



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE
PRESIDENT'S ENEWS
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REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENTS

After two years of hiatus, Remembrance Day Commemoration Events have returned. Thank you for the hard work and dedication put in by our health care workers, we have overcome and we are moving forward. The following are some of the commemoration activities happening around Edmonton/

1100 HRS

- 20 RCA Gun Salute at Legislature
- Churchill Square Remembrance Ceremony
- Beverley Remembrance Ceremony
- West Edmonton Mall Remembrance Ceremony
- Legion Remembrance Ceremony at all Edmonton and area branches. The ceremony at Kingsway Legion (50th street and 181 Avenue) will be the bigger event.
- * The Alberta Aviation Museum also hold one of the larger commemorative event. Myself, Accompanied by Capt John Pinsent will be laying a wreath on behalf of the Edmonton United Services Institute and the Edmonton Salutes Committee.



There is no information if any organization will host a Remembrance Day Levee. However, various Legions normally host a function where you can exchange war stories. Make sure you have your coins with you to win a drink from your pals.

There is no information if messes are open or if units will be on parade. However, the 41 Service Battalion Freedom of City ceremony scheduled for October 22 was canceled. No reason for the cancellation was given. However, I suspect it has to do with the announcement by the CDS a couple of weeks ago that all "non-essential activities" are cancelled to concentrate on efforts for recruitment. My personal opinion is that it is the wrong way of doing things. Activities such as the Freedom of City Parade or other community oriented activities are exactly that generate community support for the CAF and motivate citizens to join. I joined years ago because I liked the challenges and discipline offered by the military and I looked up to those before me for their sacrifice and savored the brotherhood/sisterhood that the military offers. I am a visual minority but I was not looking for special

treatment and I have never felt the need to have special privileges. In battlefield or at work in barracks, I see fellow soldiers and not male/female/ he/she, yellow/red/black/white. By creating these barriers and set aside special treatment, our military is heading the wrong direction. Unfortunate at the expenses of the capacity and effectiveness of our CAF. Yes, all these comments may seem politically incorrect. But do we want an army that can fight or an army that is woke and take offence easily.



LAST POST

During this time of year, while we are remembering our departed veterans, I always remember the one soldier that had touched me deeply,

Lieutenant Colonel Colin W. Reichle, CD (July 2, 1957 - 28 September 2014)

Colin first joined the Military in 1973 as a private with the North Saskatchewan Regiment in Prince Albert. His military career saw him posted to Petawawa, Lahr, Germany, Gaagetown, New Brunswick, and Silo, Manitoba, and back to Prince Albert as Deputy Commanding Officer for North Saskatchewan Regiment between 1982 and 1990. Between 1993 and 1996, Colin commanded the 20th Field Artillery Regiment in Edmonton and retired from the military. Thereafter, Colin held many executive positions in various “civvy” organizations and was last employed by the Privy Council as member of the Veterans Appeal Board. Colin was also involved in many community organizations, too numerous to mention all. Notably, he was the Deputy Grand Master of the Masonic Fraternity of the Athabasca District, Member of Edmonton Preceptory No. 46, Knight’s Templar, Director of St John Brigade Alberta Council, President of Royal Life Saving Society, Chairman of the Royal Commonwealth Society of Canada, President of the Kiwanis International Foundation, and International Trustee. Colin was the Past president of EUSI. He was an avid hunter and passionate about environment conservation. Colin and I enjoyed many great Scotch together. I will always remember he took a big gulp of the brandy with scorpion, ginseng, and a cobra soaked in it for months. He was a lot braver than I was. Thank you Colin, for being a patriot and served Canada in such a significant way.



WAR IN UKRAINE

While Ukrainian Defence Force is gaining grounds, taking back lost territories, Russia is increasingly brutal, bombing civilian targets and utilizing “dirty bombs” is looming. An escalation of the scale, scope and weaponry is on the horizon. Other than providing more weapons and military advisors, NATO has yet to send a strong message for deterrence. Instead of undermining Russian’s confidence by enlisting China’s support to suppress Russian military and political power, the USA and Canada are antagonizing China with envoy visits to Taiwan and conducting military exercises in

South China Sea. I do understand China is a threat, but this is not the time to add fuel to fire. The famous Articles of War stated that there is no permanent friend or permanent enemy. Friend or enemy depends on what is there to gain, and from this, diplomacy is called upon.



