

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



**EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE**

## **PRESIDENT'S ENEWS**

**MAY 2020**

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### **President's Comment**

#### **Battle of the Atlantic will be celebrated on May 3, 2020 .**

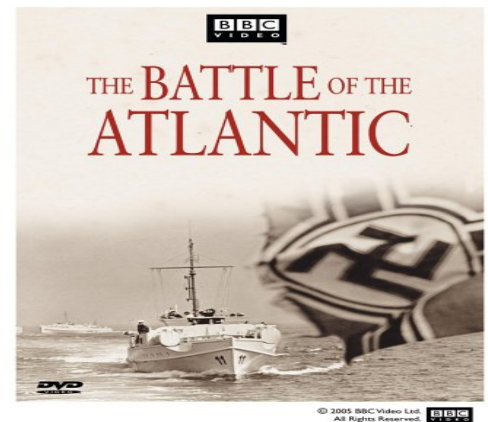
Each year on the first Sunday in May, Canada and its naval community commemorate those lost at sea during the Battle of the Atlantic, the longest largest, and arguably the most complex campaign of the Second World War. The national ceremony was held at Parliament Hill and included members of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) and Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), alongside members of the Merchant Navy. Ceremonies were held across Canada including Halifax, Esquimalt, and the 24 Naval Reserve Divisions to remember and commemorate these gallant sailors and airmen.

The Battle of the Atlantic was the fight for supremacy in the North Atlantic and lasted 2,075 days. It pitted Allied naval and air forces against German and Italian submarines, ships and aircraft whose primary targets were the convoys of merchant ships carrying vital life-sustaining cargo from North America to Europe. Much of the burden of fighting the Battle of the Atlantic fell to the RCN which, at the outbreak of the war, was comprised of only six destroyers and a handful of smaller vessels. By the end of the war, Canada's navy had grown to become the fourth largest navy in the world. During the Battle of the Atlantic, the RCN and RCAF, alone or in consort with other ships or aircraft, sank 73 U-Boats and enemy surface craft. In turn, it suffered 2,210 fatalities, including six women, and lost 33 vessels.

**The Battle of the Atlantic officially ended on Victory-Europe Day on May 8, 1945.**

**May 9<sup>th</sup>, since 2014 has been declared The Day Commemorating the War in Afghanistan.**

A commemoration would have been held at the War Museum in Ottawa, not for COVID -19 this year. Please join me on Saturday, May 9, for five minutes of silence to remember our lost brothers and sisters in Afghanistan.



**May 9<sup>th</sup> is also Mother's Day.** Please join me to salute all mothers who sacrifice so much for us. I understand for some whose mothers is in an assisted care home, visiting may not be possible. Do whatever you can to let them know you remember and you appreciate. My mother passed away years ago but I still remember her smile, her passion, and her tenderness to this day.

During this difficult time of COVID -19 pandemic and isolation at home (Alberta declared State of Emergency on March 17, 2020), I also ask each of you to call on your friends and family to ensure they are coping and give your support if needed.



## Last Post

Former President of RUSI Vancouver victim of COVID-19.

It was with shock and great sadness that we learned of the untimely death, on April 2, 2020, of LCol (Ret'd) Victor Coroy CD, who succumbed to the curse of Novel Coronavirus at Queensway-Carleton Hospital in Ottawa at age 83.

Vic Coroy was President of RUSI Vancouver from 2006 to 2007 and initiated the idea of Honour House, in which our veterans could have a "home away from home" while in Vancouver for medical treatment. The Honour House project began with a fundraising concert early in 2006 at Massey Theatre in New Westminister. He and Pat moved to Ottawa two years later and returned in 2010 to attend the official opening of Honour House in New Westminister which continues as Vic's legacy of his time in BC and as President of RUSI Vancouver.

Vic Coroy served with distinction for 39 years in the Canadian Army and Canadian Forces as a gunnery officer and air observation pilot. He was a true officer and a gentleman. On behalf of the EUSI membership we offer sincere condolences to his wife Pat and family. Pat tells us that Vic's last words were "be safe".



