

Honorary Patron of EUSI – Her Honor, Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

MARCH 2016

The information in this newsletter is for informational purposes only. The Edmonton United Services Institute assumes no liability for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon.

President's Comment

Remember the simpler times of the Cold War, when there were “them” and “us”, and really all the dominant players were the Russians, Brits and Americans. Today, we are allies with the Russians fighting ISIS but we are also training Ukrainian soldiers to resist Russian aggressions. Our trading with China has increased hundred fold but we are guarded in our interactions with China, fearing their military expansion and industrial, as well as financial powerhouse. We have government websites being attacked (Russians or Chinese, or may be North Korea?), Sounds just like the Cold War. Government won't talk about it but I presume that in the background those in the know are doing what's necessary for Canada's safety. I do think that the public should be a little better informed of at least the threat, if not what we're doing about it. Mr. Luc Portelance, former head of the Canada Border Services Agency and Mr. Ray Boisvert, former Deputy Director of Operations of CSIS, recently jointly warned serious gaps in Canada's security capabilities at a time when threats are unusually high. My conclusion is that the world is a more dangerous place than at any other time in recent history, and in those circumstances it behooves our leaders to ensure our military and intelligence communities have the tools and training to do whatever they have to do to protect Canada's interests. Post Media news article on February 4th, 2016 reported that Canadian military is braced for another 5% budget reduction for the upcoming federal budget. As the Government looks to deficit reduction this is one area that has to be funded adequately – and if we have to give up some other cherished program to do that, I for one am OK with that. I've always liked the saying, “It is too late to sharpen swords, when the drums of war are beating”. Listen closely and you can hear the drums in the background. The more I think about it, the more I look back on the Cold War fondly.

In another note, Canada's military strategy in the war against ISIS was passed by parliament. The CF 18 bombing operation is terminated and ground troop increased substantially. I don't profess to be a military strategist. But isn't it dumb to let the enemy know your military strategy in an open parliament? With more troops on the ground, fighting side by side with their “trainees” in the front, do we not need air support? Wasn't it not long ago that Canadian soldiers were killed by “friendly fire” because we did not have air support for our operations? I am not a military strategist or weapons expert, but four griffins (helicopters) sent to Syria with our troops will not be as effective as F18's when quick response air support is required. The terrain in the middle east is ideal for tank operations but we have yet to hear if any LAV3s will be in support. If we have to send our soldiers in harm's way, lets give them the best support we have.





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.

The Royal Commonwealth Society of Edmonton

The RCSE will be holding a formal dinner to commemorate the Commonwealth Day on 12th March, 2016. This is followed by another reception on Monday, March 14, 2016 at the Ramada Hotel in Edmonton. See invitation below. Your support in attending both events will be appreciated.



One More Roll

We toast our hearty comrades, who have fallen from the skies,
and were gently caught by God's own hand to be with him on High.
To dwell among the soaring clouds they've known so well before.
From victory roll to tail chase, at heaven's very door.
As we fly among them there, we're sure to head their plea.
To take care my friend, watch your six, and do one more roll for me.



EUSI Annual Symposium and Mess Dinner Saturday, 17 September, 2016

The 2016 Symposium will take place on **Saturday, September 17, 2016**. Topic of the symposium will be “Future Role of the Canadian Military – Peace Making Vs Peace Keeping” Invitations to be panelist have been sent to the Minister of National Defence, the Chief of the General Staff, as well as professors Christian Lieuprecht, Professor Rob Hubert, and Mr. Joseph Howard.

Following the symposium, a mess dinner will be held to commemorate the **Battle of Medak Pocket**, Croatia, the fiercest battle fought between Canadian and Croatian soldiers. A company commander and his CSM who fought in the battle will be our guest speakers. A silent auction is also planned to raised awareness and funds for the **Last Post Fund**. So mark down your calendar and support this exciting event. .



Historica Canada The Memorial Speakers Bureau. You are wanted as a speaker

EUSI has recently partnered with the Memorial Project Speakers Bureau.

The Memory Project is a nationwide bilingual project that connects Veterans and Canadian forces personnel with the opportunity to share their stories with Canadians in classrooms and community forums. In addition to our speakers' bureau, The Memory Project has created a record of Canada's participation in various global conflicts, including the Second World War and Korean War, through oral interviews, digitized artefacts, and memorabilia.

