

MILITARY HISTORY AT WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY



Laurier offers undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to study military and naval history in conjunction with the history of international relations. Dr. Barry Gough, the author of numerous books on naval history, and the Editor of *The American Neptune*, teaches undergraduate courses on the history of seapower and a graduate course (M.A.) in naval history and international relations. Professor Terry Copp teaches an undergraduate course on the history of the Second World War and a grad seminar titled, War and Society in the 20th Century, which focuses on Canada and the Canadian forces. Other courses in Canadian military history are available through distance education. Both Professors Gough and Copp supervise M.A. and Ph.D. students in naval and military history

Students at Laurier benefit from the activities of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, which maintains a library and archives, hosts guest speakers, organizes an annual military history conference and publishes the quarterly journal *Canadian Military History*.

A Sample of Courses includes:

Undergraduate

History 232: A History of Sea Power to 1914 — An introduction to sea power. Ships of war in the age of sail. Statecraft and naval forces. Decisive naval battles, with specific reference to the North Atlantic, European and North American waters. Strategy and tactics in the age of Nelson. Technological improvements, including gunnery, in the age of steam. The rise of modern navies to the eve of the Great War.

History 247: The Second World War — A history of the Second World War emphasizing global strategy and military operations, 1939-1945. The emphasis is upon the war in Europe and the role of the English speaking nations.

History 341: Canadian Military History — A lecture and discussion courses examining the conduct of war and its impact on Canadian soldiers and civilians from the 17th century to the present.

Graduate

History 661: War and Society in the 20th Century — This course focuses on the impact of the 20th-century wars on the people of the English-speaking world, especially Canada. The course emphasizes issues related to the Second World War but both seminar discussions and research papers include topics related to the First World War and other 20th-century conflicts.

History 663: Naval History and International Relations — A seminar in research, reading and analysis of various aspects of naval history and international relations, with particular emphasis on the era 1880 to 1989.

Distance Education

HI347a Topics in Military History: The Canadian Army and the Liberation of Northwest Europe 1944-45 — An examination of the contribution of the Canadian Army to the liberation of Northwest Europe 1944-45. Topics include the training of the army, D-Day, the Battle of Normandy and First Canadian Army's role in Allied Strategy after Normandy.

For further information contact the Graduate Officer, Dr. David Monod, Department of History, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON, N2L 3C5; Phone (519) 884-0710 ext. 3261; Email dmonod@machl.wlu.ca;
<http://www.wlu.ca/~wwwhist/>

Graduate students should apply to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research,
Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON, N2L 3C5.

Front Cover: *A detail from Night Target, Germany*
by Miller Gore Brittain
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CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY

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Publication Mail Reg.#: 010523

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
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Layout & Design	Mike Bechthold

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

ISSN 1195-8472

Subscription Information

Canada:

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

International:

One year (4 issues)	US\$35.00
Two years (8 issues)	US\$70.00

Visa & Mastercard accepted.
Please make cheques and
money orders payable to
"Wilfrid Laurier University."

Canadian War Museum

330 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0M8

The mission statement of the Canadian War Museum is: "To share in the remembrance of, and serve as a memorial to those Canadians lost in, or as a result of war; to examine the war and war related history of Canada and its effects upon Canada and Canadians; and to document Canada's commitment to peacekeeping and the maintenance of international security." To this end the CWM maintains an exhibition facility with three floors of galleries, and a collections building housing close to half a million artifacts.

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

It seems like just yesterday that *Canadian Military History* published its first issue. At the time there was nothing like it out there - a journal publishing the best material, both scholarly and popular, historical and eyewitness, on Canada's military endeavours over the last two and a half centuries - and, we still have *no* peers. Today, nearly six years later, *CMH* has amassed a proud history. We have looked at everything from the Seven Years' War to the recent crisis at Oka and the Persian Gulf War of 1990-91. But, there is much left to tell. This issue marks the beginning of a new era for *CMH*. From now on you can look forward to receiving a new issue twice as often as before. As such, it makes sense that we look at where we have been, and even more importantly, where we are going.

