



PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES



Officers of the Canadian Corps of Guides, Cobourg, Ont., 1906. A young "soldier," Burns (centre row, fourth from left) proudly poses in his diminutive uniform and sword beside his father (on right #8) Capt. G.E. Burns. | www.cda-acd.forces.gc.ca/cfli-ilfc/doc/NeitherArtNorScience-eng.pdf | Burns, E.L.M. / Library and Archives Canada / PA-113014

Lieutenant General E.L.M. Burns takes charge: the United Nation's first ever UNEF commander

Eedson Louis Millard Burns, born in Montreal, educated at the Royal Military College of Canada and buried in Kingston, Ontario was the man for the crisis, The Suez Crisis. In 1956 as the world sat in front of black and white television screens and listened to transistor radios wondering how the dangerously mounting international situation would unfold, UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold and Canada's Lester B. Pearson were already talking about the military commander needed to step onto the world stage.

With Hammarskjold's support Canada put in the call to "Tommy" Burns, the Canadian General already in the Middle East as the Chief of Staff of UNTSO, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. He was there supervising the General Armistice Agreements of 1948.

Burns had earned the Military Cross for personal bravery as a military engineer in the Somme during 1916-18. He served as Commander of the First Canadian Armoured Brigade and First Canadian Corps at vari-

ous points of the Italian campaign of WWII. He was president of the Ottawa Branch of the United Nations Association in 1947-48 and worked at Veterans' Affairs as Deputy Minister from 1950-54.

Burns had all the credentials. Was he up to the task of heading a multinational force during a delicate political crisis that threatened world peace?

Research how General Burns did it!!

The controversial Canadian General left a broad trail on the internet.

<http://www.junobeach.org/e/3/can-pep-can-burns-e.htm>