

CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY

Spring 2002

Articles



Byng's and Currie's Commanders: A Still Untold Story of the Canadian Corps

Patrick H. Brennan

17



"Johnson Forever!": Revisiting a Hero of the Seven Years War

Mark Eaton

Canadian War Museum

29



In the Heat of Battle: Letters from the Normandy Campaign, 1944
Captain Harold MacDonald with M.A. MacDonald

44



"Treasures" from the Canadian War Museum's Backlog

Dan Glenney *et al.*

Features

53



Burma Banzai: The Air War in Burma through Japanese Eyes
Atholl Sutherland Brown and William Rodney

61



Relief Amid Chaos; The Story of Canadian POWs Driving Red Cross Trucks

Hugh A. Halliday

67



"Regret deeply...": The Second World War Experiences of Bill and Fred Tucker

Angela Fritz

73



Sarajevo: A Retrospective, 1993-2001

Ed Storey

Dear Sir,

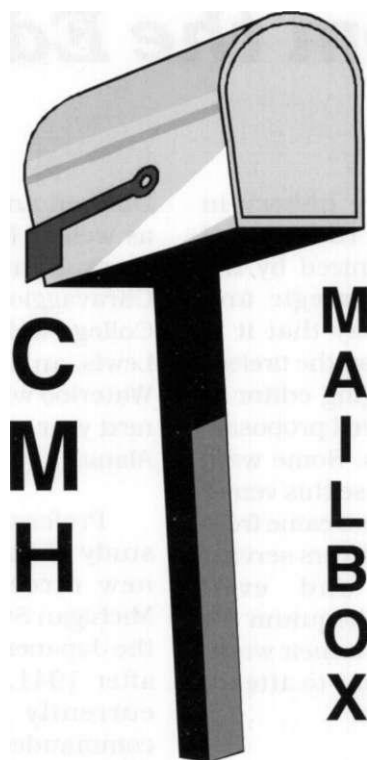
I was pleased to see Ian Miller's article "Toronto's response to the Outbreak of War, 1939," and didn't even wince too much to discover that I was an object of his attacks. But if you can't take friendly fire in *Canadian Military History*, I guess you're in the wrong business.

But this doesn't mean Dr Miller's conclusions are right. There is a certain, naive credulousness in this article, just as in his book on Toronto in the Great War. If it's in print, he seems to believe, it must be true. Well, as *Porgy and Bess* tell us, "it ain't necessarily so."

For example, only the completely credulous could argue - and believe - that the militia was trained in September 1939. Men knew how to place their sporrans properly and could handle rifle drill (if they had rifles), but neither they nor their officers were well trained by any standard. That Permanent Force officers, NCOs and men were no better prepared for war might also be taken for granted.

I am also prepared to accept, because Miller tells me so, that Toronto was more patriotic than anywhere else on earth in September 1939, full of hard-edged realists who appraised Nazism correctly and enlisted to smash it in a "necessary" war. Or perhaps it was just Anglo Toronto - almost no one other than Anglos makes it into Miller's text. Where are the ethnics, the United Church ministers, labour, the left, the neutralists and the pacifists? Nowhere in this article and, presumably, not in the militia.

More to the point, has Toronto ever been the same as Canada? Was opinion in rural Ontario as strongly pro-war as on University Avenue? Among wheat farmers in Manitoba and Germans in the West? Chinese in BC? If we are to believe Miller's extrapolations, all Canada, except French Canadians and a few intellectuals, were keen on the war, aware that "Hitler presented...a threat to the security and freedom of the world." Looking back after six decades, that assessment was absolutely right; but in 1939 how many Canadians believed this? A little evidence and a lot less rhetorical excess would make me swallow Miller's arguments more easily.