You will notice a few changes with the new quarterly format of *CMH*. Each issue will be smaller than before, but it will be in your hands every three months, and in total you will have more pages to read each year. We are very excited at the prospects this offers. At present we have a substantial backlog of articles to clear up. In upcoming issues you can look forward to seeing articles dealing with: the Canadian peace enforcement operation near Medak, Croatia, September 1993; 'Fighting Mac,' a portrait of A.C Macdonell, a Canadian brigade commander in the First World War; the wartime letters of Douglas MacFarlane, wartime editor of *The Maple Leaf*; Canadian operations at Delfzijl in Northern Holland at the end of the Second World War; phantom air raids on Canada during the First World War and many other interesting articles. In addition, we hope to give you more first-person narratives and original wartime documents. Above all else, we will strive to maintain the high quality you have come to expect from us. Another benefit from appearing quarterly will be our ability to provide you with more timely news. Please inform us of any conferences, shows, book launches, etc., so we can keep our readership up-to-date.

As you may have noticed in previous issues, we have enlisted a number of "guest" editors. Jonathan Vance and Marc Milner did a wonderful job expanding the horizons of *CMH*. We will continue to call on distinguished military historians across the country to help us out and bring with them their broad range of knowledge and expertise.

Our association with the Canadian War Museum is now two years old and has proven very beneficial. The CWM remains at the forefront of

maintaining and showcasing the collective memory of Canada's military history. Their participation in this journal allows them access to a national audience, many of whom are not able to visit their facilities in Ottawa, while their contributions to *CMH* help to enrich our product. The success of this partnership has led us to seek other such arrangements which will be announced in the upcoming months.

The publication program of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, the organization which oversees our journal, continues to gather steam. We recently published a book by Jonathan Vance dealing with the men of the Great Escape, and the book on Operational Research in 21 Army Group will be released this spring. Over the next twelve months we will be publishing a couple of regimental histories, both dealing with Canadian units in Italy. The first was written by Harry Pope and is based on his experiences serving with the Royal 22^e Régiment. The second is a history of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and is an excellent account of war at the "sharp end." It was written by Shaun Brown whose father was a company commander in the Loyal Eddies during the war. Also in production is a book examining the experience of Canadian PoWs following the Dieppe raid. Charles Roland, a medical doctor by training, has meticulously researched the care and treatment received by Canadian soldiers wounded at Dieppe and captured by the Germans. It is worth mentioning that the authors of these books (and in fact, all Centre publications including *CMH*) receive no payment or royalties and all profits are used to support the activities of the Centre. Look for more information regarding these publications in future issues of *CMH*.

More than anything, we want your feedback on *CMH*. Tell us what you think about the articles and features we publish. Share with us any old memories that are jarred by what you read. We want to hear what you like about the journal, what you dislike, and what you would like to see in future issues. Please don't pull any punches. From the comments we have received in the past we know we do a lot of things right, but we aren't perfect. Send us your thoughts so *CMH* can be improved. We look forward to hearing from you.

Mike Bechthold
February 1998

Farewell to a veteran friend

Mr. Bert Harmsen, another Dutch-Canadian who used to be my neighbour in Warnsveld, Holland, called me from St. Thomas, ON before Christmas to let me know that Sergeant Russell Jackson of the North Nova Scotia Highlanders had died on December 15 in Midland, ON. Russell was a special friend to both of us because of his exploits during the battle for the liberation of the town of Warnsveld and the city of Zutphen (30 kilometres northeast of Arnhem, in the province of Gelderland) on April 4 and 6, 1945. Russell's bravery is not very well known in Canada, nor in Holland. It should be.

