



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

DECEMBER 2021

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President's Comments

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to you all. So far, Edmonton weather has been above normal whereas Calgary had quite a bit of the white fluff stuff and windy. More rain falls are expected in southern BC, and the Strathconers are still there helping to ward off more flooding. My thoughts are with the flood victims and our deployed soldiers, whether domestically or overseas, that they return home safely for Christmas. There are 200 CAF members in Ukraine at present to provide support for the Ukrainian soldiers against threats from Russia and pro-Russia Ukrainian rebels.

It has been two years since the Covid-19 pandemic and EUSI activities have been severely restricted. We have not been able to hold an AGM and the planned annual symposium has been postponed twice. Our Remembrance Day parade and levee were also cancelled for two years in a row. It became problematic to continue to hold the enthusiasm and support of members should this condition continue. We have lost two long standing members in the last two years. As such, I promise to continue to maintain this monthly Enews to keep members informed of happenings within the military community.

First of all, I would like to congratulate Gen. Wayne Eyre for his appointment as the permanent CDS. I know Wayne when he was the Commander of 3rd Div here in Edmonton several years ago. He is an approachable leader and well respected by CAF members. After several years of instability, Canadian Armed Forces needs strong leadership and normalcy to maintain morale and ability to fight as an armed force.

Secondly, I would like to reflect on our accomplishments and sum up the year end report. EUSI has seen growth in the last two years, especially with new young members. Our members have been seen in many events, representing the EUSI. For example, despite social distance and other restrictions, EUSI members have been guest speakers in schools and community events to speak on their experience with the CAF. Some of these community engagements were through the Veteran Affairs, Historica, Memory Project. EUSI has provided speakers for the last seven years. Hans Brink, Gordon Smith, Thank you for your participation.

I held the position of Chair Person of the Edmonton Salutes Committee on behalf of EUSI for four years until October, 2020. EUSI, as a founding member of the Edmonton Salutes Committee, will continue to be a voting member of the Committee. The Committee activities have been curtailed somewhat due to the pandemic but meetings are held monthly through Zoom and many activities continue to occur virtually.

Sad to report that the Korean Veterans Association ceased to exist in Canada in 2021. The annual commemoration took place at the Alberta Legislature will no longer take place. This is due to the fact that not

many Korean Veterans are still alive or healthy enough to organize the parade. However, in South Korea, a ceremony honoring Canadian soldiers will continue to happen annually.

In the coming weeks, our membership secretary, Captain (ret'd) John Pinsent will be sending out membership renewals. At this time, we need you all to show support for our organization to continue. Please send in your membership renewal and the annual fee of \$25.00 so that we can go forward.

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

The planned annual symposium was postponed twice due to pandemic. It is now going to occur on Saturday, March 5, 2022. Except for the date, nothing has changed, the venue and format will stay the same. You can expect to receive an invitation by email or slow mail in the new year. Hopefully, pandemic restrictions will be relaxed somewhat and this time it will be a smooth sailing. The organizing committee has adopted to anticipated changes. We will be concentrating on Canadian speakers with international speakers as contingency only. We are confident there are sufficient Canadian experts on UAV or drones. It would be nice to include American guests and we will still try to include them but with international travel restrictions in mind.



Heroes

Fearful eyes looked upwards at the thousands of arrows streaking across the sky, the sun playing its reflective rays on those deadly tips. The targets for those shafts of death held their wooden shields aloft as the prayers flowed freely from their lips.

The lucky ones died instantly, wooden missiles smashing through their bodies, splintering bone, and piercing their racing hearts. Screams from the wounded, hard to ignore as the arrows stopped them playing their valiant parts.

The vanquished were fearful of the expected slaughter, which they understood would be their fate.

Victors hacked and slashed at their beaten foe, spilling their blood, just to satisfy their hate.

Looting and burning, soaked in enemy blood, they sang songs of triumph at the death of their foe.

On the return to their homeland, every one of the valiant men would be hailed as a returning hero.

Frightening sound of an explosion, the fortress demolished, iron projectiles smash into its walls.

Men defended their stronghold bravely, but arrows were no match for the power of the cannon ball.

When sturdy walls were reduced to rubble, the defending army took up their swords and defiantly they charged.

They hoped that this new enemy would lose their courage and retreat, but it was them that were stopped at a distance of four hundred yards.

The enemy had new weapons, in the form of muskets that spat out deadly and unseen lead balls.