### Two Sides of War

"All wars are planned by older men  
In council rooms apart,  
Who call for greater armament  
And map the battle chart.

But out along the shattered field  
Where golden dreams turn gray,  
How very young the faces were  
Where all the dead men lay.

Portly and solemn in their pride,  
The elders cast their vote  
For this or that, or something else,  
That sounds the martial note.



But where their sightless eyes stare out  
Beyond life's vanished toys,  
I've noticed nearly all the dead  
Were hardly more than boys."



## **The Irish Karma**

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman 'You saved my son's life.'

'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,' the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked.

'Yes,' the farmer replied proudly.

'I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of' And that he did.

Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia.

What saved his life this time? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill .. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

Someone once said: What goes around comes around.



Get trained!



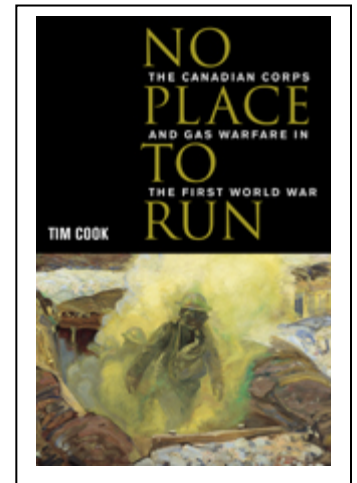
## CANADIAN MILITARY READING

### No Place to Run

- The Canadian Corps and Gas Warfare in the First World War

Tim Cook

Historians of the First World War have often dismissed the important role of poison gas in the battles of the Western Front. In *No Place to Run*, however, Tim Cook shows that the serious threat of gas did not disappear with the introduction of gas masks. By 1918, gas shells were used by all armies to deluge the battlefield, and those not instructed with a sound anti-gas doctrine left themselves exposed to this new chemical plague.



## CANADIAN GEAR

### C3A1 SNIPER RIFLE - 7.62 MM



The C3A1 sniper rifle provides Canadian Army snipers with a weapon that can deliver highly accurate fire against point targets at ranges up to 800 meters during the day and 300 meters at night. It is rugged and performs well under extreme climactic conditions. The C3A1 is a bolt action, single shot, shoulder controlled, magazine fed weapon.

The rifle incorporates a Mauser Type 85 action. It is a very strong, reliable action with a rotating extractor. The C3A1 also comes equipped with a free-floating barrel. The synthetic stock is a near straight-line design and incorporates a built in pistol grip, forestock and cheek piece. The butt can be adjusted from 300mm to 348mm by the insertion of butt increments. These butt increments, commonly referred to as "shims", are available as 12mm or 7mm spacers.

The stock of the C3A1 is fitted with a steel-mounting bracket to mount the moulded nylon handstop. The handstop position on the stock is adjustable. The handstop incorporates a steel bipod spigot to facilitate the mounting of an all-steel, adjustable bipod.



## What's Out There?

### AK-74M (Russia)

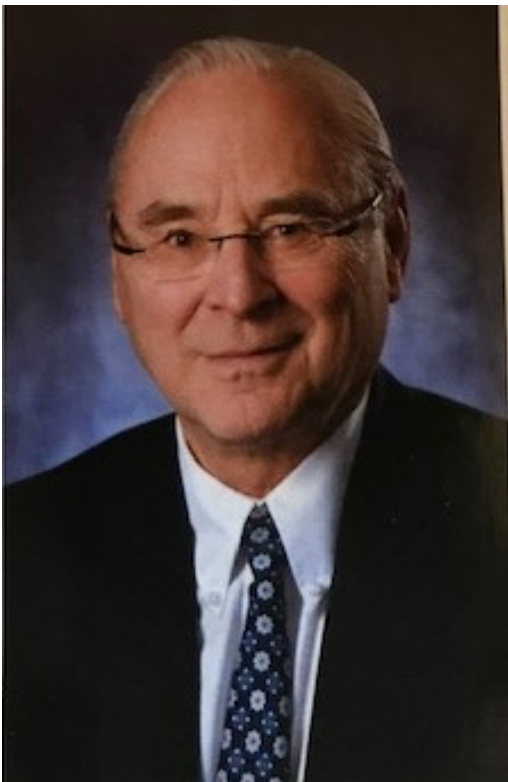
The latest variation of the AK-74 family was introduced circa 1991 and replaced in production both AK-74 and AKS-74. It was the AK-74M rifle, which is still in production and currently is a standard issue rifle of the Russian army.