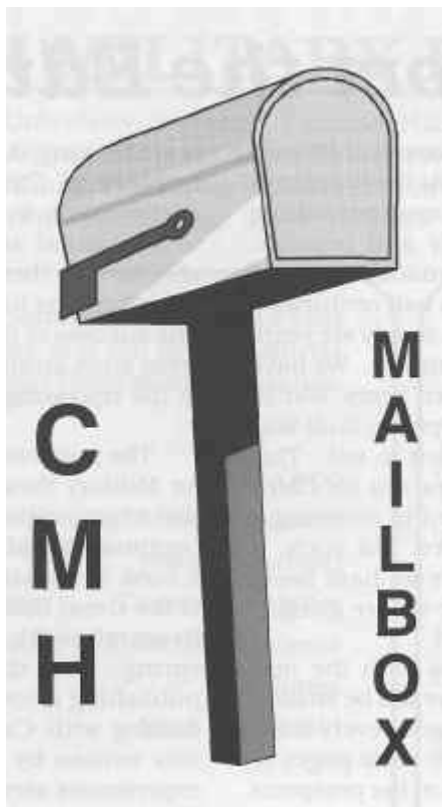
During a reunion of the North Novas in Amherst, NS in 1989, Russell told me these stories:

"After Lieutenant Dexter Higgs (from Stellarton, NS) was killed I was asked to lead the advance into the [Warnsveld] cemetery, late in the evening of April 4. It was a mean little battle between the gravestones. None of us were killed there, but only half of my men were able to continue later toward the nearby Psychiatric Hospital. The rest were injured. I too got injured, but not by a bullet. I'll tell you how. We came to a small building on the cemetery. Someone carefully peaked inside through a window and then called to me: "There are some corpses inside, sarge. They are covered with sheets. It's a morgue."

"Go inside and pull those covers off those bodies," I ordered.

"Ah, come on now Sarge. We don't want to do that."

"Pull them off!" And guess what? Three very much alive enemy soldiers were hiding among the dead. We lined them up to search them, together with other prisoners of war we had just taken. And then I made a mistake. I dropped something, turned around to pick it up, and bingo, one of those silly guys decided to stick a knife in my bottom. I turned back, swung my rifle butt on him, and that was that.



I took it easy the next day, but in the morning of April 6 I got into action again. We had taken the town of Warnsveld on April 5 but only one kilometre away, at the edge of the city of Zutphen there were lots of enemy soldiers still and they were sniping at us. So nobody was on the street when from our side a jeep and a truck came along. They kept right on rolling, apparently not knowing where the enemy was. Half way between Warnsveld and Zutphen the enemy machine guns opened up. The officer in the truck was killed. The driver and several men in the truck were injured, but they managed to get back to Warnsveld on foot.

A lieutenant called us together and said, "There is lots of chocolates and cigarettes in that truck. Any volunteers to get that vehicle back here?" Nobody said a word. So I couldn't keep my big mouth shut. "It's a piece of cake, lieutenant, as long as you get the Germans out of that [Zutphen] cemetery there."

"Well, Jackson, you go right ahead and do that." So here I was

in for another battle in cemetery. North of the highway we set out creeping through low pastures, under fences, leap-frogging ahead. Things went well till we came to the edge of the cemetery at the back. It had a moat around it and the water was quite deep. We wade across, holding our gear over our heads. The water came up to my chin, but we made it. In the cemetery the young Germans were persuaded to give up after a short but vicious firefight. Thank God not one of us got killed. I used our walkie talkie to let the lieutenant know we were OK. "They are in," I heard the signaller say at the other end of the line, and I knew we were the first Canadian soldiers to enter the city of Zutphen. I asked for help because there was a pillbox from which a lot of submachine gun ("Schmeisser") fire came our way. But none was available. Well, when those guys gave up only half of them were still alive.

The next thing I did was sit down on a gravestone, got some dry toilet paper from my pack and wrote a letter to my mother. "Later I could never make her understand why I had written her on toilet paper," he laughed.