The Memory Project is an initiative of Historica Canada and is made possible with generous funding from Canadian Heritage and Veterans Affairs Canada.

Historica Canada is the country's largest organization dedicated to enhancing awareness of Canada's history and citizenship. For more information, visit memory@historicacanada.ca or www.historicacanada.ca.

Telephone: 1-866-701-1867

EUSI members who would like to be a speaker at a school, a community event about your experience as a soldier or as veteran, You are encouraged to contact Memorial Speakers Bureau. The 4 steps are

1. Visit thememoryproject.com
2. Click “become a speaker” and fill out the form
3. A Memory project staff member will contact you,
4. Have fun and know who your audiences are.

On the same note, if you are looking for a speaker at your function, the Speakers Bureau will be able to provide a list of suitable speakers. All speakers are volunteers and no fees are involved.



Military History Tid-Bits:

WW II facts

The first German serviceman killed in the war was killed by the Japanese.

Over 100,000 Allied bomber crewmen were killed over Europe.

Polish Catholic midwife Stanisawa Leszczyńska delivered 3,000 babies at the Auschwitz concentration camp during the Holocaust in occupied Poland.

In World War II, British soldiers got a ration of three sheets of toilet paper a day. Americans got 22.

Four of every five German soldiers killed in the war died on the Eastern Front.

Only 20 percent of the males born in the Soviet Union in 1923 survived the war.

Only one out of every four men serving on U-boats survived.

The Siege of Stalingrad resulted in more Russian deaths (military and civilian) than the United States and Britain sustained (combined) in all of World War II.

To avoid using the German sounding name 'hamburger' during World War II, Americans used the name 'Liberty Steak.'

The mortality rate for POWs in Russian camps was 85 percent.

An Imperial Japanese Army intelligence officer, who fought in World War II,

Hiroo Onoda never surrendered in 1945. Until 1974, for almost 30 years, he held his position in the Philippines. His former commander traveled from Japan to personally issue orders relieving him from duty in 1974.



What's Out There

MGL Grenade Launcher (South Africa)

The Milkor MGL six-shot 40mm grenade launcher is the world's first mass-produced multi-shot 40mm hand-held weapon. Developed by the South-African company Milkor, it entered production in 1983, and served with South-African National Defense Forces for more than twenty years. Since the 1996, an improved version of the basic design entered the production, it has been designated MGL Mk.1. The Milkor MGL is also used by more than twenty other countries worldwide. The rapid-fire capability (six shots in less than three seconds) is essential in ambush situations and in quick-pacing urban warfare. The Milkor Mk.1 is now offered for export, and an almost exact copy of Mk1, is manufactured in Croatia by the RH Alan company as RGB 6



CANADIAN GEAR
Beaver Bridge Launcher



The Beaver is an armoured, fully tracked vehicle built on the chassis of a Leopard Tank. It is a highly mobile, rapidly deployable assault bridge that can be used to span natural and man-made obstacles on the battlefield.

The vehicle's 22 meter-long bridge can support vehicles as heavy as 60 tonnes over streams and anti-tank ditches.

The Beaver is powered by a V-10, twin super charged, 830 HP, multi-fuelled engine. It is equipped with an NBCD system that provides protection against nuclear, biological, and chemical agents. It is also equipped with eight smoke / HE grenade dischargers.

“

Securitas



Alexander Tsang CD

MAJOR (RETIRED)

PRESIDENT

EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

ALEXANDERHTSANG@HOTMAIL.COM

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



*The Chair and the Directors of the
Royal Commonwealth Society of Edmonton*

request the pleasure of your company at the

Commonwealth Dinner and Symposium

to be held at

The Ramada Edmonton Hotel

& Conference Centre

11834 - Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton

on Saturday, March 12 2016

at six o'clock

Please RSVP by Friday, March 5th, 2016

Tickets \$85

Call 780-476-5033

Email leslie.day@shaw.ca

Formal Evening Attire

or Dark Lounge Suit

with Miniatures

COMMONWEALTH DAY RECEPTION INVITATION FOLLOWS BELOW



The Chair and the Directors of the

Royal Commonwealth Society of Edmonton

request the pleasure of your company at the

Commonwealth Day Reception

to be held at

The Ramada Kingsway

11834 - Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton

on Monday, March 14 2016

at five o'clock

*Call 780-476-5033 Dress Uniform, Morning Attire,
Email leslie.day@shaw.ca or Business Suit with Medals*