The AK-74M externally differs from the AK-74 of late 1980s production by having the side-folding, solid black plastic buttstock and the scope rail, mounted on the left receiver as a standard. Some minor improvements also were made in the production process and external finish of the new rifle. AK-74M retained almost all advantages and disadvantages of the earlier Kalashnikov designs, including reliability, simplicity of operations and maintenance, and less than ideal "human engineering" and ergonomics. At the present time the AK-74M, along with earlier AK-74/AKS-74 is the standard shoulder arm of the Russian Army



## Membership Profile - Honorary Colonel Ken Pilip



Ken joined the EUSI two years ago and became a Director At Large in March 2020.

Ken was born in December 1943 of Ukrainian and German decent. He is married to Victoria and they have one son and two grandchildren. Ken was a graduate of University of Alberta, business administration, continued to complete a degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Calgary, and a M.SC degree at the University of Alberta. He is a member of the Professional Engineers, Geoscientists of Alberta, Edmonton Council of Advanced Technology, and Alberta Moscience Association. Founder of the Heritage Foundation for Engineering and Science Research (a \$500 million fund).

President and Director of the Si. Michael Agricultural Society within the County of Lamont. Founding member of the Alberta Fly Fishers, created in 1978 with the purpose of enjoying the fellowship of other fly fishers and promoting conservation and proper fishing practices to preserve trout fishing in Alberta.

Ken volunteered and assist in the development of the Edmonton Garrison Memorial Golf and Curling Club as it is transformed into a living museum golf course where each hole features a unique battle in Canadian Military history.

Ken Currently is the CEO and Registrar of the Consulting Engineers of Alberta, representing 100 Alberta Consulting Engineering firms.

Founder and director of West Malting (now Rehr Malting) located in Mix Alberta, a facility to process barley into malt for the food and brewing industry

Founder and Past Senior Vice President of Ceapro Inc., a publically traded biotechnology company that extracts phytochemicals from oats. The resulting products are used widely in human and animal health applications worldwide.

Vice-President and founding partner of MB Engineering Ltd., in 1972. The firm provided structural consulting engineering services for a wide range of industrial, commercial, institutional and bridge structures over a period of 27 years. The firm was awarded a number of engineering citations for excellence.

Past President of the Consulting Engineers of Athena. Past Chairman and Director of the Edmonton Economic Development Authority. Past Director/Treasurer and Foundation Member of the Edmonton Space and Science Centre, Chairman of the Concordia University College of Alberta Foundation, Board of Director/Past President and founding member of the Edmonton Jasper Rotary Breakfast Club. A Paul Harris Fellow Chairman of the 1994 Edmonton National Forestry Capital. Founding member of the Premier's Alberta Economic Development Authority. Chair of the environmental Task Force and member of the Agriculture Task Force Committee. Past President of the Edmonton Council of Advanced Technology. Founding Board Member of the Alberta Capital Region Manufacturers Association reporting to City Mayors. Founding member in the creation of a Centre of Excellence for Functional Food and Nutraceutical Development of the University of Alberta. Past Vice Chairman and member of the Board of Governors of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology

Created a consortium involving MB Engineering and Simpson Lester Goodrich Partnerships of Calgary to pursue the Confederation Bridge project. The company later joined with the Stanley Group of Companies, resulting in Alberta firms provided the engineering for the remarkable Confederation Bridge. The merging created the Stantec Ltd. of Edmonton.

Ken was appointed to Honorary Colonel of 41 Service Battalion in 2018.

Welcome to the board, Ken. We look forward to your vast experience in helping EUSI advancing.

Securitas

*Alexander Tsang CD*

Major (retired)

President

Edmonton United Services Institute

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