

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



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

## PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

NOVEMBER 2016

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENTS

Captain John Pinsent will be laying a wreath on behalf of the EUSI at the Aviation Museum.

2Lt Gordon Smith will be the guest speaker at the Rutherford Seniors' Center for the Remembrance Day service.

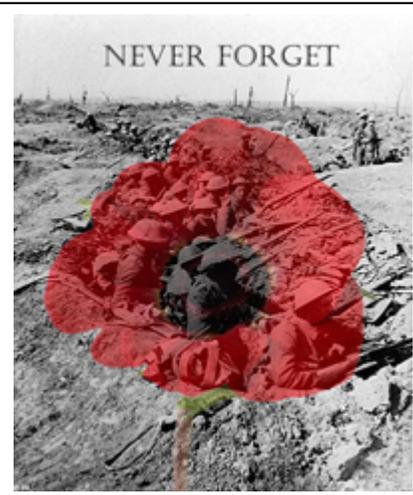
Colonel Ian Taylor will be laying the wreath on behalf of 41 Service Battalion and EUSI at the Remembrance Day ceremony held at the West Edmonton Mall.

Major Alex Tsang will be laying a wreath at the Kingsway Legion on behalf of the Edmonton Salutes Committee.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY LEVEE** – Following Remembrance Day service, EUSI members, families, and guests are invited to participate in a reception at HMCS Nonsuch, 11807, Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton to exchange war stories over a light lunch and to meet Commodore Craig Donovan. Compliment of EUSI.

#### Historica Canada, Memory Project

Historica Canada, Memory Project is a program funded by Veterans Canada to celebrate Canada 150 anniversary. One of the main activities is having veterans to speak at community events, schools and colleges and other cultural and heritage activities about military contributions to Canada as a nation. EUSI is a strong supporter of this non-profit program. Members of EUSI have spoken at a number of events including the Legion, church, and junior/senior high schools. 2Lt Gordon Smith has spoken in a number of events and is booked for another three schools and a seniors home in early November. On November 01, Maj Tsang spoke at Mary Butterworth School in front of grade 7,8, and 9 students. He was accompanied by Ms. Nicole Goehring, Member of the Alberta Legislature and the Provincial Liaison with the military community, who also successfully declared PTSD Awareness Day at the Legislature in July,



2016. LCol Hans Brink is also schedule to speak at two high schools on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. As we approach the year 2017 and getting ready for the Canada 150 cerebration, the request for speaking engagements will likely increase. Any EUSI member who like to share their military stories, peace keeping experience and comments about contributions made by the military to make this country great, please advise President Alex Tsang who will connect you to the Memory Project.

In deed, EUSI members have been very active representing the interests of the military and promoting patriotism and Canadian values. Thank you to you all.

## **EUSI Web Site and YouTube**

Thanks to EUSI members, Grant Cree, Hans Brink, and Joe Zasada. The EUSI web site is being kept up to date and allow ease access for EUSI newsletters, activities and events. We have also made videos of the speakers during the 2016 Symposium who spoke on topics about Canada's future role, peace keeping Vs peace making, threat to Canada's national security, resources required, and current DND strategies and intentions. To access to these videos, go To EUSI.ca, YouTube and connect with the link.

## **Canada's Readiness to Deploy to Africa for Peace Keeping Missions**

While Canada is preparing to undertake UN peacekeeping missions in Africa, I recall a Canadian general once said, "like other Western militaries, we got the focus wrong. We endless studied the technology and capability required to kill columns of Soviet tanks, but we did not absorb the fact that the new threat thrived on the chaos found in failed or failing states, which terrorists and those who support them, feed upon. When pandemics begin, civilians are driven out from their homes, and unless someone stems the tide of chaos, it eventually spreads to neighbouring nations or even countries on the opposite side of the globe." It is important efforts must be made to change the tactical approach to be effective in peace keeping mission environments that are quite alien to the UN peace keeping veterans of the Egypt or Cyprus era. UN peace keeping missions are no longer pure military. It is pointless to kill the leaders of the insurgent groups trying to destabilize a region if you cannot at the same time help the people to build a fair and effective government. To gain acceptance of a UN mission by Canadians, DND and the government must convenience Canadians that it must be a team Canada approach and we are taking stability to places abroad before that stability came to Canada. Canadian Armed Forces would only be a part of team Canada that is made up of all parts of our society. I therefore urge our government to be transparent in the process to be part of the UN peace keeping missions.



