

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



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

FEBRUARY 2020

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President's Comment

Friends and supporters of the EUSI, Kung Hai Fat Choy. This is the Cantonese New Year's greeting which means hoping you all will have a prosperous year with money befall upon you. This year is the year of the mouse and Chinese New Year's Day is on January 25, Saturday. An overview of global events in the last three weeks shows an increasing instability and conflicts around the world. Any consorted Iranian retaliation against the USA and allied forces for the killing of General Soleimani remains to be seen, although there were limited missile attacks of US bases in Iraq. While I do not believe Iranian regime will stop at just the missile attacks, their downing of the civilian passenger plane with significant mortality and world condemnation as well as the resulting internal turmoil will divert the retaliation for the time being. However, there is no relief in Syria, as the Syrian government forces leveled a Syrian city occupied by anti-government militias only three days after the downing of the passenger plane.

As you may recall, the Arab Spring kicked off approximately seven years ago but failed to make a significant progress in Egypt or in Libya. Both countries continue to stagnate economically and politically. Iran has reported a huge success in nuclear development allegedly "only for commercial energy consumption". Iran has succeeded in launching its own satellite as early as 2005 without much fanfare. With the recent Iranian success in long range missile testing and dropping out of the Nuclear Disarmament Agreement two months ago (December, 2019), we are again under the threat of "space wars".

The EUSI is planning our 2020 symposium and hope to focus on unmanned crafts (drones) as offensive and defensive weaponry. The American drone that took out the Iranian general had a price tag of 60 millions dollars. No doubt, it is beyond the capability of most countries, with the exception of Russia and China, perhaps. Still, drones can be unsophisticated and yet very effective in its intended purposes. Some people will argue that there is little Canada can do to prevent attacks on the home front from drones. I propose we bring in industry experts to educate and advise us .

CANADIAN MILITARY READING



The Nov/Dec 2019 issue of the Canadian Legion Magazine carry a number of interesting articles. The one article I enjoyed is the article titled “Chopper Mission” by Marc Milner, Honorary Colonel of 403 Tactical Helicopter Squadron. Similar to 408 THS, the 403 THS provide a fleet of CH-146 or Griffon tactical helicopters, ready for deployment at one moment’s notice. While the fighter pilots get all the glory, chopper pilots are the bread and butter of our air operations and rarely were bestowed the fame and glory as depicted in the Hollywood movie, “An Officer and a Gentleman”. With what is happening in the Middle –east and our Griffons deployed to Mali and Iraq, I recommend this article for military reading. It is an eye opener and provide a better understanding of the valuable role played by not only our helicopter pilots but the ground and maintenance crews.

The Legion Magazine has consistently provided accurate depiction of historical events, most often on Canadian contents. I often wondered why is this magazine not available to all our school libraries. Is this because it is politically incorrect to remind our next generations the sacrifices made by our forefathers so that the next generation can enjoyed the freedom today?



Membership Profile



Mr. Norman Leach

Norman Leach is a historian, award winning freelance writer, professional speaker and adventurer. The bestselling author of eight books on military history including: *Canadian Battles*, *Passchendaele - Canada's Triumph and Tragedy on the Fields of Flanders*, *Broken Arrow – America's First Lost Nuke*, *Canadian Peacekeepers and Great Military Leaders*. Norman Leach is also a regular contributor to a number of other military and historical journals. His books have won five Crystal Awards from the University of Lethbridge and a Saskatchewan Book Award. *Passchendaele - Canada's Triumph and Tragedy on the Fields of Flanders* was nominated for a

2009 Governor General's Award.

Norman was also the historian on a number of movies and documentaries including: "Passchendaele" – the WW1 Epic produced by Canadian Paul Gross and filmed in Calgary. Norman worked with all departments, was a special skills extra and an active media spokesperson for the movie. His documentary credits include Historical Canada "Historical Minutes – "WWI Nurses and WWI Hockey," "The Road to Passchendaele" which aired on Global, "The Mad Trapper of Rat River" on Discovery and "Hitler's Stealth Fighter" – a National Geographic documentary. He is currently working on a documentary on the life of Samuel Benefield Steele. Norman is also a panel speaker for the EUSI Annual Symposium for the last six years.



HUMOR OF THE MONTH

My friend, Sgt AE Bince, Korean Veteran is at it again. He does not discriminate, this month, it is the Scottish and Irish that bear the brunt of his politically incorrectness.

Two Glasgow boys, Archie and Jock, are sitting in the pub discussing Jock's forthcoming wedding. 'Aye, it's all going like magic,' says Jock.

'I've got everything organized already: the flowers, the church, the cars, the reception, the rings, the minister, even ma stag night...'

Archie nods approvingly.

'Hell, I've even bought a kilt to be married in!' continues Jock.

'A kilt?' exclaims Archie, 'That's grand, you'll look pure smart in that!

And what's the tartin?'

'Ach,' says Jock, 'I imagine she'll be in white.'

Paddy and Murphy are working on a building site. Paddy says to Murphy "I'm gonna have the day off. I'm gonna pretend I'm mad!"

He climbs up the rafters, hangs upside down and shouts "I'M A LIGHT BULB! .. I'M A LIGHT BULB!" Murphy watches in amazement! The Foreman shouts "Paddy you're mad, go home" So he leaves the site. Murphy starts packing his kit up to leave as well. "Where the hell are you going?" asks the Foreman. "I can't work in the friggin' dark!" says Murphy



Edmonton Salutes Committee - Welcome Home Soldiers from Overseas Deployment

This year marks the 25th year that the Edmonton Salutes Committee has been organized to welcome Edmonton area soldiers returning home from overseas deployment. Typically, the Committee await the returning soldiers at the Edmonton International Airport with coffee, donuts, goody bags and most of all, a sincere appreciation and thank you for their services and sacrifices. In the past, we have had Edmonton Police Services, Edmonton Fire Services lined along the route to CFB Edmonton from the International Airport,. Yellow ribbons are tied on trees along the avenues with cheering Edmontonians. This was the least we could have done for those early years when not all troops returned from Afghanistan.

The Edmonton Salutes Committee no longer organize the Police patrol cars and fire trucks to line the avenues when the Anthony Henday Freeway opened up and buses carrying soldiers from the airport no longer pass through 97 street and go north to CFB Edmonton. However, the Edmonton salutes Committee maintained the tradition of welcoming returning home soldiers at the Edmonton International Airport. Since January 9, the Committee have been at the Airport three times for soldiers returning from deployment in Latvia. The weather have been bitterly cold on all three occasions and our deployed soldiers took it like a Canadian, despite almost thirty degrees difference between Edmonton and Latvia. Welcome home and thank you for your service. And for all the volunteers who braved the minus 35 degree weather, thank you also for your service.



Canadian and NATO Gear

Canadian Uniform



C13 Grenade



The C13 is the standard issue grenade of the Canadian Army. It is a small spherical grenade that is time fused and can only be thrown by hand. It is used primarily by the infantry to clear trenches and enclosed areas such as bunkers and buildings..



2020 Membership Renewal

Your membership secretary, Capt John Pinsent will be sending your 2020 membership renewal in the mail. Please continue to be a member of the EUSI.

2020 Annual General Meeting – Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the Edmonton Inn and Convention Centre, 11807, Kingsway, Edmonton, Silkwood Room. A Board of Directors Meeting will ensue.

Agenda:

2019 Activity Report

Financial Report

2020 Annual Symposium. RSVP to President, EUSI.



Securitas

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Major (retired)

President

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