

Special Feature: The First World War

7



Currie and 1st Canadian Division at Second Ypres, April 1915: Controversy, Criticism and Official History

Tim Travers

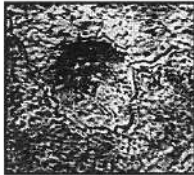
16



Sacrifice in Stained Glass: Memorial Windows of the Great War

Jonathan F. Vance

24



The Blind Leading the Blind: The Battle of the St. Eloi Craters

Tim Cook

37



Colonel John McCrae: From Guelph, Ontario to Flanders Fields

Bev Dietrich

Canadian War Museum

44



Filip Konowal, VC: The Rebirth of a Canadian Hero

Ron Sorobey

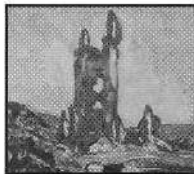
57



Obituary - George Campbell Tinning, War Artist, 1910-1996

Laura Brandon

62



Landscape as Memorial: A.Y. Jackson and the Landscape of the Western Front, 1917-1918

Susan Butlin

71



A Tough Little Boat: The *Pogo* - HMCS *Labrador's* Hydrographic Survey Launch

Eric M. Fernberg

Articles

77



VC or not VC?: Bestowing a Battlefield Icon
Hugh A. Halliday

88



Little Known Canadian Units - The Corps of Guides, 1903-1914
Dan R. Jenkins

Features

99



Profiles of Valour - Roger Schjelderup
T. Robert Fowler

106



Within the Archives - Hector Fraser Dougall, RFC: A Pilot's Account of the Great War
Timothy Dube

110



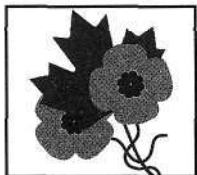
One Family's Remembrance: A Return to Normandy
William James Booth & George Anthony Booth

113



The 1996 Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation Study Tour

119



Canada's Coming Age: A New Resource for Schools

Documents

121



Colonel H.D.G. Crerar's Visit to Nazi Germany, 1937

CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY

Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, CANADA, N2L 3C5
Phone: (519) 884-0710 ext.4594; Fax: (519) 886-5057
Email: mbechtho@mach1.wlu.ca

Canadian Military History is published in the Spring and Autumn by the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University.

Editor	Terry Copp
Managing Editor	Mike Bechthold
Executive Assisant	Ev Jones
Canadian War Museum Editor	Cameron Pulsifer
Book Review Supplement Editor	Jonathan Vance
Contributing Editors	J.L. Granatstein A.M.J. Hyatt Bill McAndrew Desmond Morton David Stafford
Layout & Design	Mike Bechthold

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

ISSN 1195-8472

Subscription Information

Canada:

One year (2 issues)	\$20.00
Two years (4 issues)	\$40.00

International:

One year (2 issues)	US\$20.00
Two years (4 issues) (plus US\$5.00 per year shipping and handling.)	US\$40.00

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

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

This letter is written from the International Study Centre established by Queen's University at Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex. Canadian, American and Japanese students are living and studying together in a 16th century moated brick castle. There are regular trips to London and the surrounding towns, as well as field trips to the continent built into the twelve-week term, so it is a very busy place.

Canadians are well regarded here in Sussex for during the War our army lived and trained in the area. Brighton, Bexhill-on-Sea, Eastbourne and Lewes were the local leave centres where Canadian servicemen met most of the 6,000 Sussex women who became war brides. Many of the large country houses like Petworth, now a National Trust property, were used as divisional and brigade headquarters. Michelham Priory in nearby Hailsham was in use during preparations for the Dieppe Raid and still has a map of the English Channel, drawn on the wall, preserved behind a glass panel.

East Grinstead is home to the Queen Victoria Hospital where Sir Archibald MacIndoe and his team operated their famous burns centre for wounded airmen. The Guinea Pig Club, established to provide lifetime aftercare for patients who required extensive treatment, still holds reunions, and the hospital itself functions as a specialised burns unit within the British National Health system.