Meet ‘General Armageddon’, the fearsome new commander of Russian forces in Ukraine

The brutal attacks on civilian targets in Kyiv and other places are being linked to the appointment of General Sergei Surovikin, a ruthless veteran of Russia’s wars in Chechnya and Syria.



As Russia rained shells and missiles in civilian areas in Ukraine, there was speculation over a possible link between the recent dramatic escalation in the war and the appointment of a new commander of the Russian forces.

The Kremlin on Saturday (October 8) announced the appointment of General Sergei Surovikin, a 55-year-old veteran of several intense and complex battles including as leader of the Russian forces in Syria, and a man with a reputation for ruthlessness and brutality.

A notorious record

His fearsome battlefield record had earned Surovikin nicknames such as the “fierce one” and “General Armageddon”, the ‘Financial Times’ said in a report. ‘The Guardian’ report described him as the “notorious general who opened fire on pro-democracy protesters in the 1990s”, and ‘The New York Times’ quoted a Human Rights Watch report from 2020 putting him among the military leaders who might have had “command responsibility” for human rights violations in Syria.

On February 23 this year, a day before Russian troops marched into Ukraine, Gen. Surovikin was put on a list of individuals sanctioned by the European Union, Western media reports said.

“Surovikin is like Marshal Zhukov,” the ‘Financial Times’ report quoted Ruslan Pukhov, director of the Moscow-based think tank Center for Analysis of Strategies and Technologies, as saying. “He is a tough guy who knows how to run a war. He’s a real beast, not some dumb vodka-drinking guy or a pseudo-intellectual. He’s a real fighter who isn’t scared to tell the higher-ups the truth,” Pukhov told the ‘Financial Times’.

Marshal Georgy Zhukov was a legendary Soviet general who led the Red Army in some of its most consequential victories of World War II.

On Monday, as a barrage of rockets hit civilian areas in Ukraine, ‘The Guardian’ quoted a former defence official who the report said had worked with Surovikin: “I am not surprised to see what happened this morning in Kyiv. Surovikin is absolutely ruthless, with little regard for human life.”

“I am afraid his (Surovikin’s) hands will be completely covered in Ukrainian blood,” the anonymous official told ‘The Guardian’.

‘The New York Times’ report quoted Michael Kofman, director of Russia studies at CNA, a defence research institute based in Virginia, US, as saying: “He (Surovikin) is known as a pretty ruthless commander who is short with subordinates and is known for his temper.”

Can he fix Russia’s problems in the war?

The appointment of Gen Surovikin has come at a time when Western media has been reporting successes for Ukrainian forces, and serious setbacks for President Vladimir Putin. Russia is said to be fighting shortages of manpower and munitions, and a mobilisation drive announced by Putin is, according to Western sources, very unpopular.

Along with his reputation for brutality and corruption, Surovikin is considered to be a competent general. “Surovikin knows how to fight with bombers and missiles — that’s what he does,” Gen Kyrlo O Budanov, the head of Ukraine’s military intelligence service, had said in June, ‘The New York Times’ reported.

“*Surovikin is the most able commander in the Russian army,*” ‘The Guardian’ quoted Yevgeny Prigozhin, the founder of the private militia Wagner Group, as saying. He is a “legendary figure, he was born to serve his motherland faithfully,” Prigozhin said, according to a statement from Concord, a company he is associated with, ‘The Guardian’ report said.

Western media, however, pointed out that given the deep-seated institutional and structural issues with the Russian military, personnel changes such as the appointment of Surovikin may not be enough to make a dramatic difference.

“That is not going to solve all their problems,” ‘The New York Times’ quoted Frederick B Hodges, a former top US Army commander in Europe as saying. “All the problems are institutional, deeply rooted flaws — corruption, lack of readiness.”

NOWE THE COMPARSON

Ukraine’s 'iron general' is a hero, but he's no star

Meet Valeriy Zaluzhnyy, the commander in chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, who's quietly leading the fight against Russia's invaders.



