

## EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

# PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

## OCTOBER 2015

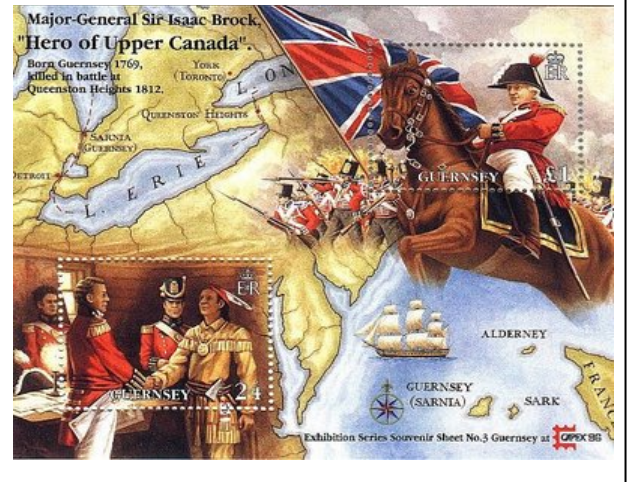


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### President's Comment

The Month of September has been quite busy with celebration of a number of events. The EUSI co-hosted the Battle of Britain Dinner with the Griesbach Royal Canadian Air Force Commemoration Society on September 19 and had a record attendance of 218 guests, including the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Lois Mitchell and her husband, Mr. Doug Mitchell. For your information, Doug is also the Honorary Colonel of the Calgary Highlanders, a reserve infantry battalion based in Calgary. The president of EUSI also attended a tree planting ceremony in the intersection of Arthur Currie Avenue and the Pegasus Boulevard at Griesbach Village. A plaque was erected on site to commemorate the event.

Then on September 20, after almost five years of planning, designing, raising funds, and coordinating with many stakeholders, the Ad Astra Royal Canadian Air Force Monument was unveiled at the Griesbach Village, on McRae Avenue, across from the Kipness Veterans Centre. This event was attended by Her Honor Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Laurie Hawn, MP for Edmonton Central, Nicole Goehring, MLA Castledowns, and Bev Eslinger, City Councillor. Veteran members of the RCAF whose names were honored with streets named after them were also present. Ms J'Lyn Nye, long time television and radio personality, was the master of ceremony. Do you know that J'Lyn Nye was recently appointed the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron? Members of the Squad will have to get used to spelling her full name.



Griesbach Village has emerged from the old Griesbach Barracks to become a well designed urban community with many military monuments within. These monuments depicted various military historical figures, events and branches of service. Yes, even the Air Borne regiment is represented. If you happen to be near this part of Edmonton, and if you ever posted or served in the Griesbach Barracks or CFB Namao, do take a look and you will be amazed at the transformation.



**Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Lois Mitchell**



**Major General Al Meizinger, Deputy Commander, RCAF**  
**Keynote Speaker at the Battle of Britain Dinner.**

**Appreciation** - The EUSI would like to thank the Honorable Laurie Hawn, Member of Parliament, Edmonton Central, for his support over the year. From being a regular attendee at our social functions to inviting other parliamentarians to sit on the panel of our many symposiums. Laurie will step down and enjoyed a well deserved retirement after October 19, 2015. Thanks you, Laurie, for having served Canada.

**Unveiling of the Bon Accord Veterans Memorial Park – Tuesday, September 29, 2015** Veterans, Royal Canadian Legion members and members of the public in the Town of Bon Accords, 30 minutes drive north of Edmonton, will have their own out-door memorial park to hold the Remembrance Day Service after September 29, 2015. Thanks to former MCpl Dave Latte who raised funds and volunteered many hours to help bring this project to success. The official unveiling will take place at 1300 hrs on September 29, 2015 at the 51 Street and 51 Avenue in Bon Accord. You are invited to attend this event. . .