The defending brave men carried on their charge, then in great numbers they began to fall.

The smoke had cleared, the roar of the guns had ceased, the valiant army looted the bodies of their foes,

Then sang songs of victory and cheered each other knowing they would be hailed as returning heroes.

They will never know what happened, it would make no difference even if they did.

They will hear no sound, or sight of the enemy that is to destroy those who were content just to love and live.



Barrhead War Memorial

Husbands, wives, parents; children, lovers, birds and sweet smelling flowers reduced to ashes by the unholy rain.

Unlucky survivors will be condemned to live their pitiful lives, mutilated and in terrible pain.

Towns, cities and countries will have very few left to cry, or to mourn.

Ill fated offspring of those few will suffer unknown terrors as they begin to die, from the moment they are born.

The senders of these weapons of Hell from hundreds of miles away,
will be uncaring as the life's blood of millions, instantly ceases to flow.

They will stand upright and proud, as medals are pinned on the chests, of these valiant vanquishing heroes.



HUMOUR

A Canadian Army Commanding Officer was about to start the morning briefing to all the staff. While waiting for the coffee machine to finish its brewing, the C.O. decided to pose a question to all assembled.

He explained that his wife had been a bit frisky the night before, and therefore he failed to get his usual amount of sound sleep.

He posed the question; "How much of the act of sex is "work," and how much is "pure pleasure"?"

A Captain chimed in with a 75-25% in favour of 'work'.

A Lieutenant said it was probably about 50-50%.

A Warrant-Officer responded with a 25-75% in favour of 'pleasure', depending upon his state of inebriation at the time.

There being no consensus, the C.O. turned to the Newfoundland Private who was in charge of making the coffee. What was his opinion?

Without any hesitation, the young Newfie responded, "Sir, it has to be 100% pleasure, Sir."

The C.O. a little surprised and as you might guess, said "And why is that soldier"?

"Well, Sir, if there was any work involved, the officers would have me doing it for them, Sir."

The room fell silent.....God Bless Newfies!!



Get trained!

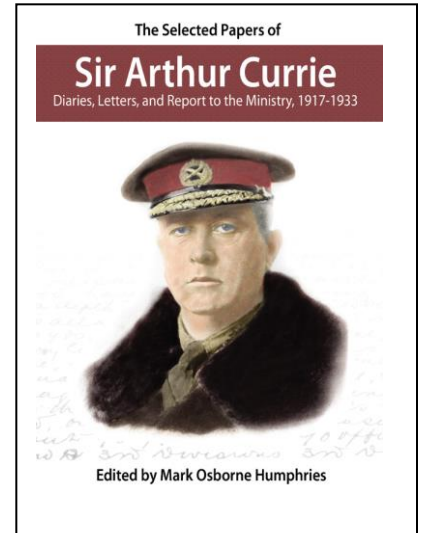


CANADIAN MILITARY READING

The Selected Papers of Sir Arthur Currie

Diaries, Letters, and Report to the Ministry, 1917-1933

The Selected Papers of Sir Arthur Currie brings to life the troubled world of Canada's most famous general. Detailed, introspective, and comprehensive, Currie's prolific writings illuminate events at the front and Canada's war at home, revealing the legacy of the Great War for Canadian society. Through diaries, letters, and a final report to the government, this book presents a vivid portrait of a very private public figure.



CANADIAN GEAR

LG 1 MARK II 105-MM HOWITZER



The LG 1 MARK II 105-MM HOWITZER is generally used to provide artillery fire support for light, highly mobile forces in Canada and abroad. Normally, it is pulled by a vehicle, such as a 2 ½ ton truck or a modified Grizzly. It can also be lifted by helicopter, dropped by parachute and transported by air. The LG1 is capable of engaging targets of up to 19 km away.



What's Out There?

F-X (Japan)

While similar in appearance, the FS-X is larger and heavier



than the F-16. The FS-X design calls for a 25-percent larger wing, longer fuselage, and longer horizontal and vertical tails. The FS-X will have the same F110 engine used in the latest US version of the F-16 aircraft. The FS-X will incorporate five technologies defined by FS-X agreements as Japanese (non-derived): active phased array fire control radar, integrated electronic warfare system, inertial reference/navigation system, mission computer hardware, and radar absorbing material. Japan is also developing a co-cured composite wing for the FS-X.

Despite constitutionally only allowed to have a home defence force only, do you know that Japan's Air Force is considered one of the top ten airforce in the world?



Securitas

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