Anyway, we got into some houses next and there was a fracas going on. The local folks brought a woman who was a Dutch Nazi and they wanted me to search her. "Nothing doing," I said but they insisted and finally we watched as they frisked her. Sure enough, she had a pistol on her. We moved another hundred yards or so along the street into Zutphen till we ran into more sniper fire. We got into a large police station and stayed there. The next day, April 7, we pulled out of the city altogether. The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders took over our position.

"Did you get a lot of recognition for leading the first men into the city, Russell?" I asked. "Are you kidding," he said. "High Command had decided that the men from 8th Brigade should be

the first ones in and become the official liberators. All I got was a bawling out."

And indeed, even in the official war diary of the North Novas you will not find a word about Jackson's exploits. It says that they North Novas got into Zutphen on April 7 and that it was easy. Well a few hours after Russell took the cemetery of April 6, men from the Régiment de la Chaudière got into Zutphen on the other side of the Berkel river, a little further north. It was anything but easy. It was lucky for them that the cemetery had been cleared, but they still lost nine men killed when they got into that part of the city later that afternoon.

I estimate that over 70 Canadian soldiers died for the liberation of Warnsveld and Zutphen. Eight of them were North Novas. Sergeant Russell Jackson did well in keeping himself and his me alive while clearing some important enemy positions. Bert Harmsen and I will always remember him fondly as a brave friend.

Rev. Henk Dykman
Guelph, ON

(Rev. Dykman has contributed two previous articles to *Canadian Military History*. The Spring 1995 issue contains his account of the liberation of his hometown of Leesten, just outside of Zutphen.

An article in the Autumn 1995 issue recounts the recent dedication of a memorial to Canadian war dead in Warnsveld.)

Dear Sir,

I would like to bring to your attention that the sketch on page 24 of the Autumn 1997 issue of *Canadian Military History* of Major-General Turner credited to K. Stratheroy is incorrect. The artist responsible is Captain R.G. Mathews. Mathews was born in Montreal in 1870 and listed "artist" as his occupation prior to enlistment. During the First World War he served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force as Quartermaster in the Canadian Army Medical Corps. He was discharged in April 1919 and settled in the British Isles.

J.R.G. Edwards
Powell River, BC

Dear Sir,

Thoroughly enjoyed the Autumn 1997 issue of CMH. Well done!

It was particularly pleasing to see Sir Richard Turner, VC, covered in the well-written article "The Dashing Subaltern" by Thomas P. Leppard. It will be required reading for Dragoons.

A book on Turner is overdue.

Major-General Clive Milner
Colonel, The Royal Canadian
Dragoons
Kingston, ON

Dear Sir,

I recently re-read my copy of *Canadian Military History*, Volume 5 Number 2 and have a comment on a term in Ron Sorobey's article on Filip Konowal, VC. It was an excellent story.

May I say I am a serious arms collector with some 60 years experience in the Militia and Regular Force starting prior to the Second World War.

On page 47 it states, "Armed only with a couple of grenades and an Enfield rifle..." to the best of my knowledge what Konowal was carrying was an SMLE Mk.III* .303 (A Short Magazine Lee Enfield Mark III*). The "Enfield" of the 1914-1918 period was the Rifle Magazine .303 Pattern 1914, which was not issued to Canadian troops except in rare occasions as sniper equipment. Canadian snipers generally preferred to use the Ross rifle.

This may all be "old hat" to you, but the 1914 Enfield was not a good rapid fire rifle and did not withstand mud and dirt as did the SMLE. It had a Mauser-style bolt rather than a Lee bolt.

With respect may I suggest that in articles on WWI or WWII the then current term should be used for arms, etc.

James H. MacKendrick
Sidney, BC

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

Serge Bernier, Shelly Blom, Laura Brandon, René Chartrand, Christopher Evans, Bill Kent, Elizabeth Millar, Ian Miller, Laurie Peloquin, Marie-Anne Ramson, Brian Rawding, Kirsten Sheffield, Scott Sheffield, Allan Thurrott.

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