Washington, Moscow and most of the world expected Russia to demolish Ukraine’s military within days.

But not Valeriy Zaluzhnyy, the commander in chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, who has orchestrated and led the fight that has left Russian forces bloody, beaten and in messy retreat.

If a single person can be credited with Ukraine’s surprising military successes so far — protecting Kyiv, the capital, and holding most other major cities amid an onslaught — it is Zaluzhnyy, a round-faced 48-year-old general who was born into a military family, and appointed as his country’s top uniformed commander by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in July 2021. Zaluzhnyy and other Ukrainian commanders had been preparing for a full-on war with Russia since 2014.

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Unlike, say, "Stormin'" Norman Schwarzkopf, who led U.S. troops in the first Persian Gulf War, or David Petraeus, who presided over the Iraq war and was nicknamed "King David," Zaluzhnyy has largely avoided the spectacle of a celebrity commander — deferring that role to Zelenskyy, a former actor and comedian who has captured the public's imagination.

In many ways Zaluzhnyy epitomizes a new generation of Ukrainian officers who cut their teeth in the grinding eight-year war in Donbas and, when not on the front, deployed to training ranges across Europe to drill with NATO forces — experiences that have sanded off many of the authoritarian edges produced by decades of rigid Soviet military training.

That collaboration with NATO has molded a group of professional-minded officers that aspired to Western standards and helped build a decentralized, empowered, more agile way of warfare than the Russian model, which has floundered in the Ukrainian mud.

"I can probably talk about [Zaluzhnyy] not just as a single person but as a representative of the new generation of Ukrainian military — senior, middle level and even low level officers," said Oleksiy Melnyk, a former Ukrainian air force officer who is now co-director of foreign relations and international security programs at the Razumkov Centre, a Kyiv-based think tank.

In September 2021, two months before U.S. President Joe Biden's administration began issuing loud warnings of a Russian invasion and sharing intelligence about the troop build-up on Ukraine's borders, Zaluzhnyy described preparing for an attack.

Zaluzhnyy started life as a military baby, born in July 1973 when his father was stationed at a garrison in Novohrad-Volyns'kyi, a town in Zhytomyr region in northern Ukraine, roughly 150 miles west of Kyiv.

He attended the Institute of Land Forces of the Odesa Military Academy and the National Defense Academy in Kyiv, where he completed his studies in 2007. A series of posts followed, including as commander of a mechanized brigade. Zaluzhnyy then returned to the academy for more training and graduated in 2014, a few months after the Maidan Revolution led then-President Viktor Yanukovich to flee to Russia, and as war was intensifying in Donbas.

Sent east to lead combat units in active fighting, Zaluzhnyy commanded a brigade that deployed in August 2014 to Debaltseve, the site of some of the war's bloodiest battles and where Ukrainian forces took heavy casualties. The urgent need to avoid further losses in Debaltseve ultimately put added pressure on then-President Petro Poroshenko to sign the Minsk 2 peace accords on terms that proved unfavorable.

In 2019, Zaluzhnyy was named head of the Ukrainian military's North Operational Command, stationed in Chernihiv, his mother's native city in northern Ukraine, near the Belarusian border, where he had spent a lot of time as a child.

In a [February 2020 interview](#) with ArmyInform, a military news site, Zaluzhnyy described how it was his childhood “dream” to become a soldier and that he never expected to be a top commander.

“My promotion was like a normal soldier. I was appointed — I took up my duties, took office, was offered another — also moved,” he said. “I never thought that one day I would become a general and reach high ranks.”

Zaluzhnyy’s elevation to the top job was also a key part of an effort to restructure the leadership dividing operational duties and the planning responsibilities within the general staff. It also coincided with a broader modernization campaign in which the Ukrainian military, adopted new, more creative fighting techniques based on combat experience against a real, rather than theoretical, enemy.

“We want to move away from maps — from writing battle orders of, say, 1943,” Zaluzhnyy said in the ArmyInform interview.

The irony, however, is that Zaluzhnyy is now fighting an enemy that, in some respects at least, often looks more 1943 than it does 2022.