## **Tribute to Aboriginal Veterans**

It is important to remember the efforts that Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) made in Canada and on the battlefield in wartime. These efforts reinforced their ancestors' traditions of dedication and sacrifice.

More than 7,000 Indigenous Peoples made important contributions during the First World War (1914-1918), the Second World War (1939-1945) and the Korean War (1950-1953).

Most Indigenous veterans who served in the three wars did service in the infantry – the ground troops. A number of Indigenous soldiers became snipers or reconnaissance scouts. They used their traditional hunting and military skills to carry out dangerous tasks.

Snipers were required to use guns with precise aim. They shot at enemy targets from hidden positions called "nests."

Reconnaissance scouts had to be discrete at their tasks. Their job was to slip behind the front lines before an attack to determine the enemy's location and their weapon power, then secretly relay the information they found back to their home base.

Indigenous Peoples who stayed in Canada during the wars also made meaningful contributions. By the end of the two world wars, Indigenous Peoples donated about \$67,000 to war relief funds like the Red Cross and Salvation Army, and many generously gave reserve land for use as defence posts, airports and rifle ranges.

## Code Talkers

Charles Checker Tompkins from Grouard, Alberta, was a Cree veteran of the Second World War. He and other Cree soldiers worked as "code-talkers." As a member of this special group, his job was to translate military messages into Cree before they were sent to battlefields in Europe.

Often messages came from military officials to provide orders and instructions for troop movement, supply lines and other specifics. It was vital that they remained secret from enemy ears.

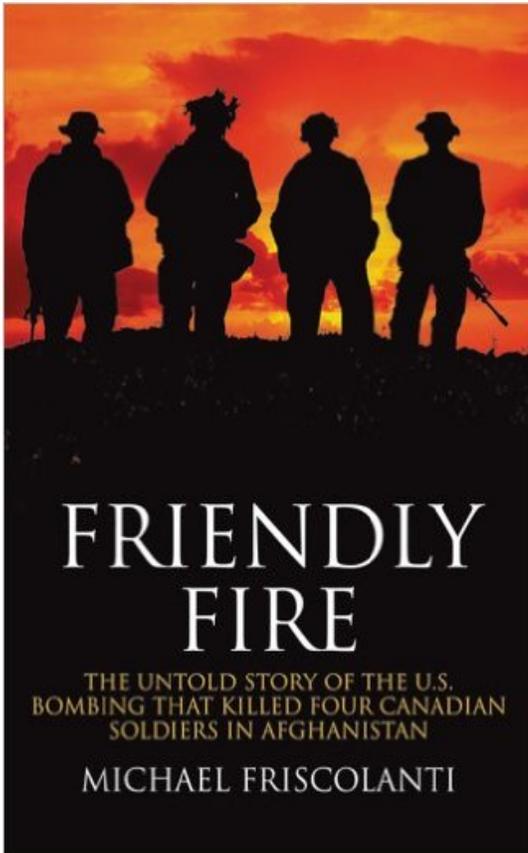
After the coded messages had been received at their proper destination, they were translated back into English from Cree by another Indigenous "code-talker" and given to military officials to read.

**HUMOUR** – contributed by LCol (ret'd) GG McClean



## CANADIAN MILITARY READING

**Friendly Fire – The untold story of the US bombing that killed four Canadian Soldiers in Afghanistan. Michael Friscolanti, September, 2005. John Wiley & Sons Canada Ltd.,**



On the eve Remembrance Day, I re-read the account of the first four Canadian soldiers who were killed by “friendly fire” on April 17, 2002 by American bomber pilots (F-16) Majors Harry Schmidt and Bill Umbach. The four Canadian soldiers were Marc Leger, Ainsworth Dyer, Nathan Smith, and Richard Green.

