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## With a Little Help From Our Friends

At the end of 2017, I reflected with the management and staff of our two Museums on what I believe to be the most successful year in the history of our corporation – at the very least, since the opening of the Museums themselves in 1989 and 2005. The year 2017 saw the launch of the **Canadian History Hall**, the most important national cultural legacy project of the Sesquicentennial of Confederation. It also witnessed the centennial of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, a commemoration of critical importance to Canada and a unique milestone in the history of our country. The thoughts below are addressed to the Friends of the Canadian War Museum.

As I reflected over the holiday period on all that was achieved last year, the very first thought I had was that all of it, every project we realized, every initiative we embarked and delivered upon, was accomplished by all of us, working together — the Museum's management, staff and volunteers. Our volunteers, our Friends, are indispensable to the operation, and it is extremely important for me to express this to you as often as I can.

As many of you know, I had the great honour and privilege to serve as Director General of the Canadian War Museum from 2007 to 2011, one of the best jobs I could ever have. I was also here in 2001 when we began building the new Museum. And as Vice-President of Public Affairs, I managed the team that orchestrated the historic opening of the new Museum on May 8, 2005. Staff and volunteer alike, seldom have we felt such pride in our contributions.

I felt that same sense of great pride in 2017, in particular for the work that you did. Your initiative to build your

constituency and raise awareness greatly enhanced the success of the War Museum's role in the Vimy commemoration. The sold-out event, **Vimy – A Commemoration in Words and Music**, held on the actual anniversary of the Battle, was a fitting tribute to Canada's contributions and sacrifices in the First World War. But so, too, is all of the work that you do. Whether volunteering in the Military History Research Centre, raising funds in support of the Museum's programs and initiatives, or volunteering to tell your stories in our galleries, you have had an indelible impact on the Museum and our visitors.

Over the past 16 years, I have had the opportunity to work with, and get to know, so many of you. Your presidents — here I must highlight my friend and mentor, Bill Leach, who went on to serve as Chair of our Board of Trustees, and who left us far too soon — and your Board members have continually demonstrated their passion for our Museum. So too have your members, men and women whose steadfast belief in this place, its purpose and its importance, shines through their work. We simply cannot do what we do without the help of our Friends.

Thank you for supporting those of us who are fortunate enough to work for this great Museum. Thank you for all you do for Canada — helping us shed light on our nation's enduring military history, and its role in a complex, ever-changing world.

Together, we really are  
**ordinary people doing extraordinary things.**

**Mark O'Neill**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer**  
**Canadian Museum of History and**  
**Canadian War Museum**

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## President's Message

On behalf of the Executive Committee (EC) and the Board of Directors (BOD) of the Friends may I take this opportunity to wish all readers a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018.

In my previous message, I advised of the initiative to examine the current business model so as to ensure that our governance and operating methods are optimized for success. I am pleased to report that this work is progressing well and the strategic framework has been refined to afford greater clarity and focus. In this regard, your BOD has approved the statements of vision, mission and strategic objective and the work will conclude presently with sessions to complete the three-year strategic plan. Of course the work of the Friends remains anchored in our approved Articles of Continuance but I believe the vision statement captures the spirit of the corporation well: "The FCWM is a pan-Canadian Corporation supporting the Museum through fundraising, volunteering and program participation".

Similarly, there has been progress in the planning for a signature event commemorating the 100th anniversary of the WW1 armistice. A project charter has been developed and approved by the Board of Directors and the event will likely be entitled "The Eleventh Hour". It is my intention to keep readers abreast of developments by way of the Torch and the website and we will be looking for your support!

On the subject of both the Torch and the website, the BOD recognizes the vital role these communications vehicles have played in enabling the work of the Friends, in serving as windows on the work of the corporation and in achieving our strategic objectives. In association with our efforts to strengthen the business process and to employ these vehicles to best advantage, the BOD has developed an editorial policy and will shortly establish an editorial board. At present this is a work-in-progress and implementation will be monitored to ensure that the transition progresses to best advantage.

