

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



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

## PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

DECEMBER 2018

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, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon.

### President's Comments

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to you all. The Xmas issue of Enews is published a little early as I hope to spend a couple of weeks in a little island in the Indian Ocean where it is warm. In Alberta, we have had an early winter with the first snow fall during the early part of October but it warmed a little during November.

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Band Christmas Concert, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, starting at 1:00 PM. It is free but you can donate to the Valour House.



## Year end Report

At this time of the year, I would like to reflect on our accomplishments and sum up the yearend report. EUSI has seen significant growth in the last year, especially with new young members. Our board members have been seen in many events, representing the EUSI.

For the month of November, there have been a number of activities that EUSI has participated in. Several members have been guest speakers at a number of schools, seniors homes, churches and community groups as part of the Historica Canada, Memorial Project Program, an initiative of the Department of Veteran Affairs. The audiences are varied. On Nov 8, I spoke at The Cultural Connections Institute – The Learning Exchange (CCI-LEX) an English as a Second Language class with about 30 students from different part of the world. I shared my experience of deploying to Bosnia, Sudan, Ethiopia, and central Africa, where women are not always treated as equals. My speech invoked emotions on these students, a few are from such countries and they certainly appreciate the freedom and equality they enjoy in Canada and that Canadian soldiers fought and sacrificed so that we can all have that freedom and equality. Then On Nov 9, I spoke at the Pleasant View Seniors Home and there were about 150 residents and staff among the audience. Many were not aware soldiering is not always glamorous but include witnessing violent deaths and atrocities. Second Lieutenant Gordon Smith, a superior speaker and history buff, also spoke at a number of schools. LCol Hans Brink was also a speaker for Historica Canada in a number of events.

On November 5, EUSI was a partner with Jon Dzadiak, councilor of ward 3 in Edmonton, in a grand opening of the renaming of 97 Street north of 137 Avenue to the end of city limits, the Canadian Forces Trail. The renaming was to commemorate the long military presence in Edmonton, the Griesbach Barracks and CFB Edmonton, as well as appreciation of the soldiers, past and present, who trained and stationed in the two bases. Not all the street signs are up yet but a few there were eye catching and well designed. Thanks to Canada Land Corporation who donated the artistic design.

On November 11, EUSI laid a wreath at the Aviation Museum Remembrance Day Service. Other members attended the Armistice 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the Legislature. This event is partnered by the Edmonton Salutes Committee, which the EUSI is a founding member and the president has been it's chair since October 2017.

In September of this year, our annual symposium addressed Canada's lack of awareness and preparedness against deliberate or accidental nuclear destructions. Lessons learned from Russia and Japan were delivered by experts. The Presidential mess dinner was held at HMCS NONSUCH and were entertained by the Loyal Edmonton regiment Band and Drumline.

We have held three board meetings and an Annual General meeting (AGM) and were well attended by members. A number of EUSI members are also board members of the Last Post Fund (LPF), Alberta Branch. We have had several meetings this year. In August, the LPF and EUSI were invited to attend a luncheon with the Lieutenant Governor as part of her initiative to maintain contact with likeminded volunteer organizations.

The EUSI also has our web site up and running for the last four years. Click on [\*\*EUSI.CA\*\*](http://EUSI.CA) and you can go to various sub-sites which will have updates on events, EUSI newsletters, and a photo gallery. Click on the Face Book page under Edmonton United Services Institute, you will also find many updated photos and newsletters. Our social media director, Capt Grant Cree has been diligently uploading photos and events on FaceBook which greatly expanded the EUSI networking. Thank you Capt Cree. For those who do not have access to a computer or Email accounts, our membership director, Capt. John Pinsent continues to forward hard copies to our members.

The EUSI membership due is minimal and barely covers our expenses. If you would like to make a donation to EUSI, please forward it to myself or to John at **EUSI, PO Box 51058 (RPO Highlands) Edmonton, Alberta, T5W 5G5**. The EUSI is not able to provide any tax certificates. Our annual membership remains at \$25.00. If you have not renewed your membership, please make your remittance to John as soon as possible.

The planning of the 2019 Symposium will be underway after the New Year. If you have a great idea, please bring it to the next AGM or Board Meeting, details to be announced. i

## **Current Canadian Forces Operations** – as of November 17, 2018

The following information is produced by Canadian Joint Operations Command Public Affairs. It is intended to give a current snapshot of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) operations by highlighting certain accomplishments and developments. It is designed to assist all those who play a part in explaining CAF engagements at home and abroad.

