

EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

OCTOBER 2023

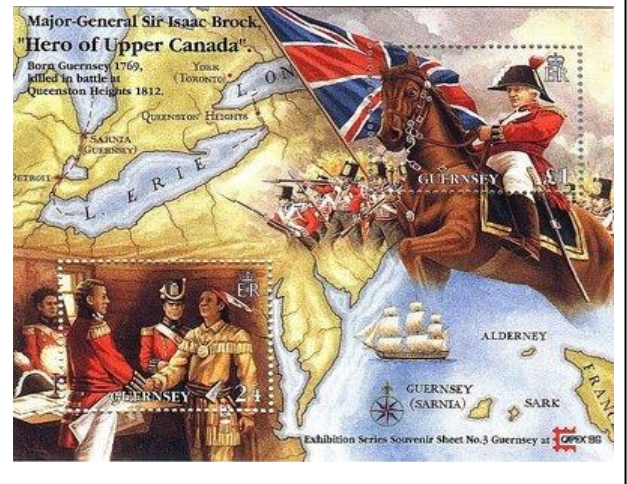


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President's Comment

Following the relaxation of Covid restrictions, many organizations are resuming pre-Covid activities during the Summer passed, especially in the month of September. Brigade and battalion level field exercises have again been conducted in Camp Wainwright. Some of the historical international fighter jet training are returning to CFB Cold Lake slowly, albeit in a much smaller scale.

I also attended the in person meeting with the Edmonton Salutes Committee in two years. On Saturday, September 23, HMC NONSUYCH conducted the Freedom of City parade as opposed to a Cancellation earlier this year of the 41 Service Battalion Freedom of City Parade. I also attended the Commander's Lobsterfest the same evening. This was a fund raiser for the MFRC in Edmonton. (Military Family Resources Centre). It was a full house with all tickets sold out.



The EUSI AGM was held on Saturday, September 30th 2023 at the Edmonton Inn and Convention Centre at Edmonton Kingsway. An election of officers was held. Results are available in EUSI.ca. as soon as our secretary complete the minutes. Welcome, new board members, including MWO Andrew Gordey , the Vice President.

VAC Historica Memorial Speakers Project – The EUSI has been a participant in the Historica Project whereby members have been speaking in schools, colleges, service clubs, and community leagues about their own experience as a soldier, and on various historical military events. The aim is to educate our younger generations and promote Canadian patriotism. The speaking engagements will commence around mid October till just around Remembrance Day. Any EUSI members who wish to volunteer for some of the speaking engagements, please advise President, EUSUI.

Remembrance Day Commemoration

The EUSI will once again belaying a wreath at the Alberta Aviation Museum this year. Anyone who wish to be part of the commemoration, please advise president, EUSI for coordination.



UNITED NATIONS DAY

In 1947, the United Nations General Assembly declared 24 October, the anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations, as which "shall be devoted to making known to the peoples of the world the aims and achievements of the United nations and to gaining their support for" its work



How Sleep The Brave
*Nay, nay, sweet England, do not grieve!
Not one of those poor men who died
But did within his soul believe
That death for thee was glorified.
Ever they watched it hovering near
That mystery 'yond thought to plumb,
Perchance sometimes in loathed fear
They heard cold danger whisper, come!
Heard and obeyed. O, if thou weep
Such courage and honour, beauty, care,
Be it for joy that those who sleep
Only thy joy could share.*

Oostende Naval Memorial to the Canadian 29th Motor Torpedo Boat Flotilla



More Edmonton Historical Tit-bits - Unusual Historical Figures, submitted by our know-it-all LCol (retired) GG. McLean. You would think he is a history professor rather than a retired Vandoos.

People are growing things in every city in the world, but we are doing it differently in Edmonton. Our economy and our culture, that spirit of openness and curiosity, of urban barn-building, is peculiar. People say it in different ways: this is the best place to build, to create, to get'er done.---novelist Todd Babiak, from Make Something Edmonton website

Close your eyes. Imagine for a moment a world where people live average everyday lives and no one--- absolutely no one---does or says anything remotely out of the norm ever. It's possible that, for some, I have just described paradise. For most of us with a pulse, however, it is important to ponder: where would we be without the people willing to go out on a limb?

