

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



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

## PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

NOVEMBER 2019

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENTS

Captain John Pinsent and Major Alex Tsang will be laying a wreath on behalf of the EUSI at the Aviation Museum in a service sponsored by the 700 Wing (Edmonton) Air Force Association.

Following the ceremony, EUSI members, families, and guests are invited to participate in a reception at HMCS Nonsuch, 11807, Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton to exchanged war stories over a light Lunch. Compliment of EUSI.



#### **Annual EUSI Symposium and the Presidential Mess Dinner held on Saturday, October 26, 2019**

This is one of the most informative symposiums that EUSI have ever held. Prior to the symposium, some asked, "What had trade relation has to do with national security?" My answer was that national security, politics, and economy/trade are interconnected. Canada stands to lost a great deal for reduced trading with USA and China. In 2018, we saw trade barriers and tariffs imposed by USA in key resources and manufacturing sector. In 2019, we saw farmers and their stockpile of canola, pork and beef not getting exported. Is Canada and NATO risking compromised national security if we include China in G7 technology? What are the pros and cons for our economy? The 2019 symposium answered some of these questions and provoked further research. Unfortunately, only a handful of EUSI members attended the symposium and the evening dinner. Perhaps the sudden turn of weather discouraged attendance. For our next year's symposium, timing will be a factor for consideration. Thanks to Margaret Day, Mary Chernowski, our Messing Director and Treasurer, who made sure all the meals were provided, despite some adverse conditions with the venue. They were also responsible for securing and running the silent auction. Financial figure is available at time of issuing this newsletter.

## 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, churches, and three junior and senior high schools. Regular speakers include LCol Hans Brink, LCol Ian Taylor, 2Lt Gordon Smith, and your president. Thus far, Maj Tsang has spoken at the Desk and Derrick Club for Women, The McMann School and a few other schools. 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.

Indeed, 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

The EUSI web site allows ease access for EUSI newsletters, activities and events. We have also made videos of the speakers during the 2016, 2017 Symposiums who spoke on topics about Canada's future role, peace keeping Vs peace making, threat to Canada's national security, resources required to achieve our national defence operational requirements, and current DND strategies and intentions. Unfortunately, we did not produce a video for the most informative symposium we have held.



The EUSI would also like to express our appreciation to Colonel Erker of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and EUSI's own Col Ian Taylor, and Hans Brinks who worked tirelessly to raise awareness and funds for Edmonton's Valor Place, which has its grand opening early in November, 2012. For those who are not familiar with Valor Place, it is a residence in which wounded soldiers and their family can stay while undergoing rehabilitative treatment in Edmonton, where the Glenrose Hospital is famed for its rehabilitative therapy.



## Seasonal Tidbits

**Samhain**: 31 October–1 November – first day of winter in the Celtic calendar (and Celtic New Year's Day)

**All Saints Day**: 1 November – in Western Christian churches

## Guy Fawkes Night – November 5



Festivities in Windsor Castle by Paul Sandby, c. 1776

**Guy Fawkes Night**, also known as **Guy Fawkes Day**, **Bonfire Night** and **Firework Night**, is an annual commemoration observed on 5 November, primarily in the United Kingdom. Its history begins with the events of 5 November 1605 O.S., when Guy Fawkes, a member of the Gunpowder Plot, was arrested while guarding explosives the plotters had placed beneath the House of Lords. Celebrating the fact that King James I had survived the attempt on his life, people lit bonfires around London; and months later, the introduction of the Observance of 5th November Act enforced an annual public day of thanksgiving for the plot's failure.

Within a few decades Gunpowder Treason Day, as it was known, became the predominant English state commemoration, but as it carried strong Protestant religious overtones it also became a focus for anti-Catholic sentiment. Puritans delivered sermons regarding the perceived dangers of popery, while during increasingly raucous celebrations common folk burnt effigies of popular hate-figures, such as the pope. Towards the end of the 18th century reports appear of children begging for money with effigies of Guy Fawkes and 5 November gradually became known as Guy Fawkes Day. Towns such as Lewes and Guildford were in the 19th century scenes of increasingly violent class-based confrontations, fostering traditions those towns celebrate still, albeit peaceably. In the 1850s changing attitudes resulted in the toning down of much of the day's anti-Catholic rhetoric, and the Observance of 5th November Act was repealed in 1859. Eventually the violence was dealt with, and by the 20th century Guy Fawkes Day had become an enjoyable social commemoration, although lacking much of its original focus. The present-day Guy Fawkes Night is usually celebrated at large organized events, centered on a bonfire and extravagant firework displays.

Settlers exported Guy Fawkes Night to overseas colonies, including some in North America, where it was known as Pope Day. Those festivities died out with the onset of the American Revolution. Claims that Guy Fawkes Night was a Protestant replacement for older customs like Samhain are disputed, although another old celebration, Halloween, has lately increased in popularity in England, and according to some writers, may threaten the continued observance of 5 November.



## A PIECE OF MILITARY HISTORY

The last soldier to die in WWI was George Lawrence Price, from Moose Jaw. He lived on the second block of River Street West. If you are in Mosaic Place, that is very, very close to the house he had lived in. To this day, the Canadian Forces Chaplin conducts a service in Belgium where Price was buried. Laid to rest just 50 yards away from Price, is the first soldier that was killed in WWI, and in the plot beside Price, was the first Victoria Cross recipient. Now you know.



## HUMOR

**🇨🇦 NEW CANADIAN  
50 CENT COIN TO  
COMMEMORATE  
JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S  
FIRST TERM AS PM  
OF CANADA 🇨🇦**



## CANADIAN MILITARY READING

### **No Holding Back: Operation Totalize, Normandy, August 1944**

[Brian A. Reid](#)

On August 8, 1944, the Canadian Army launched Operation Totalize, a massive armored and mechanized infantry attack that aimed to break through enemy defenses south of Caen and trap the German Army in Normandy by linking up with Patton's Third Army.



## CANADIAN GEAR

### 60-MM MORTAR (M19)



The 60mm-mortar is an indirect fire support weapon used primarily by the infantry. The weapon is fielded in two configurations, the handheld version using the M1 base plate and the more accurate version with the M5 mount consisting of a base plate, bipod and C2A1 sight. A two person mortar crew can carry the weapon and several rounds of ammunition over long distances. Additional ammunition is normally carried in a vehicle or by the remainder of the infantry platoon. A tactical advantage of the mortar is its high trajectory, which allows the mortar to be fired from behind high cover, the suppression of targets behind high cover and the firing of the mortar over the heads of friendly troops without endangering them.

The weapon can fire 30 rounds per minute for short periods and 8 rounds per minute for sustained periods. In the handheld configuration it can be used against targets between 100 and 1500 metres away, the M5 mount extends this range to 2800 meters.



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Ubique!

*Alexander Tsang CD*

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