A modern general

Zaluzhnyy has said that the Ukrainian military is filled with young, professional soldiers and future leaders. “These are completely different people — not like us when we were lieutenants. These are new sprouts that will completely change the army in five years. Almost everyone knows a foreign language well, works well with gadgets, they are well-read,” he told ArmyInform. “New sergeants. These are not scapegoats, as in the Russian army, for example, but real helpers who will soon replace officers.”

“We have already started this movement, and there is no way back,” he added. “Even society will not allow us to return to the army in 2013.”

The hit-and-run tactics used by Ukrainian soldiers this year have had a stunning impact, blunting the Russian military machine in very real ways. Of the 120 battalion tactical groups Russia pushed into Ukraine on Feb. 24, 40 of them — including those that led the assault on Kyiv and Chernihiv — have retreated to Belarus to refit.

As many as 29 of those groups are currently incapable of fighting due to the massive losses suffered at the hands of small teams of Ukrainians armed with Western-provided anti-armor weapons. It could take up to four weeks for some of those units to refit and be ready to deploy to eastern Ukraine, one Western official confirmed to POLITICO.

Visual timeline: Tracking Putin's war on Ukraine

I have described the use of drones that took out the Russian Major General in the August Newsletter. Now, lets look at another weapon used effectively and provided by NATO countries.

The thousands of Javelin, Stinger, Panzerfaust and other anti-armor and air missiles provided by NATO countries have become a staple of social media feeds, spawning memes, t-shirts and music videos, but the cultural changes within the Ukrainian military have arguably made a bigger impact on the battlefield. NATO exercises have been a key element in the relentless work to eliminate any trace of “Sovok” thinking — the Soviet mentality that left a legacy of corruption and complacency, and which persisted for nearly a quarter-century after independence.

The Verdict – who is going to win at the end?

No, there will be no winners. Many infrastructures in Ukraine have been destroyed and will take year5s and billions of dollars to rebuild. The national psychic in Russia and the mourning of the death of the so many very young soldiers will forever char the minds of Russian families. Would the war ever stop? I think it will. With hardships and shortages, especially with the harsh Russian winter approaching, ordinary Russians will ask the question, “Why?” in a more critical manner. The sudden deaths of his former supporters seem to indicate an under current brewing opposition in Russia. NATO countries can do more to support Ukraine. Certainly Canada, can suspend the wokish drive to suppress our oil production for now. Western nations cannot afford the current fuel consumption policies while the rest of the world is heading to destruction. In the sixties, there was a very popular anti-war song by the Byrds, titled, Turn, Turn, Turn. The lyric goes like this: To everything turn, turn, turn. There is a season turn, turn, turn. And a time to every purposes under Heaven, A time to be born, A time to die, A time to plant. A time to reap, A time to kill, A time to heal. A time to laugh, A time to weep. Perhaps, it is not the right time to choke off Canadian Oil industry, which can definitely turn the tide and exert pressure for Putin to end the war.