Moreover, it requires a willing suspension of disbelief to rely on the Toronto press for public opinion. We have all just lived through the orgy of uncritical pap that filled the *Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, and *Toronto Star* for ten days after the Queen Mother's death, and the British Empire is long gone. Historians of Miller's stamp a century on who read the newspapers and write their articles from them will probably conclude that Canadians fervently believed in the monarchy in 2002. How much can we believe of press opinion in 1939 Tory Toronto when Britain still ruled the waves and newspapers competed with each other to prove their Imperial patriotism?

I think Dr Miller should tattoo two maxims on his forehead so he can see them each morning when he shaves:

Toronto is not Canada;

The press is not public opinion.

If his forehead is very wide, he might add a third:

The militia was not, is not, and never has been well trained.

And if there is still some space above his eyebrows, he might add a fourth line: "Canada went to war in 1939 because Britain went to war - until proven otherwise." Nothing in Miller's

article remotely suggests that those who enlisted in September 1939 did so because they were motivated by anything other than Imperial fervour. No one in his article mentioned Canadian interests or even appears to have thought very much about them. By all means, let's have "new questions about the interwar period," but first let us try to expand our gazes beyond the newspapers and Toronto. Let us also try to respond to those questions with something more than puffed-up analysis that cannot withstand critical examination.

J.L. Granatstein,
Toronto, ON

Dear Sir,

Canadian Military History keeps getting better with each issue and once again I was very pleased with the mix of articles in Vol. 11, No. 1.

Ian Miller's article "Toronto's Response to the Outbreak of War, 1939" illustrated for me anyway, the 'no nonsense' attitude of the average Canadian recruit at the start of the Second World War to set aside civilian life and in many cases family life as well, and get on with the military job at hand. What ever happened to Graham Chatterly the barber shop owner and married man who joined the 48th Highlanders at the start of the War, did he make it through the conflict?

The photograph on page 20 is very poignant, final farewells have changed little over the years; although in this case the Toronto soldier is wearing Service Dress with a set of now very rare Canadian Army 1925 Pattern Web.

Graham Broad's article "Not competent to produce tanks," The Ram and Tank Production in Canada, 1939-1945 is a topic that is of great interest to me and is often discussed in military modeling circles. Few Canadians realize the quantum leaps in manufacturing capabilities and production quantities that Canada made during The Second World War, and to see the comparison figures on how much more we produced then our Axis counterparts and how dependant our Commonwealth Allies were on us is inspiring. As Mr. Broad

continued on page 60

From the Editor

What is the state of military history in Canada? After attending the 13th annual military history colloquium organized by the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, I would say that it is strong and getting stronger. This year, the tireless conference organizer (and managing editor of this journal) Mike Bechthold received proposals for an impressive array of papers. Some were from professional historians who use this venue to present their latest findings; others came from graduate students (some of them officers serving in the Canadian Forces) and even undergraduates who find the colloquium an honest but friendly forum to present their work. There were too many sessions for me to attend, so I'll mention just a few highlights.

The conference opened with soldier/scholar Michael Boire, an instructor at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC), whose study of mining activities at Vimy Ridge appeared in the very first issue of this journal. This time Michael examined a topic that has for too long been clouded by mythology: the tactical choices faced by General Montcalm before the battle on the Plains of Abraham. Michael brought a staff officer's critical eye to the pivotal events of 1759, reminding us that such discussions are long overdue. Certainly the colloquium revealed something of the breadth of graduate studies in military affairs now taking place across Canada. When not leading Canadians on battlefield study tours, David Patterson and Lee Windsor are graduate students at RMC and the University of New Brunswick (UNB) respectively. Both showed an intimate knowledge of the ground over which the Canadians fought in Normandy and the Rhineland. Other graduate students whose work gained nods of approval included: James Paxton and Richard Goette from Queen's, James Wood from UNB, Wendy Cuthbertson from Toronto, Greg Kennedy and Fred Mason from Western, Jeff Noakes, Sandy Babcock, Kurt Jensen, Grant

Dawson and Rachel Lea Heide from Carleton, as well as Kate Fitzpatrick and Ralph Dykstra from Laurier. Ken Hanson and Angelo Caravaggio represented the Canadian Forces College well. I'll give special mention to Alana Lewis, an undergraduate from the University of Waterloo who will take up her graduate studies next year at the University of Chicago. Well done Alana.

