

CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY

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CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY

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Canadian War Museum

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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.

From the Editor-in-Chief

Twenty years have now passed since the late Robert Vogel and I began the research that resulted in the publication of the five volumes of *Maple Leaf Route*. It was the tail end of the 1970s and there was little interest in books about Canada's army at war. We ended up publishing the series ourselves and my children shipped the books from our rural retreat in Wellington County. The books eventually became a commercial and critical success and today copies fetch high prices on internet book sites.

By 1992, when Mike Bechthold and I began to publish *Canadian Military History*, much had changed. Attitudes formed during the Vietnam War era were still dominant among university professors but students increasingly questioned the rhetorical radicalism and anti-military sentiments of their professors. They eagerly sought opportunities to learn about the Canadian role in the large events of the 20th century and a new generation of outstanding young scholars began to transform ideas about our military history. *Canadian Military History* and the annual Laurier Military History Colloquium have played a significant role in nurturing this development.

Readers who value the work of the Laurier Centre and *CMH* might wish to consider making

a donation to ensure that our efforts to promote research and writing about Canada's military experience continue. We are in the midst of an extensive and expensive revision of the battlefield travel guides we originally published in 1994 and 1995. We also have a backlog of specialized military history books waiting to be published including Shaun Brown's long-promised study of the Loyal Eddie's and Ralph Dykstra's history of the liberation of Groningen. We also need financial support to publish further volumes of operational research reports as well as an important, unpublished history of Operational Research in Bomber Command.

We recently learned that one Second World War veteran who values what we do has left us a handsome sum of money in his will. A hale and hearty 90-year-old who will no doubt live to be 100 has made the first gift. Are there others who might like to help? Gifts or legacies made out to Wilfrid Laurier for the benefit of our military history centre are tax deductible and I can personally guarantee that all of it will be invested in promoting research and publication of our military history.

If you would like further information, write to me or send an email to tcopp@wlu.ca

Terry Copp
Summer 2002

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Andrew Iarocci, Reina Lahtinen, Karen Priestman,
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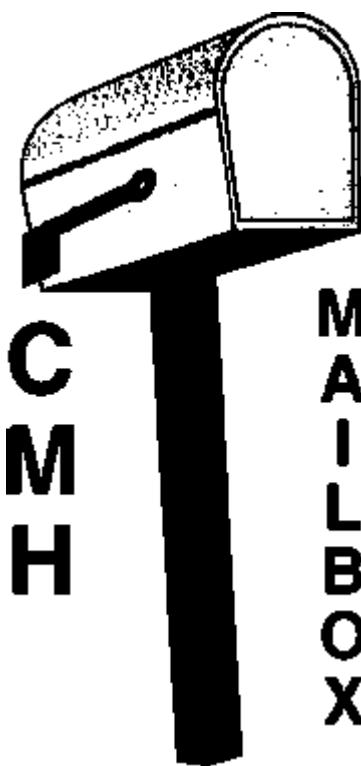
Canadian Forces Photographic Unit; Canadian War Museum; Directorate of History & Heritage, Department of National Defence; Security and Defence Forum, Department of National Defence; National Archives of Canada; Wilfrid Laurier University.

Dear Sir,

As a member (1942-1945) of the 23rd Field Regiment (SP) RCA, 4th Canadian Armoured Division I was very interested in the article by Graham Broad, "Not competent to produce tanks': The Ram and Tank Production in Canada, 1939-1945" in the Winter 2002 issue of *Canadian Military History*. However, as a gunner, I was disappointed in your only reference to our self-propelled gun, the "Sexton." To quote on page 33, "the Sexton self-propelled gun (which was itself essentially a heavy artillery piece mounted on a Ram chassis)." You could have explained that the Sexton was the gun of the Field Artillery regiments supporting the armoured brigades not only in the Canadian army, but also, I believe, in the British army.

Another use of the Ram tank was the vehicle of our forward observation officers (FOOs). The surprising feature of that tank was that the gun was a dummy stuck on to the turret to give room for the FOO's assistant (his Ack or Able). Another was as the Troop Command Post vehicle. These did not arrive until some time after 12 March 1945 when I was wounded and returned to England. Having the vehicle earlier would have saved a lot of digging of command posts - except in the winter when we found empty houses much more convenient and comfortable!

I very much enjoy your publication and am impressed by your organizing of the annual tours to the battlefields of Europe. In 1936 my wife at age



16 attended the unveiling of the Vimy Memorial with her parents, both veterans who served in France during the First World War (a pilot and a nursing sister).

sincerely,
John Wilkes
Don Mills, ON

Dear Sir,

When Jack Granatstein published his article "Conscription and My Politics" in *Canadian Military History*, Autumn 2001, I was convinced that the old Liberal Nationalist and admirer of Mackenzie King was finally seeing the light. If he could change his mind about the necessity of conscription then surely he would recognize that his entire view of Canada's role in the Second World War required revision.

Apparently not. His letter to the editor criticizing Ian Miller's "Toronto's Response to the Outbreak of War, 1939" is based on all his old ideas about English-speaking Canadians and their response to war. Miller's carefully researched article as well as his book on Toronto in the Great War (*Our Glory and Our Grief*, University of Toronto Press, 2000) present evidence of what happened and why, precisely the kind of non-ideological history Jack called for in his *CMH* article.

His letter, and not Miller's article, is full of "puffed up" commentary substituting for analysis. I am sure that when Jack gets around to examining the evidence and reading what Miller has actually written he will recognize the value of attempts to understand what the vast majority of Torontonians thought about the issues of war and peace.

sincerely,
T. Copp
Elora, ON

Dear Sir,

The article by Ian Miller on Toronto's Response to the Outbreak of War, 1939 was very interesting but includes a major clanger on page 8. Joseph Chamberlain was not British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain was.

Sincerely,
Prof. Jack M. Miller,
Associate Vice-President,
Research and Dean of
Graduate Studies,
Professor of Chemistry,
Brock University,
St. Catharines, ON