They're the oddballs. The square pegs. The weird ones. They're also the dreamers. The thinkers. The entrepreneurs. The philanthropists. The scientists. The artists. Throughout its history and into current day, Edmonton has proven itself as a city filled with these "types"---people who live life a little differently than most of us. Some dress in Victorian clothes and engage in "tea duels." Or they dress in armour and engage in real duels. With swords. Or they make great inventions that change the world.

No matter how off-centre these not-so-ordinary people may occasionally seem when they're at the height of their inspiration, there is no doubt about it: they are the bright sparks. And when they glow, we glow a little more, too.

Art the Hermit: Psychic: --- Between the 1920s and 1950s, a man simply known as Art the Hermit lived in a cave in the riverbank at Groat Road. He lived alone, with just his chickens for company. For this, people deemed him odd, but many others considered him to have supernatural powers. When the Groat Road Bridge was being built in the summer of 1954, he said something along the lines of, "That is coming down." The bridge didn't collapse as predicted, but it did experience a major failure when the summer's heavy rains washed away the concrete at the base of the bridge. The truth is that Art the Hermit was probably a shell-shocked war veteran. Or a psychic? Who knows!

Wop May: Hero: --- Wop May is often known as the bush pilot who fought the Red Baron in his last dogfight in World War I (even though some historians say that his friend Roy Brown actually shot down the Red Baron).

Both men hailed from Edmonton.

Another act of heroism attributed to Wop May is the mercy flight from Edmonton to Fort Vermilion on the bitterly cold day of January 2, 1929. Pilots Wop May and Vic Horner lifted off from Edmonton and flew nearly 1000 kilometres north to take diphtheria serum to Fort Vermilion---in an open cockpit biplane to boot!

The story began back in December 1928, when Bert Logan, an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, was stationed up north in Little Red River, Alberta. After unpacking a new shipment of boxes, he immediately felt ill. His wife, a nursing sister of Grey Nuns recognized the symptoms as diphtheria, a contagious and potentially fatal disease. The only hope---for Bert Logan and others---was the diphtheria antitoxin, which was not to be found anywhere near Little Red River.

Bert Logan's wife asked two citizens, William Gray and his son Bobby, to travel 80 kilometres west of Little Red River to Fort Vermilion, where a Dr. Harold Hamman resided. Upon bringing Dr. Hamman back to Little Red River, the doctor confirmed the suspicions. The patient had diphtheria. And it was vital to inoculate everyone else who might be infected. Thus began the frantic race against time.

At Blatchford Field airport, now known as Edmonton's City Centre Airport. May and Horner received the diphtheria antitoxin from Alberta's deputy minister of health, Dr. Malcolm Bow. Making just two stops to refuel along the way the pilots flew only 150 metres above ground in temperatures of -20 degrees Celsius. The pilots arrived in Fort Vermilion on January 3, 1929.

When Wop May and Vic Horner returned to Edmonton on January 6, 1929, they were greeted by a crowd of 10,000 cheering fans, including a news photographer from New York. Considering the population of Edmonton was only about 50,000 at the time, the turnout was pretty good. Wop May had only one eye. He lost his other eye in 1924 when he got a piece of steel in it. Therefore most of his legendary bush flying was done with only one eye. Amazingly he passed the medical every year. Either the doctor did not notice, or he pretended not to notice. Wop May eventually lost his flying license in 1939, when the doctor examining him realized he had one glass eye. Imagine landing an aircraft on snow or water with just one eye!



HUMOUR

Walking Goose

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau addressed a major gathering of the Canadian First Nations peoples. He spoke for about an hour about his plans for increasing their present standard of living across many areas in Canada.

Thou very vague in detail with many ums, ahs, and ers, he spoke about his ideas for helping his indigenous brothers and sisters.