There are other reminders of the war all around us. All along the coastal path the remains of gun positions and shelters can be discerned. The famous Belle Tout lighthouse, near Beachy Head, looks much as it did when RAF pilots used it as a navigation marker. Hastings, the fifth most bombed town in provincial England, has done little to preserve its connection with the war, perhaps because it was the frequent target of German aircraft jettisoning their bombs as they

raced away to France. To be remembered as 'bomb alley' has little appeal.

Brighton is the local city most veterans will remember, The Odeon Cinema, which was quickly rebuilt after 55 people were killed in the raid of 14 September 1940, has been turned into a bingo hall. Veterans would be surprised to see the tacky vitality of the Palace Pier because in 1940 the centre sections were removed to prevent the enemy from using it as a landing stage. The hamlet of Stanmer and Stanmer Park, taken over lock, stock and barrel by the Canadians in 1941, now adjoins the University of Sussex and a four-lane highway. The 'hard stands' where Nissen huts stood are all that remains of a major training area. HMS *King Alfred*, the communications centre for the Royal Navy, is today a rehabilitation centre but the large building on the cliffs at Rottingdean looks very much as it did then.

Newhaven is a poignant place for Canadians. It was the port of embarkation for the Dieppe Raid, and today a memorial and permanent exhibition in Newhaven Fort remind the visitor of that horrific day. The port and city were spared any serious bomb damage during the Blitz because of a scheme to install lights simulating the harbour in the Cuckmere River valley. Night bombers were diverted to the water meadows where the town blacked out and realistic light leakage guided them to open fields.

Further to the west, RAF Fighter Command's base at Tangmere, beside the cathedral city of Chichester, is now an industrial park. The memory of those days of glory is preserved at a superb aviation museum which attracts many visitors.

Perhaps the most interesting artifacts are the most difficult to find. After the evacuation of the BEF from Dunkirk, British and Canadian troops defended the coast and created a defensive barrier

known as the GHQ line. Further inland a second 'stop line,' to be manned by "Dad's Army" (the Home Guard) was created between Newhaven and Uckfield. Pillboxes were built and dragon's teeth to block roads readied. Today a walker with an ordinance survey map can reach many of these positions on the footpaths which crisscross the countryside, reminders of an invasion threat which seemed all too real in 1940-41.

Next week I will set off with my students on the Newhaven-Dieppe ferry retracing the route of the Canadians in 1942. Here in Sussex it is much easier to imagine the preparations for the raid, but beyond that we will recall the adage, "Historians, no matter how much they know, can rarely understand what it was like to go into battle and they should be careful when offering opinions on what is was all about."

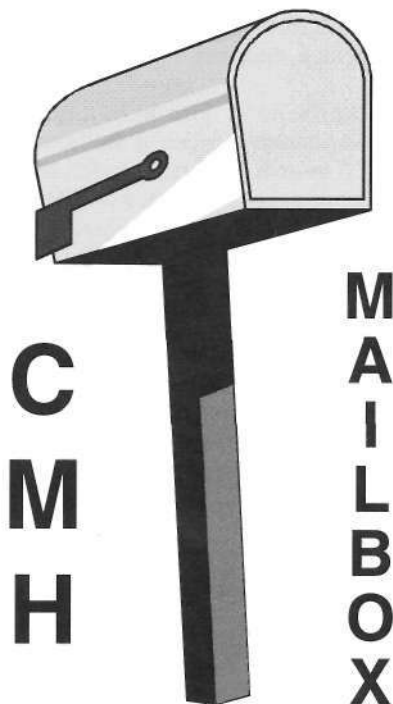
Terry Copp

Dear Sir,

Lancelot Press sent me a copy of an *Open Gangway* review which appeared in the Spring 1996 issue of *Canadian Military History*, a recognition for which I had been hoping since 1992, better late than never!

Before writing my book, more than a decade ago, I attempted to examine the 400-plus pages of the Secret Naval Court of Enquiry which was rumoured to have placed the blame for the VE-Day riots in Halifax squarely on Admiral Murray, as had the Kellock Royal Commission. But the contents were said to be so sensitive that they could not be seen even by researchers of the Department of National Defence, much less a low-rank member of the Eastern Air Command Marine Squadron, daring to criticize the sacrosanct Royal Canadian Navy.