### International

Operation CARIBBE | Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean  
Operation GLOBE | Central and South America  
Exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE | Norway  
Operation RENAISSANCE 2018 | Indonesia  
Operation REASSURANCE | Central and Eastern Europe  
Operation UNIFIER | Ukraine  
Operation KOBOLD | Kosovo  
Operation PRESENCE – Mali | Gao, Mali

**For our service men and women who cannot make it home for Christmas, we thank you for your service and wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New year. Be safe and healthy.**

## **Historical Tidbits**



December 5th, 1933:

The day when nationwide alcohol ban was repealed.



Hitler declares war on the United States -  
December 11th, 1941.



### **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.



**Barrhead War Memorial**

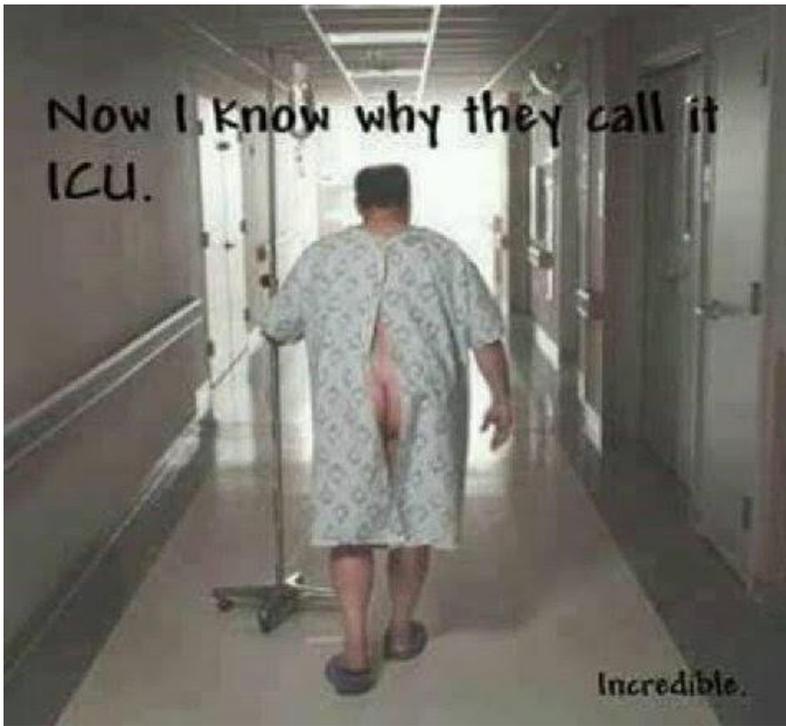
The smoke had cleared, the roar of the guns had ceased, the valiant army looted the bodies of their foes,  
Then sang songs of victory and cheered each other knowing they would be hailed as returning heroes.  
They will never know what happened, it would make no difference even if they did.  
They will hear no sound, or sight of the enemy that is to destroy those who were content just to love and live.  
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

Finally I understand why cars have these things...





## 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?



A model of the Wing Loong II weaponized drone is on display at a military drone conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in February 2018. Across the Middle East, countries locked out of purchasing U.S.-made drones due to rules over excessive civilian casualties are being wooed by Chinese arms dealers, who are world's main distributor of armed drones.

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** — High above Yemen's rebel-held city of Hodeida, a drone controlled by Emirati forces hovered as an SUV carrying a top Shiite Houthi rebel official turned onto a small street and stopped, waiting for another vehicle in its convoy to catch up.

Seconds later, the SUV exploded in flames, killing Saleh al-Samad, a top political figure.

The drone that fired that missile in April was not one of the many American aircraft that have been buzzing across the skies of Yemen, Iraq and Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001. It was Chinese.

Across the Middle East, countries locked out of purchasing U.S.-made drones due to rules over excessive civilian casualties are being wooed by Chinese arms dealers, who are world's main distributor of armed drones.

The Chinese product now doesn't lack technology, it only lacks market share," said Song Zhongping, a Chinese military analyst and former lecturer at the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force University of Engineering. "And the United States restricting its arms exports is precisely what gives China a great opportunity."

**Something for Canada to ponder about when dealing in weapons in the Middle-east.**



Securitas

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