

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



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

## PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

MARCH 2020

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

The last two months have been very testing for Canada's economy. On February 24, the Dow Jones and TSX had the Biggest lost in twenty years. Despite court orders and injunctions, our oil pipelines are still in limbo and the rail lines are still blockaded. The adverse effects will be felt years to come. As a veteran who served thirty two years and had three overseas deployments, I wondered if all that sacrifices were worth it? Do the young people appreciate our efforts to strive for a better Canada for EVERYBODY? The Coronavirus will add economic woes that will take global efforts to recover. Eons ago, our ancestors would have sacrifice a virgin to the Gods for forgiveness. For now, may be roosters will suffice.



### **Among the Red Guns**

Among the red guns,  
In the hearts of soldiers  
Running free blood  
In the long, long campaign:  
Dreams go on.

Among the leather saddles,  
In the heads of soldiers  
Heavy in the wracks and kills  
Of all straight fighting:  
Dreams go on.



Among the hot muzzles,  
In the hands of soldiers  
Brought from flesh-folds of women--  
Soft amid the blood and crying--  
In all your hearts and heads  
Among the guns and saddles and muzzles:

Canadian Uniforms

Dreams,  
Dreams go on,  
Out of the dead on their backs,  
Broken and no use any more:  
Dreams of the way and the end go on.



### 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 harmonious global environment.

The Royal Commonwealth Society of Canada, Edmonton Branch, is an active organization that helps to promote democracy, inclusiveness and environmental protection in the world. The Alberta Legislature often invite the Board of Directors to the Legislature to celebrate the Commonwealth Day.

**EUSI Annual General Meeting** will be held at 1130 hours at the Edmonton Inn and Convention Centre in Kingsway Avenue on Saturday, March 7, 2020. The Board of Directors meeting will ensue. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to the president at [Alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com](mailto:Alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com) or telephone at 780/456-3392.



### HUMOUR

**Submitted by the politically incorrect Sgt (retired) AE Bince.**

One day my housework-challenged Husband decided to wash his Sweatshirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to me, 'What setting do I use on the washing machine?'

'It depends,' I replied. 'What does it say on your shirt?'

He yelled back, 'Brisbane Broncos!'

Q: How do you keep your husband from reading your e-mail?

A: Rename the email folder 'Instruction Manuals'

### Do you know that?

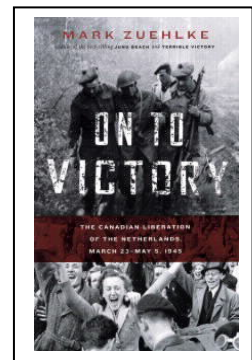
The term Brevet is a temporary higher rank, for example, a captain being a brevet colonel. It was not unusual for British colonial officers on loan to another regiment to be temporarily classed as a higher rank in that regiment but be paid for the lesser rank of their actual regiment. (Old French, diminutive of brief letter)



### CANADIAN MILITARY READING

#### On To Victory: The Canadian Liberation of the Netherlands, March 23-May 5, 1945

March 23, 1945. Tens of thousands of Allied troops, following on the heels of a massive artillery barrage, lunge across the Rhine River aboard amphibious craft, while even more land from the skies. Operations Plunder and Varsity aimed to smash the German forces determined to stop this crossing, which sought to unleash a breakout into the heartland of Germany and the Netherlands and bring about a rapid end to the war.



### New Batch of Machine Guns for Canadian Military

Will be delivered in December *David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen* January 28, 2020  
*C6A1 FLEX General Purpose Machine Guns.*



*Colt Canada photo.*

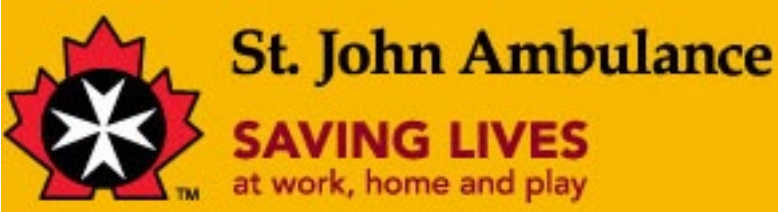
The Canadian government is buying a little more than 3,600 machine guns to replace aging weapons in its stocks. An earlier batch of new machine guns has already been delivered to some of the troops. For this latest contract, the government is purchasing 3,626 new C6A1 FLEX General Purpose Machine Guns (GPMGs) from Colt Canada of Kitchener, ON. First deliveries of this batch of new GPMGs are anticipated in December 2020, with final deliveries in July 2023, the Department of National Defence noted in a news release. The value of the contract is \$96.97 million but that includes taxes. The guns feature a durable polymer butt stock instead of the current wooden style, according to the Department of National Defence.