Doug Lewis, then a Conservative back bencher, attempted to gain access to the embarrassing document for me but was rebuffed. Even the redoubtable Canadian historian Pierre Berton was flatly refused when he interceded on my behalf. What skeletons were still in the closet after more than 30 years we all wondered? Clearly, with this evidence kept under lock and key, it would be almost impossible to examine the evidence with a critical eye, much less provide helpful analysis which I am



censured for omitting. Even so I attempted such a task on what unconfirmed information I had.

Before my manuscript could be accepted, 125 typed pages had to be cut. It may be imagined that such insights as I possessed were no match for the dramatic events of the narrative and regretfully were not included. When I finally secured the historical information via Freedom of Information, my suspicions were confirmed although I had not been in a position to voice them. Indeed, the evidence proved that Admiral

Murray had given perjured testimony during his appearance before the Kellock Royal Commission. Of course, this is not the only time that a high ranking officer has betrayed those serving under them, escaping deserved censure by the tender support of sycophantic historians. However, *Open Gangway* has reached an amazing 8th printing, suggesting that many Canadians have long memories of the Halifax VE-Day riots, despite efforts to suppress criticism.

Stanley R. Redman
Midland, Ontario

Dear Sir,

I am sure that I am one of many voices that will advise you that die Petty Officer holding *Haida's* name plaque [*Canadian Military History*, Spring 1996, pg.86] is not Harry DeWolf. He is in the centre of the third row, almost directly behind the said Petty Officer.

I enjoyed this issue of *CMH* - in particular the involvement *with* the Canadian War Museum - a great idea! Keep up the good work.

Admiral Ralph Hennessy
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Sir,

The Book Review Supplement to *Canadian Military History* Spring 1996, p.15 briefly reviews Bill Yenne's "*Black '41: The West Point Class of 1941*."

Mentioned is made that out of a class of 424, "fewer than 40 were killed in action during the Second World War...And how did our own Royal Military College fare?"

I can answer for the RMC class that entered in 1940 and graduated in 1942. Out of 100, 17 of us were killed in action. We planted 17 trees in their memory at RMC in 1990.

According to the *RMC Review* of 1946, there were eight killed in action out of the 50 of our senior class (1939-1941) - very similar to ours.

All my class joined combatant arms. So far as I know, so did our senior class. How the West Point class of '41 got by with half our casualty rate seems to indicate that a sizable number opted for non-combatant roles - rear echelon or

staff jobs. Maybe the political patronage that I've heard is involved in some appointments to West Point leads in at least some graduates interested in career advancement, not in service.

Possibly, many West Pointers achieved such quick promotion that few went into action as did my class - as lieutenants - platoon commanders - who, like their corporals - section commanders - get themselves shot at and killed at a much higher rate than anyone else.

William Henry Pope
Uxbridge, Ontario

(Editor's note: For W.H. Pope's personal experiences at the "sharp end" in the Second World War, please see "Memories of War I Souvenirs de Guerre" in the Autumn 1993 issue of Canadian Military History, pp.65-74.)

Dear Sir,

Some time back I reviewed *Fantassin*, (*Canadian Military History*, Spring 1995, pp.123-124), a book by Charlie Forbes which, despite its several historical inaccuracies, was well worth reading and translating. But I owe Charlie and your readers an apology. Thanks to Marc Milner's excellent *The U-Boat Hunters*, I find that HMCS *Matane* did indeed sink a German submarine in concert with HMCS *Swansea* on 22 April 1944. Although this happened off the southwest coast of Ireland and not off Halifax, the sinking did indeed take place and my statement that Charlie's claim was groundless is false.

The article in your most recent issue on Leo Major was interesting. Leo was known as a "character" in his day. His medals were unfortunately lost some time ago and efforts are presently under way to track them down.

Gil Drolet
LaSalle, Quebec