

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

2017 is the 105th Anniversary of the Edmonton United Services Institute



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

SEPTEMBER 2017

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.

The Battle of Britain, between July and October 1940, was a significant chapter in Canada's military history.

Historians have noted that the Battle of Britain was the first crucial air battle of the Second World War. Seen as a turning point in the war, the Battle of Britain and the efforts of the Air Force prevented the Germans from sweeping the Allies from Western Europe and kept the torch of freedom burning at a time when the enemy had conquered nation after nation on the continent. Canadians serving with the Royal Air Force and the Royal Canadian Air Force fought with valour to help in the defence of Britain and nobly defend the values we continue to cherish and protect today.

When it became clear that the Royal Air Force could not be defeated, the battle drew to a close. Canadians, together with British and other Allied forces, saved Britain from invasion and helped pave the way for the liberation of Europe later in the war.



As Canadians, we must stand together to ensure these heroes are never forgotten. We must honor the contributions our service men and women have made and continue to make in the name of freedom. They represent the very best of what it means to be Canadian. We will remember the Canadian heroes of the Battle of Britain.



High Flight

And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth

Of sun-split clouds—and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of
—wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence; hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, Up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew—
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod

The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

Commonwealth Air Forces Ottawa Memorial



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) – The EUSI AGM will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 1145 Hrs at the Edmonton Inn and Conference Centre(formerly the Ramada Hotel), 11834 – Kingsway, Edmonton. Please RSVP your attendance to Alexander Tsang, President, EUSI. Agenda of the meeting will include update of EUSI activities and election of officers.



Naval History Tidbit – dedicated to the Battle of Britain.

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought the master, Captain John Phillips, the result. The Warrimoo's position was LAT 0o 31' N and LON 179 30' W. The date was 31 December 1899.

"Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line".

Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check & double check the ship's position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather & clear night worked in his favor.

At mid-night the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line! The consequences of this bizarre position were many:

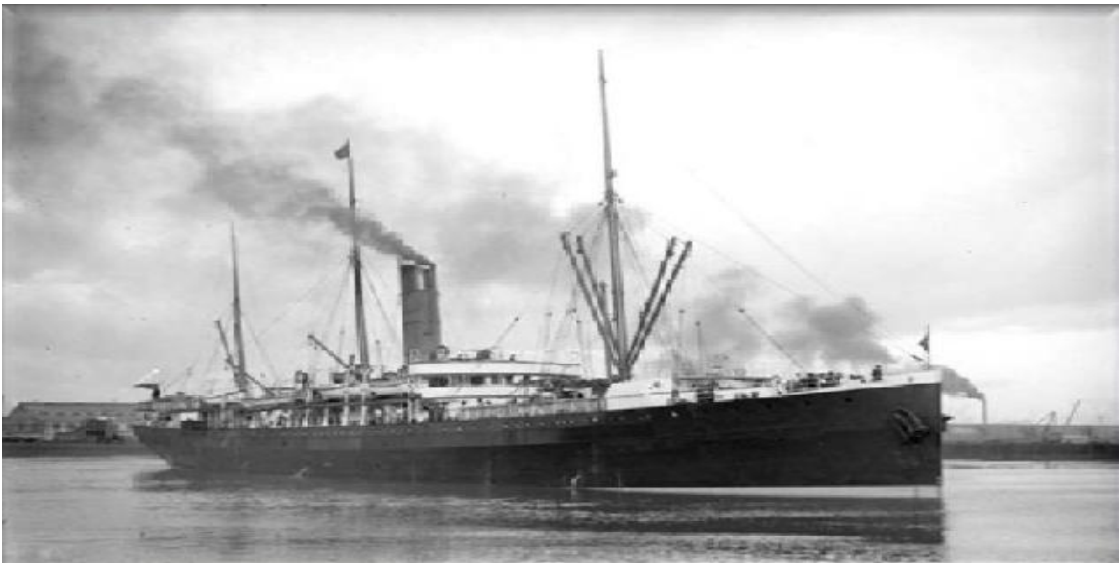
The bow of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere & in the middle of summer.

The stern was in the Northern Hemisphere & in the middle of winter.

The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899.

In the bow it was 1 January 1900.

This ship was therefore not only in two different days, two different months, two different years, and two different seasons, but it was also in two different centuries - all at the same time.



Humor

A Scottish woman went to the local newspaper office to publish the obituary for her recently deceased husband.
The obits editor informed her that there is a charge of 50 cents per word.
She paused, reflected and then said, "Aye, well then, let it read, 'Angus MacPherson died'.
Amused at the woman's thrift, the editor told her that there is a six word minimum for all obituaries.
She thought it over for a while and that said, "Aye, in that case, let it read...'Angus MacPherson died. Bagpipes for sale'."



What's Out There – North Korean Artillery Systems. The following is for you “Gunner” types to ponder.



You hear it often: if war in Korea were to break out, Seoul would be flattened. Not because of a nuclear strike, but because of North Korean artillery. North Korea is estimated to have (depending on the analysis and definitions) 8600-12000 artillery pieces, dug in and defended against a first strike. At one round per minute, they could fire at least five hundred thousand rounds per hour, quickly reducing Seoul to a heap of rubble.