As a concluding comment, I would like to congratulate Michael Braham on his sterling work as editor of the Torch; through his personal diligence, energy and creativity he has made this publication fully bilingual, rich in content and a source of pride for us all. Mike is stepping down as editor and handing the reins to Ed Storey a long-time and highly respected Friend. And, by the way, much of the Torch content is contributed by you the readers, so please keep up the good work!

Yours aye

Robert Hamilton, President



# Tim Cook on the Battle of Passchendaele

In October 1917, five battalions of the Canadian Corps advanced out of their muddy trenches to open Canada's role in the Battle of Passchendaele; on October 11, 2017, a large audience gathered at the Canadian War Museum to gain a better understanding of that battle from Dr. Tim Cook, curator of the First World War gallery in the Canadian War Museum. The FCWM could not have found a better speaker for this latest event in their Friends' Forum series of talks, as Tim has been recognized as one of the top experts in Canada's role in the First World War, publishing a number of best-selling books on the subject and twice receiving the Charles P. Stacey Award for military history among several other honours.

Tim easily kept his audience's attention by his usual lively presentation, covering all aspects of

the battle from the planning stage to the final capture of Passchendaele village, illustrating his points using images from the Museum's photographic and war art collections. The "Battle of the Bog" was chosen as the title of Tim's talk, as he described the horrors of this particular battle where rain turned the ground to such a morass that men drowned if they were wounded or fell off the duckboards. The conditions in these conditions were more horrible than usual. As Tim described it, the surviving soldiers *"lost their appetite from the stench of the rotting bodies; everyone smoked, unable to eat for days on end because of the stench of the rotting flesh, and everyone drank liberal doses of body-warming over proof rum."* Tim felt everyone suffered in this battle – the Canadians, the British, the Australians, and the Germans as well. As Tim always does in his writing and speeches, he brought the battle to life by recounting many personal accounts from diaries or letters.

Tim opened his talk by explaining the importance of Passchendaele: *"It has an evil reputation. It is seen as the lowest point in the war for the British forces. It is a site of misery and mud and it has a legacy of loss & repulsion."* According to Tim, the Canadian Corps commander did not think Passchendaele ridge was worth the loss of men. But Field Marshal Haig called on the Canadians to continue the offensive as the

British and Australian attacks had failed: Tim explained why: *"Haig needed a victory and he turned to the battle-hardened Canadians... The British Prime Minister David Lloyd George was set to fire Haig or at least bring him back. He needed a victory and if he didn't have one, he surely would have been fired."*

The Canadians gave Haig his victory, using careful planning, well executed tactics and, as Tim put it, *"simple bloody mindedness"* to finally capture the ridge in a series of bitter attacks between October 26 and November 10. However, there was more significance to this victory than just achieving the objectives. As Tim summed it up, for the Canadians, *"Passchendaele was the third major victory of 1917 following on the heels of Vimy & Hill 70. I think it confirmed their reputation as shock troops who could deliver victory. And I think it is important that there is another important victory that is not often mentioned. If the Canadians had failed, the British army would have had to pull back to the start line. They would have lost 270,000 soldiers & not gained a single yard. The Canadian victory allowed them to hold the ridge ... that is an important thing for morale. Soldiers needed a tangible victory here!"*

The Battle in the Bog by Dr. Tim Cook is the latest presentation in the Friends Forum series, one of the activities organized by FCWM to bring a better understanding of Canadian military history to the public. Please keep an eye on our web site or Facebook page for upcoming events.





## FCWM Forum—Canadian Conscripts at War: 1918

This edition in the series of FCWM Fora held on 24 January, featured retired RCAF Colonel Patrick Dennis who spoke on a subject that was clearly close to his heart.

Prompted by the experience of his paternal grandfather and other relatives of the period, Colonel Dennis has undertaken a detailed study of conscription in the First World War that has challenged long held myths of the conscripts (some of which were perpetuated in an article in the 1917 Supplement of the Torch).