**Remembrance Day Levee** – The EUSI will again co-host with Nonsuch the Remembrance Day Levee, to be held at the Nonsuch Edmonton Naval Base in Kingsway, Edmonton, Starting at 1230 hrs. You are all invited to come and tell your war stories, enjoy the light lunch and the reasonably priced beverage.



## UNITED NATIONS DAY

In 1947, the United Nations General Assembly declared 24 October, the anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations, as which "shall be devoted to making known to the peoples of the world the aims and achievements of the United Nations and to gaining their support for" its work



### ***How Sleep The Brave***

*Nay, nay, sweet England, do not grieve!  
Not one of those poor men who died  
But did within his soul believe  
That death for thee was glorified.  
Ever they watched it hovering near  
That mystery 'yond thought to plumb,  
Perchance sometimes in loathed fear  
They heard cold danger whisper, come!  
Heard and obeyed. O, if thou weep  
Such courage and honour, beauty, care,  
Be it for joy that those who sleep  
Only thy joy could share.*

Oostende Naval Memorial to the Canadian 29<sup>th</sup> Motor Torpedo Boat Flotilla



## HUMOUR

A very posh British surgeon at a field hospital looks down at at bleeding and moaning Australian 'digger':

Surgeon: "My God, man! Did you come in here to die!"

Aussie: "No, Sir, I came in here yesterday"



Get trained!

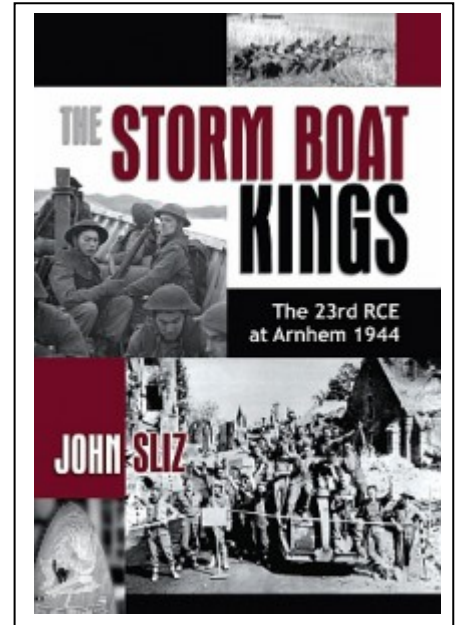


## CANADIAN MILITARY READING

### The Storm Boat Kings - The 23rd R.C.E. at Arnhem 1944

John Sliz

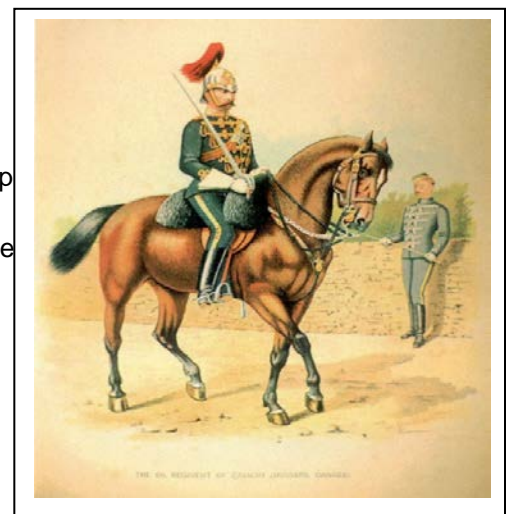
THE EPIC BATTLE of the British 1st Airborne Division at Arnhem in 1944, has been told many times, but so far the story of how they were evacuated across the River Rhine has only been merely touched upon. This is the story of how the Royal Canadian Engineers not only supported the Royal Engineers, but ferried the lion's share of the Airborne troops across the flooded river under less than ideal conditions. One unit in particular, the 23rd Field Company, Royal Canadian Engineers would find fame because of their expert handling of the Storm Boats and for their bravery. Unfortunately, glory came at a high cost to a unit that would soon earn the nickname, 'The Storm Boat Kings'.