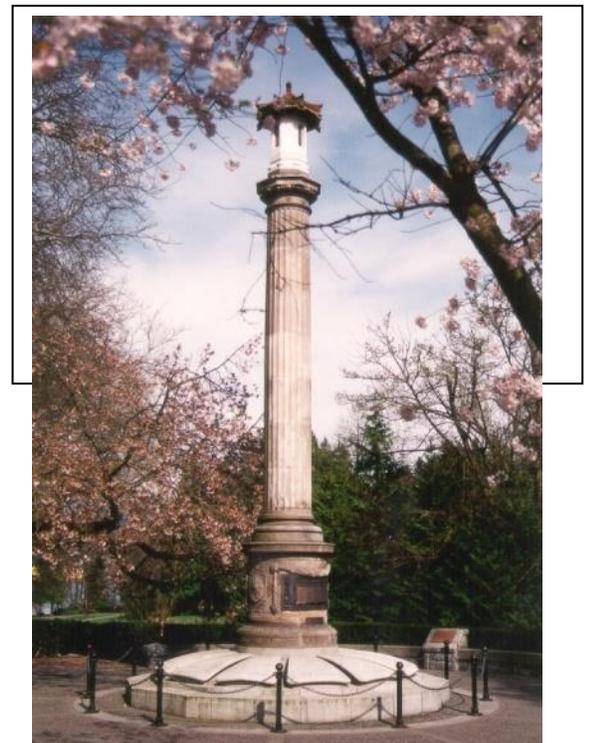


To a Conscript of 1940

A soldier passed me in the freshly fallen snow,
His footsteps muffled, his face unearthly grey:
And my heart gave a sudden leap
As I gazed on a ghost of five-and-twenty years ago.
I shouted Halt! and my voice had the old accustom'd ring
And he obeyed it as it was obeyed
In the shrouded days when I too was one
Into the unknown. He turned towards me and I said:
`I am one of those who went before you
Five-and-twenty years ago: one of the many who never
returned,
Of the many who returned and yet were dead.
We went where you are going, into the rain and the mud:

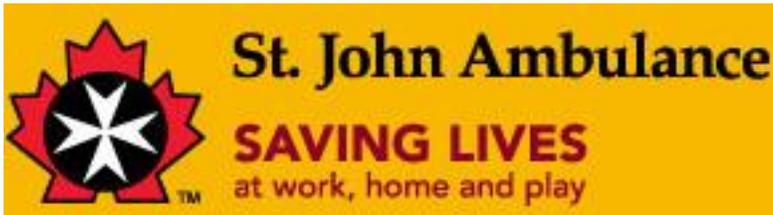
We fought as you will fight
With death and darkness and despair;
We gave what you will give-our brains and our blood.
We think we gave in vain. The world was not renewed.
There was hope in the homestead and anger in the streets,
But the old world was restored and we returned

The glitter of garland round their head.
Theirs is the hollow victory. They are deceived.
But you my brother and my ghost, if you can go
Knowing that there is no reward, no certain use
In all your sacrifice, then honour is reprieved.



To fight without hope is to fight with grace,
The self reconstructed, the false heart repaired.'
Then I turned with a smile, and he answered my salute
As he stood against the fretted hedge, which was like
white lace.

WWI Japanese War Memorial



Get trained!



HUMOUR

Barbie Dolls

One day a father, on his way home from work suddenly remembers that it's his daughter's birthday. He stops at a toy store and goes in and asks the sales person, 'How much for one of those Barbies in the display window?'

The salesperson answers, 'Which one do you mean, Sir? We have: Work Out Barbie for \$19.95, Shopping Barbie for \$19.95, Beach Barbie for \$19.95, Disco Barbie for \$19.95, Astronaut Barbie for \$19.95, Skater Barbie for \$19.95, and Divorced Barbie for \$265.95'.

The amazed father asks: 'It's what? Why is the Divorced Barbie \$265.95 and the others only \$19.95?'

The slightly miffed salesgirl rolls her eyes, sighs, and answers: 'Sir, Divorced Barbie comes with: Ken's Truck, Ken's House, Ken's Fishing Boat, Ken's Furniture, Ken's Dog, Ken's Computer and one of Ken's Friends.'

The Best Policy

Insurance first appeared in ancient Greece around 600 BC, when people paid premiums throughout their lives to provide themselves a proper burial.

Lloyd's of London is famous for insuring goofy things like Betty Grable's legs, but it was also one of the few insurance companies that promptly paid off all claims after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

The only U.S. state that does not require car insurance is New Hampshire.

Hungarian food critic Egon Ronay took out a \$400,000 insurance policy on his taste bud, The St. Lawrence Insurance Agency offers UFO abduction insurance...with double indemnity if the abduction results in an alien baby. Travelers Insurance issued the very first car insurance policy on February 1, 1898. It covered liability costs if drivers collide with a horse or horse drawn vehicle.

Hartford, Connecticut---home to Travelers and many similar companies---bills itself as the Insurance Capital of the World.

The *Mona Lisa* is not insured. Its value is inestimable.

Blue Cross was open only to schoolteachers in 1929. A premium of just \$6 per year covered hospital fees for up to three weeks.

How much is hair from Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, Marilyn Monroe, and Elvis Presley worth? John Reznikoff of Stamford, Connecticut, insured the largest historical hair collection in the world for \$1 million.



SECURITAS

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