Professional historians are also taking the study of Canadian military history in exciting new directions. Michael Unsworth from Michigan State helped his audience understand the Japanese balloon "threat" on the West Coast after 1941. Patrick Brennan from Calgary is currently examining the senior Canadian commanders who fought under Lord Byng and Arthur Currie after 1916. Some of Patrick's work appears in this issue. Tim Cook's fascinating keynote address explored the role of Max Aitken, Lord Beaverbrook, in establishing the reputation of the Canadian Corps. That Tim has time for new research is remarkable, for he is now part of the team of historians that is developing the new Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. Tim was joined by Roger Sarty and Serge Durflinger in the last session to discuss how their "messages" will appear in the museum's exhibits and galleries. It was a rare opportunity for a historical community to contribute to a process that is truly of national importance. The conference ended with comments from Terry Copp, the founding editor of this journal and undeniably Canada's most respected military historian. No one has done more to revive what were once the waning fortunes of Canada's military history. But Terry would be the first to admit that there is still much more to do. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Geoff Hayes
University of Waterloo

continued from page 4

CMH Mailbox

mentioned, the Ram may not have been up to the same standard as the M4 Sherman, but its legacy has lived on. In its most famous modification to the Ram Kangaroo Armoured Personnel Carrier for the 1st Canadian and 49th RTR Armoured Carrier Regiments of the British 79th Armoured Division, as well as the Ram Badger Flame Thrower and the Ram Wallaby Armoured Ammunition Carrier which were used by the Canadian Army in North-West Europe.

"A Rideau Canal Tragedy" by Gerry Purchase and Owen Cooke hit very 'close to home' on two counts. The first is that the location of National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa now occupies the site from where the fateful simulated assault water crossing was launched; and being stationed in Ottawa, I have walked past this site many times oblivious that anything ever happened there. Secondly, this illustrates just how dangerous the 'profession of arms' can be. I was reading the article about the same time as the four members of the 3rd Battalion, PPCLI were killed while training in Afghanistan; so whether training in Canada or fighting terrorists overseas, training can be dangerous and the loss of life is tragic.

"Carrying Canadian Troops, The Story of RMS Olympic as a First World War Troopship" is a great look back at the days of the great ocean liners and their part in moving vast numbers of men to and from Europe. I have deployed overseas four times, and generally it is possible to reach any part of the globe by air in a matter of a couple of days. To embark on a world renowned ocean liner and spend the better part of a week sailing just to Europe shows all too well just how in the space of slightly more than one lifetime, technology and the ability to move military formations has progressed well beyond what anyone in The Great War could have envisioned.

Laurie Peloquin's *CMH* Web Watch has provided me with many hours of surfing pleasure. Would it be possible to cover some of the web sites generated by the numerous re-enactment groups? Some are very good and show the dedication that these organizations have to preserving the memories and artifacts of both World Wars.

Once again, thanks for a great magazine and keep up the good work.

Ed Storey
Nepean, ON

Dear Sir,
I am a long time subscriber to Canadian Military History and have

always found it to be very interesting and informative. During my first cursory glance through the first article of the Winter 2002 issue which focused, quite properly in my opinion, on the mobilization of the Toronto area militia units, I was quite surprised to find, on page 20, a picture of my mother kissing me goodbye.

Apart from the somewhat ominous caption ("final farewell") the picture does not seem to be related to the article. I was a Permanent Force soldier, a member of "B" Company, The Royal Canadian Regiment and the picture was taken on 14 November 1939 at the railway siding north of the Exhibition Grounds in Toronto.