Is this actually the case? Let's break it down.

First off, can North Korea *actually hit* Seoul?

North Korea has many artillery positioned from the closest point on the DMZ. It quickly becomes clear that the vast majority of them *aren't actually in range of Seoul itself*. Only the M-1978 (since modified to the M-1989) actually is. This is a large, rather unwieldy system with a low rate of fire, one to two rounds per five minutes. North Korea only has around 400-500 of these systems. Various smaller cities are in range of some of the lesser systems but not densely-packed Seoul itself.

How well can these situations actually hit? We can look at the best case for North Korean artillery: the attack on Yeonpyeong island. This attack was planned out long in advance, by North Korea's best troops, and was a preemptive strike on their part. The North Koreans fired 170 rounds. Only 80 even hit the island. Of those, a whole quarter (20) failed to detonate, suggesting quality control or storage problems. The timing of the attacks suggest a well trained artillery corps involved, but with poor equipment. Of the 60 that detonated, the locations hit suggest outdated maps on North Korea's part. Four were killed and 19 wounded, primarily due to a lucky hit on a barracks. Only two South Korean guns (of six) were hit.

Next up comes positioning: not all North Korean artillery is positioned at the closest possible point to Seoul. This salient is rather narrow, flat, and an easy target to quickly overrun:

Lastly comes the question, how fast can a city *actually be flattened* by artillery? The world has no shortage of examples to look at. For example, Russia's "flattening of Grozny" took months, despite the involvement of large tank and artillery forces. Major cities in Syria have large chunks that can well be described as "flattened", but it took years to reach this state. The simple fact is that a single shell does not a building take out, and cities sprawl over huge amounts of area.

This has all been working around one key question: can North Korea "flatten Seoul" with artillery? The short answer is "no".

CANADIAN GEAR

MEDIUM FLOATING BRIDGE (MFB) / MEDIUM RAFT (MR)



The Medium Floating Bridge (MFB) is used to provide a hasty means of transportation across water obstacles. It can also be configured as a ferry, in which case it is referred to as the Medium Raft (MR). The system is a reverse engineered design of the Russian PMP steel floating fold-bridge and was designed and built in Germany.



List of Canadian military operations Outside of Canada

Africa

Operation Crocodile – Military contribution to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Operation Saturn – To serve with UNAMID, the hybrid operation by the African Union (A.U.) and the United Nations in Darfur.

Operation Soprano – Participation in the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), the military component of a "whole-of-government" engagement in South Sudan that also includes the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Operation Sirona – Military component of the Canadian whole-of-government contribution to fighting the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel will augment efforts undertaken by the United Kingdom to combat the spread of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) in Sierra Leone

At Sea

Operation Artemis – Participation in counter-terrorism and maritime security operations in the Arabian Sea

Middle East

Operation Jade – Contribution to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in the Middle East^{[12][19]}

Operation Gladius – Latest stage of Canada's long-standing participation in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria

Operation Calumet – Canada's participation in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), an independent peacekeeping operation in the Sinai Peninsula.

Operation Metric – Periodic participation in international efforts to enhance security in the eastern Mediterranean region, specifically the Middle East and North Africa.

Operation Proteus – Canada's contribution to the Office of the United States Security Coordinator (USSC) in Jerusalem

Operation Foundation – Contribution of headquarters and liaison staff to United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) to support operations in its area of responsibility, which extends from Egypt to Pakistan and includes the Middle East and southwest Asia. Supports Canada's efforts in the Middle East and southwest Asia, and promotes Canadian values through regular presence and exchange with military allies, foreign armed forces, and governments in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility.

Europe]

Operation Kobold – Deployment to Pristina, Kosovo, to serve with the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR).

Operation Ignition – Periodic participation in the NATO – Airborne Surveillance and Interception Capabilities to Meet Iceland's Peacetime Preparedness Needs mission. This is an operation conducted to monitor Iceland's airspace and enforce security if required. Contributes to the security of Canadian airspace by monitoring and controlling air traffic in the northeastern approaches to North America.

Operation Reassurance – Deployment in Central and Eastern Europe as part of NATO reassurance measures.

Operation Snowgoose – Contribution to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

Operation Unifier – Contribution to support Ukrainian forces through capacity building, in coordination with the U.S. and other countries providing similar training assistance.

For your information, the Edmonton Salutes Committee, which include among its members, representative from the Edmonton United Services Institute, has been instrumental in events in Edmonton welcoming our soldiers home from their overseas deployment for the last seventeen years.

700 (City of Edmonton) Wing RCAF Association Speaker Series - The 700 Wing RCAF Association is presenting a series of guest speakers to speak on past and current issues of the RCAF. **The first series will be held at 4:00 PM, on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at the Aviation Museum at Kingsway, Edmonton.** Speaker is LCol Chris Morrison. Cost is \$25.00 per person which include dinner. RSVP to David Jackson, President, 700 Wing 780-918-0967 or rcaf.jackson@gmail.com

Securitus

Alexander Tsang CD

Major (retired)

President

Edmonton United Services Institute

Alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com



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