Additionally, soldiers will be able to attach pointing devices and optical sighting systems to the new weapon to help increase their operational effectiveness. The General Purpose Machine Gun usually sells to military forces for around \$13,000. The DND says the cost for this purchase is around double because other gear and spare parts are being bought at the same time. "The total acquisition is 8,790 items, which includes 3,626 C6s and over 5,000 supplementary items, including a variety of spare parts, cleaning and repair kits, (and) slings to carry the GPMG," Some of the extra cost, however, is the premium to have the guns supplied by Colt Canada. This was a non-competitive contract awarded to Colt Canada under the Munitions Supply Program. With the MSP, Canada has chosen to maintain the capability to produce military munitions and small arms domestically.

A number of the new weapons will be mounted on vehicles such as the Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle and the rest will be used to help replenish reserve stock, according to the DND.

The machine guns are to replace weapons that were purchased 30 years ago and are reaching the end of their service life. In July 2017 the Canadian government announced it was purchasing 1148 new C6A1 FLEX General Purpose Machine Guns from Colt Canada. The first batch of those guns has been delivered. Some are already in the hands of the soldiers. The older C6 machine guns will eventually be taken out of service and declared surplus. "The eventual disposal plan will take into account the fact that the C6 GPMG is a prohibited firearm and various options will be assessed, including using them as in-classroom training aids for Canadian Armed Forces training schools, museum display, deactivation, sale, donation, or destruction through smelting," the DND told *Defence Watch*.





Get trained!



## VIA Rail Savings to CAF Veterans and DND Civilian Personnel

VIA Rail offers savings on train travel in Canada to Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members, veterans, and National Defence Civilian Personnel: 25% discount on the best available adult, senior, student, youth and child fares in all classes & all trains for qualifying DND/CAF members and immediate family.

**How to Book:-** Use the discount code “12070” when booking your train travel. To book online: <http://www.viarail.ca/en/canadian-forces> When booking by telephone or at a VIA station advise the VIA agent that you wish the military discount prior to the agent booking your travel.

**What identification do I require?** The offer is valid for any passenger 18 years of age or older who has at least one of the following forms of identification plus one additional piece of photo identification:

- CAF Identification Card (NDI 20)
- Record of Service Card (NDI 75)
- Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) Benefit Card
- Discharge Certificate from any branch of the CAF
- Statement of Service from any branch of the CAF
- Valid DND Temporary ID card (NDI 10)
- Civilian employees must present their DND ID card and COne card
- CAF member or veteran COne card (with photo ID)

**More information** - For more information visit the VIA Rail website.

## CARRY-ON BAGGAGE

Active and veteran members of Canadian Forces. Civilian employees

- Retired and current Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members are entitled to extra baggage allowance. This exemption does not extend to family members of the Military.
- Applicable to personal travel or as part of a military assignment.
- Members must present a military identification card.

### Carry-On Baggage Allowance:

- No fee for regular baggage exceeding the baggage allowance in weight or quantity
- No fee applies for non-standard items if the passenger is able to carry the baggage on board and if the item is permitted on board (see list).
- If the military member has more baggage than the authorized allowance (in weight or quantity), the member must carry the baggage.
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## CHECKED BAGGAGE

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- Applicable to personal travel or as part of a military assignment.
- Members must present a military identification card.



### Checked Baggage Allowance

- No fees applicable for additional baggage. The number of additional items is unlimited.
- No fees for items up to 32 kg (70 lbs.).
- No fee applicable for non-standard items that are part of the articles accepted (refer to list) in our baggage cars (canoes, kayaks, bicycles, etc.) . \*Please note some items require 48hr notice.
- As a safety measure for our employees, we do not accept baggage weighing more than 32 kg (70 lbs.). The passenger always has the option of bringing the overweight item on board, as long as the member does not require the assistance of an agent. The member also has the option of spreading the weight in more than one baggage



**DATE LIGHT SAVING TIME is set for March 8, 2020, Sunday, at 0200 Hrs. Don't forget to set your clock one hours ahead.**



**Alexander Tsang CD**

Major (retired)

President

Edmonton United Services Institute

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