“Friendly Fire” is one of those books that leave you confounded, a little angry, and a true appreciation of the camaraderie and dark humor among soldiers. For those who have served, it is familiar and like coming home. We see the physically fit as a fiddle who compete in the famous Edmonton based Iron Man contest for relaxation. We also see soldiers who pride themselves for the more “grey matter challenged” skills. At the end, they are all soldiers of a regiment who proudly accepted the dangerous mission Canada ordered them to go.

However, our government was not so readily to pursue the cause of their sacrifice. And our ally was also tardy in their pursue to pinpoint the truth and initiate corrective action.

“Friendly Fire” is not a fiction, it is an account of the whole picture of this tragic event that was withheld from the public.



**USS ZUMWALT CLASS DESTROYER – Commissioned for service on October 3, 2016**



The ship has electric propulsion, new radar and sonar, powerful missiles and guns, and a stealthy design to reduce its radar signature.

Advanced automation will allow the warship to operate with a much smaller crew size than current destroyers. The Zumwalt, the first of three ships in the class, will cost at least \$4.4 billion.

The inverse bow juts forward to slice through the waves.

Sharp angles deflect enemy radar signals. Radar and antennas are hidden in a composite deckhouse.

Described as 'Star Wars technology' by researchers, the railgun can fire shells at seven times speed of sound, and penetrate concrete 100 miles away.

The weapon was on display to the public for the first time at the Naval Future Force Science and Technology EXPO at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. earlier this year.

Using electromagnetic energy, the gun can fire a shell weighing 10kg at up to 5,400mph over 100 miles – with such force and accuracy it penetrates three concrete walls or six half-inch thick steel plates.

Two prototypes of the weapon have been developed for the US Navy – one by British arms manufacturer BAE Systems and the second by a US firm.

Rear Admiral Matthew Klunder, head of US Naval Research, has previously said the futuristic electromagnetic railgun – so called because it fires from two parallel rails – had already undergone extensive testing on land. It will eventually be mounted on the third Zumwalt class ship.

The likely candidate for the weapon would be the third planned Zumwalt, Lyndon B. Johnson (DDG-1002) currently under construction at General Dynamics Bath Iron Works (BIW) with an expected delivery date of 2018



## *Alexander Tsang CD*

MAJOR (RETIRED)

PRESIDENT

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



The Board of Directors of the Edmonton United Services Institute cordially invite you and your family to attend a Welcome Abroad Church Parade in honor of Reverend Sarah Holmstrom and a Remembrance Tribute to Lieutenant General Griesbach

**To be held at the All Saints Anglican Cathedral, 10035 – 103 Street, Edmonton, Alberta**

**On**

**Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, commencing at 10:30 AM**

The Edmonton United Services Institute is proud and honoured to announce our new Padre', Rev. Sarah Holmstrom, Assistant Priest at All Saints Anglican Cathedral. Our thanks are extended to Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Jane Alexander for assisting for this to happen.

EUSI members and family members are expected to arrive no later than 10:30 hrs on the Sunday and be piped into the Cathedral at exactly 10:45 AM to designated and reserved pews.

An introduction of the Padre' to the congregation and a Consecration of the Padre's Stole by the Dean, The Ver. Rev. Neil Gordon.

There will also be a Remembrance Tribute to Major General Greisbach, a long time parishioner of All Saints Anglican Cathedral and Veteran of WW I as well as the founder of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment.

A reception is planned after the Service.

**RSVP** to 780 436 5156, by Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 to Gordon Smith or Email to [gsmith@telus.net](mailto:gsmith@telus.net) or to president, EUSI, Maj (ret'd) Alex Tsang at [Alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com](mailto:Alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com).

Arrangements to be coordinated by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt G.J. Smith