Afterwards the head Chiefs presented him with a nice hand made plaque inscribed with his newly given Native name of "Walking Goose" which he gratefully accepted with many pictures taken of this historic event.

After Trudeau left, a news reporter asked the Chiefs how they came up with this new Native name for him. They explained to him that "Walking Goose" is a name given to a bird that is so full of shit that it can no longer fly!!!!

Auto Correction

Me: "Officer, please send help ASAP:

Officer: What's wrong?

Me: wife tested me a selfie in a new dress and asked if the dress makes her look fat. I texted back and said "NOO". But the auto correction sent my text as "MOO"

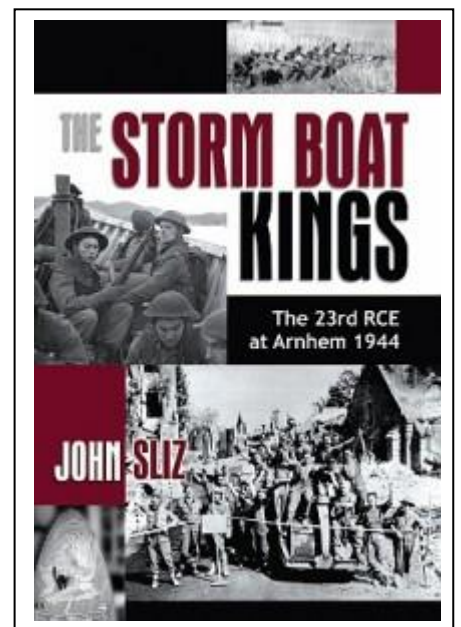


CANADIAN MILITARY READING

The Storm Boat Kings - The 23rd R.C.E. at Arnhem 1944

John Sliz

THE EPIC BATTLE of the British 1st Airborne Division at Arnhem in 1944, has been told many times, but so far the story of how they were evacuated across the River Rhine has only been merely touched upon. This is the story of how the Royal Canadian Engineers not only supported the Royal Engineers, but ferried the lion's share of the Airborne troops across the flooded river under less than ideal conditions. One unit in particular, the 23rd Field Company, Royal Canadian Engineers would find fame because of their expert handling of the Storm Boats and for their bravery. Unfortunately, glory came at a high cost to a unit that would soon earn the nickname, 'The Storm Boat Kings'.



War in Ukraine

Ukraine Isn't the Reason the U.S. Is Unprepared for War

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2023/09/russia-ukraine-war-us-aid-weapons-spending/>

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Editor: It's been noted that Facebook is deleting this post, probably because of the URL, after it has been posted

"A lack of defense production has created an alarming gap between America's strategy and its capabilities." A lack of defence production capability limits the contributions Canada can make to allies and coalition partners in conflict operations, and options for government in less-than-conflict situations. There needs to be a study of what Canada needs in a major conflict, what we have, and what we need to do to get where we need to be. Such information (at least, as much as it can be turned into unclassified information) should be publicly available. People need to understand that all the ships, tanks and aircraft are useless after too short a time if they do not have the ammunition and spare parts to keep them operating. Canada to contribute \$33 million to British-led partnership delivering high priority air defence equipment to Ukraine

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2023/09/canada-to-contribute-33-million-to-british-led-partnership-delivering-high-priority-air-defence-equipment-to-ukraine.html>

"Canada will contribute \$33 million (CAD) to the partnership, which is providing Ukraine with hundreds of short- and medium-range air defence missiles and associated systems required to protect Ukraine's critical national infrastructure ."Providing funding to buy munitions is a reasonable alternative to having a national defence industry that can produce them, but it leaves Canada still to some degree not self-sufficient in producing armaments that increasingly it appears we need now, or at least in the short term, given situations internationally. The Canadian Armed Forces lacks air defence missiles and associated systems (see: We Have No Air Defence For Our Army –Why? <https://rusi-ns.ca/air-defence/>).



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SECURITAIRE

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