

CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY

Volume 12, Numbers 1&2

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24 August - 22 September 1944

Commander, Royal Artillery 1st Canadian Infantry Division

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.

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From the Editor-in-Chief

*T*in years ago we began work on the first of our battlefield tour guides published jointly with the Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation. We are now in the midst of revising both guide books for the 60th anniversaries in 2004 and 2005. Much has changed in the past decade. The European road network has been transformed and updated road maps are required. New museums, interpretation centres and battlefield memorials have been created and there is much more for visitors to see and do. In 1993 the internet was in its infancy but today the prospective visitor can check out sites, book hotels and arrange travel from a computer.

Visitors to the First World War battlefields must now find time for the excellent interpretation centres at Vimy and Beaumont-Hamel as well as the superb Museum of the Western Front in the Cloth Hall at Ypres. And they must not neglect L'Historial de la Grande Guerre in Peronne. Visitors to Normandy will want to see the new Juno Beach Centre opening this June in Courseulles-sur-Mer. They should also visit the new Airborne Museum at Pegasus Bridge, the enlarged le Memorial in Caen and the artifact-rich museums in Bayeux and Arromanches. The 360-degree cinema at Arromanches is also of interest as is the Polish Armoured Division museum at Mont Ormel.

Back in 1993 we urged Canadians to do something to preserve some key battlefield viewing areas. Our Centre, together with the Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation, worked with the Toronto Scottish Regiment to create a magnificent site at Point 67, the northern spur of Verrieres Ridge. The Torscot Memorial anchors the site and new, full-colour descriptive plaques for other 2nd Canadian Infantry Division (and 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade) units will be added. The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada unveiled their plaque in 2002 (see the article describing this event on

page 60). This summer Le Regiment de Maisonneuve will also dedicate a plaque at the site. The Maisonneuve plaque will focus on the battle for Etavaux in July 1944. The citizens of that small village have invited Canadians to join them in honouring the man who led the attack that liberated their town. The main street will be renamed Boulevard Lieut-Col. Jacques Ostiguy.

The second belvedere, or battlefield viewing area, developed by our Centre and the Foundation is located above the village of St. Lambert-sur-Dives. With financial support from the family of John Clgehorn, retiring Chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University, the Foundation and the Department de l'Orne, the wheelchair-accessible site will be officially opened on 8 June 2003.

Plans are already underway to add descriptive plaques to Point 67 and to develop new sites in France, Belgium, Holland and Italy. To learn more, contact the CBNF (www.canadianbattleofnormandyfoundation.ca) and check out our website: www.canadianmilitaryhistory.com

Terry Copp
Editor-in-Chief

The editors of *Canadian Military History* wish to thank the following people and organizations for their contributions to this issue:

Brandey Barton, Lauren Burger, T. Robert Fowler, Robb Furlong, Mark Humphries, Andrew Iarocci, Reina Lahtinen, John Maker, Karen Priestman, Kelly Shaw.

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.

Note: This is the Winter/Spring 2003 (Volume 12, Numbers 1&2) issue of *Canadian Military History*.

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for forwarding my *Leading Front the Front*. What a pleasant surprise! I was just contemplating buying a copy. I have been subscribing to *Canadian Military History* since the first issue and enjoy it immensely. The quality and variety of articles is excellent. Please keep up the good work!

Yours truly,
W.D. Murray
Victoria, BC

Dear Sir,

I feel compelled to write to you after reading the insert that came with the last issue of *CMH*. I was seriously thinking of not renewing my subscription as the company I am with was bought out. Not knowing exactly what the future holds, I thought it best to monitor and question all expenses of mine and my family until I am secure that I am part of the new team.

When I saw the book, *Leading From the Front*, the first question I asked was whether or not I had ordered it (I sometimes forget books that I have ordered). Your letter set the question straight. Then, when I realized why you had done what you did, I thought to myself that you were doing the right thing, above and beyond the call of duty.

So, unless your organization is flush with cash, please accept the enclosed cheque as a token of my thanks for *Leading From the Front*.

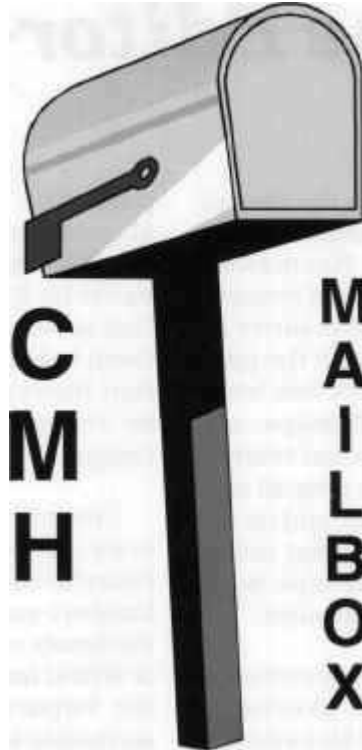
You will also be pleased to note that I have renewed by subscription to the journal for another two years!

Sincerely,
Mike Parry

Dear Sir,

Harry Pope's book struck a particular cord with me as I served with The R22eR for ten years (1951-1961) and with 2nd and 1st R22eR in Korea (1951-52) and served very briefly in Harry's "C" Company in 1952, just before returning home at the end of my tour. As well, I was one of his

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students in Quebec City in 1968 studying for my pre-staff examinations. I passed, largely thanks to him, and entered Staff College for the first two-year course (1959-61).

Needless to say, I quickly read this book and found it absolutely fascinating! Harry, to say the least, did not suffer fools gladly, particularly senior fools. Thank you very much for sending it to me.

Enclosed, please find two cheques, one for Harry's book and one to renew my subscription to *Canadian Military History*.

Yours Truly,
W. Bentley MacLeod
Kingston, ON

Dear Sir,

What a pleasant surprise! Thank you very much. I will enjoy reading Harry Pope's war memoirs. He rates with Charley Forbes who wrote *Fantassin*, another R22eR. Both soldiers have my sincerely respect and admiration.

It was not necessary to compensate for the lack of issue No. 1 of 2003 of *Canadian Military History*. However, it was a

wonderful gesture and I would like to make a donation to the operation of your magazine. You can use it in any manner you wish.

I enjoy the publication immensely. Go well, tread softly and enjoy life to the fullest.

Sincerely,
John R. McDougall
Ottawa, ON

Dear Sir,

Thank you so much for the lovely book, *Leading From the Front* by William Henry Pope! I'm very excited to get a book on the Royal 22nd Regiment, our Van Doos! It was an unexpected gift and thank you for your kindness. I will add this book to my library. I look forward to reading it with great interest!

Sincerely,
Patricia Estrada

Dear Sir:

My letter is in reference to the article by Angelo Caravaggio, "A Re-Evaluation of Leadership: Lieutenant-General Guy Simonds and Major-General George Kitching in Normandy, 1944", Volume 11, Number 4. Although I had not intended to discuss the author's thesis, which is interesting, I do have a few comments. Several interviews with Kitching recount the lack of sleep, sometimes for several days, and the effect that had on performance. To say that Kitching had "valuable combat experience" from Sicily and Italy (they occurred in that order) may be pressing the point. His experience as GSO 1 of 1st Canadian Division was invaluable. Command of the 11th Infantry Brigade, while important, occurred during a relatively quiet period of operations. The sole action was at Arielli, where his brigade failed to take or hold any of its objectives. Not much to show for the 185 casualties suffered in one day. This certainly is not the stuff needed to develop or ready an armoured division commander,

continued on page 28...