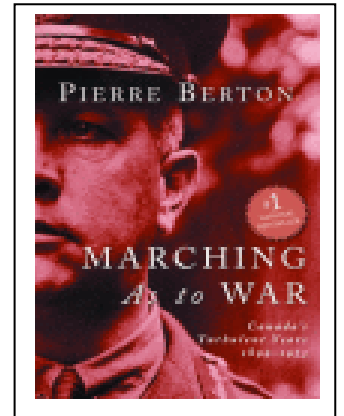


## CANADIAN MILITARY READING

### Marching as to War - Canada's Turbulent Years

Pierre Berton

Canada's Turbulent Years – turbulent not only because of the battles we fought on the African veldt, the ravaged meadows of Flanders, the forbidding spine of Italy, and the conical hills of Korea, but turbulent in other ways. These were Canada's formative years, when she resembled an adolescent, grappling with the problems of puberty, often at odds with her parents, craving to be treated as an adult, hungry for the acclaim of her peers, and wary of the dominating presence of a more sophisticated neighbour.



## CANADIAN GEAR

### CH-149 CORMORANT



The Canadian Air Force's only dedicated search and rescue (SAR) helicopter, the rugged CH-149 Cormorant can operate in even the most severe conditions, making it ideal for Canada's challenging geography and climate. Whether coming to the aid of a ship's crew, an injured mountain climber or a lost hiker, the Cormorant gets the job done. Powered by three engines, the CH-149 Cormorant has exceptional long-range capability—it can fly for over 1000 km without refuelling. With its ample cargo space and rear-ramp access, the helicopter can carry up to 12 stretchers or a load of 5000 kg. Because of its shaped rotor blades—strengthened by titanium strips along the leading edge—the CH-149 has superior lift and flight speed, and significantly less vibration than many other helicopters. This advanced system allows the Cormorant to start and stop rotors in very windy conditions—over 50 knots—and also helps provide a stable hover for critical hoisting



## 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 a harmonious global environment.

## SECURITAS



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