I'm sure you are aware that, prior to 1939, the RCR was spread across Eastern Canada with companies in London, Toronto, St. Jean, Quebec and Halifax. The company of which I was a member moved to Camp Valcartier on 14 November to join the other companies for about one month of reorganization before sailing from Halifax on December 22nd, arriving in Scotland on December 30th, 1939.

We sailed in the same convoy as the 48th Highlanders. The Toronto Scottish sailed in an earlier convoy and arrived in Scotland on December 17th.

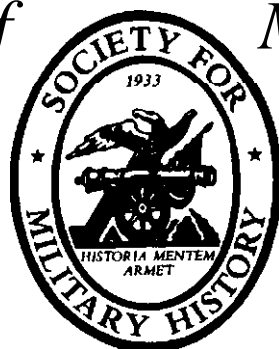
Thank you
LCol (Retd) John Dowsett
Kingston, ON

The Journal of

Military History

Essays on every aspect of the history of ground, naval, and air forces and their impact on society

Review essays



Book Reviews

List of articles in other periodicals

Annual dissertations list

Annual index

Quarterly since 1937: January, April, July, October

Individual memberships: US\$40.00

Institutional subscriptions: US\$65.00

Additional postage outside Canada-US-Mexico: \$8.00 surface; \$40.00 air

Payable in US funds only; Visa and Master Card accepted

For a free sample copy, to subscribe, or to submit an essay write:

Editor, Journal of Military History

Virginia Military Institute

Lexington, Virginia, USA 24450

Internet: www.smh-hq.org

E-mail: jmhsmh@mail.vmi.edu

Fax: 540-464-7330

CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY

Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3C5, CANADA

Phone: (519) 884-0710 ext.4594; Fax: (519) 886-5057

Email: mbechtho@wlu.ca Website: www.canadianmilitaryhistory.com

Agreement No.40025158; Publication mail registration No.08978

Canadian Military History is published four times a year in the winter, spring, summer and fall by the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University.

Editor-in-Chief	Terry Copp
Editor, Spring 2002 issue	Geoff Hayes
Managing Editor	Mike Bechthold
Canadian War Museum Editor	Cameron Pulsifer
Book Review Supplement Editor	Jonathan F. Vance
Business Manager	Ev Jones
Layout & Design	Mike Bechthold

Printed in Canada by Beacon Herald Fine
Printing Division, Stratford, Ontario

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of
Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program
(PAP), toward our mailing costs.

ISSN 1195-8472

Subscription Information

Canada:

One year (4 issues)	\$32.00
Two years (8 issues)	\$64.00

International:

One year (4 issues)	US\$27.00
Two years (8 issues)	US\$54.00

Visa & Mastercard accepted.

Please make cheques and
money orders payable to
"Wilfrid Laurier University."

**To renew by phone call:
(519) 742-7336**

Canadian War Museum

General Motors Court
330 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0M8

The Canadian War Museum, the national military history museum, is a living memorial to those men and women who served in Canada's armed forces. It is also a centre for research and dissemination of information and expertise on all aspects of the country's military past from pre-contact era to the present. It preserves the artifacts of Canadian military experience, interprets them for present and future generations, and advances the professional study of Canadian military history, including the effects of war and conflict on the nation and all its citizens.

The Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies

The purpose of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS) is to foster research, teaching, and public discussion of military and strategic issues of national and international significance. The Centre is intentionally multi-disciplinary; it has strong commitments in military history, with emphasis on the Canadian experience, and in strategic and operational studies, with emphasis on disarmament. LCMSDS supports both basic and applied research as well as teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels. In addition, the extensive program of LCMSDS workshops, conferences, public lectures, and publications encourages informed discussion of international security and of Canada's national interests in military and strategic issues - past, present and future.

The Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies was founded in 1991 as a Research Centre affiliated with Wilfrid Laurier University. Its primary support has come from the Department of National Defence and from Wilfrid Laurier University. The Director of the Centre is Dr. Marc Kilgour, Professor of Mathematics, and the Co-Director is Professor Terry Copp, Professor of History.