## CANADIAN GEAR

### MINELAB MINE DETECTOR

The Minelab F1A4 is a state of the art hand-held mine detector. It is capable of detecting low metal content anti-personnel mines buried up to 10 cm deep in the ground, and larger metal Anti-tank mines at a depth of 50 cm. Manufactured in Australia, the F1A4 has a sophisticated electronics package capable of balancing out ground noise or magnetic interference with a few simple adjustments by the operator.



Canadian Uniforms



## **Membership Profile Second Lieutenant (retired) Gordon Smith**

The following is submitted by Second Lieutenant (retired) Gordon Smith for our Membership Profile section. I have known Gordon for more than thirty years. He is the only known candidate who wore combat pajamas during basic officer's training. He completed Basic Army Officers Training despite broken bones in his hand. Basic Training thirty years ago is nothing like the soft approach of today. I am sure you "old" vets know that.

At the age of about 10, I had a great desire to become a soldier. Being raised in a small northern town in Northern Ontario and being born at the middle of the Second World War, a large percentage of the young men and fathers were in the service of the Canadian Forces. It was not until about 1947 that the soldiers started coming home and from the service and fitting into the community. These soldiers and men became the backbone of the community and had a big influence on my life.

By the time I reached high school, I had made a decision to join the Forces and attend Royal Military College. The selection process went well until I got to the final interview at RMC and found out I needed grade 13 which was not offered in the small community I came from in Northern Ontario. The next possibility was to attend College' Militaire Royal in St. Jean Quebec. Unfortunately I could not speak French and for all intents and purposes my military career was over before it had even started.

I did however attend Ryerson Institute of Technology and acquired a Diploma in Mechanical Technology. My first employment was with General Motors in St. Catharines Ontario. The fortunate part of this stay in St. Catharines is that there was a Reserve Unit in St. Catharines and I mustered with the Service Battalion and because of my education, was granted a commission immediately. Needless to say I never donned a uniform as there were no training sessions available, and I left St. Catharines to return to York University where I acquired a BA Degree in Economics.

Soon, I moved to Edmonton and enlisted with the 15 Edmonton Service was granted my Commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant connected to the Maintenance Company under the direction of Capt. Michael Pinkney. I eventually became the 2 IC of the Maintenance Company.

My training was limited and except for some introductory training at Griesbach, I was a real novice. Eventually I was selected to go on course, a BMTGMT course in Petawawa, Ontario. The average age of the Officers on course was 22 years and 3 months; I at that time was 43 years old. As a result of the Course Sergeant, and encouragement from my comrades, I successfully completed the course in the upper third of the class.

Unfortunately for me, I was diagnosed with cancer in 1988, and have been confined to a wheelchair since 1989. My philosophy of life is the following. Never Give Up and Follow Your Dream. However my time in the Reserve has served me well and the discipline, the honour, and my own drive and desire, I have completed two additional degrees at the University of Alberta. I never missed a day of employment and taught at both the University of Lethbridge and Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. I am now retired but have established my own charity for Homeless and Down-trodden People in the City of Edmonton. I am also a member EUSI, Royal Commonwealth Society, officer of a Fraternal Group and committed to my Church. Oh yes, and I am proud and pleased to mention that I am married to my wife Ruby, and will have been married fifty years this October in the year of 2015. We have two successful married children and four grandchildren all in high school. Two of the boys are in Air Cadets and the girls are at the top of their classes. We have a great family and my Daughter is a Liberal Candidate in the Riding of Edmonton-Wetaskiwin for the upcoming federal election on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015, and would like to be the next Minister of Defence. Her husband is a Captain in the Canadian Forces at the Edmonton Garrison.

I do have a passion for the Canadian Forces and an interest in the continued direction of all three sections as well as greater recognition and importance in Canadian society and in the World community.

God Bless my family, the Canadian Forces, and God Bless Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Gordon J. Smith (Retired)



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SECURITAIRE



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