Based on 8 years of detailed study, Colonel Patrick has produced a book detailing the background to, and introduction of conscription in Canada and refutes the many myths surrounding the process and the conscripts themselves. *Reluctant Warriors – Canadian Conscripts and the Great War* is probably the seminal study on this widely misunderstood subject.

Using his book as background to his excellent presentation and employing statistical evidence, he succinctly and effectively challenged the prevailing myths that the conscripts were slackers and cowards; that they made little contribution to the ultimate victory; and, that very few actually saw action.



He pointed out that during the “Hundred Days” campaign of the First World War, over 30 percent of conscripts who served in the Canadian Corps became casualties, refuting the myth that they were cowards and/or slackers. He noted that despite assertions to the contrary, conscripts in large numbers were engaged in the crucial battles of 1918 and were instrumental in the significant Canadian Corps victories.

Following his presentation he entertained a number of thought provoking questions and challenged the Canadian War Museum to review its current message on conscripts – one that maintains some of the out-dated mythology.

The fifty or so Friends and others in attendance were treated to a most interesting afternoon.

### 2018 Membership Reminder

Now that the holiday season is behind us and we are entering a new year, we are sending you this gentle reminder. Your 2017 membership in the Friends of the Canadian War Museum (FCWM) has expired. However, you have now been placed in a grace period which will extend your membership privileges until the end of March.

To renew your individual membership for 2018 on-line, simply visit our Website at [www.friends-amis.org](http://www.friends-amis.org) and click on “login” in the black bar at the top of the welcome page. Then enter your login name and password. Once you are logged in, you may then click on “Join/Renew FCWM” at the left side of the page, and with your credit card, renew your membership. (The membership fee remains at \$25.) Should you have difficulty, please advise me at [membership@friends-amis.org](mailto:membership@friends-amis.org), and we will assist you.

Of course, you can always renew your membership by surface mail by sending a cheque to the Friends of the Canadian War Museum at 1 Vimy Place, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M8.

**We hope to hear from you soon.**

### Paper or Electronic Torch?

This is a final reminder to those that have not yet provided an indication of their preference, that unless you have specified a desire to keep receiving a paper edition of the Torch, effective with the May 2018 issue, you will only have access electronically. Please disregard this notice if you have already notified the FCWM Office of your choice.

This notice does not apply to Group Members (e.g. Legions), Honourary Members or Silver Cross Mothers who will continue to receive a paper copy.

# Family of Pierre Garneau Donates His Scooter

by JR “Digger” MacDougall

It was a sad day when I learned of Pierre Garneau's passing. He and I always got along well if for no other reason we were both Armored Corps and both Army pilots. A short time after Pierre passed away, his family donated to the Canadian War Museum, a relatively new electric scooter that Pierre had purchased this year. The scooter is now available for volunteers and guests of the Museum.

Approximately one year ago, I talked with Pierre about using one of the electric scooters available at the information desk of the Canadian War Museum. Like me earlier, he was reluctant to use a scooter because he saw more value in getting exercise by walking during his volunteer duties at the Museum. Nonetheless, during a regular Tuesday, the scooter on which I was sitting was rammed from behind. When

I turned around to see what was going on, there was Pierre sitting on one of the Museum's scooters with a big grin on his face. He even challenged me to a scooter race !

At lunch that day, Pierre indicated that probably it would be a good idea to get a scooter as a means of transportation around his retirement residence home and for small errands such as local shopping, going to the post office and the like. I gave Pierre contact information for the owner of a medical supply retail outlet that sold scooters. I also reminded Pierre that Veterans Affairs Canada would probably pick up the cost of a scooter should he decide to purchase one. It was not long before Pierre reported that he had purchased the scooter with the help of VAC and was using it almost daily. By this time, Pierre was also using the electric scooters available at the Museum.

One day when I went to the museum information desk to ask for a scooter, the staff member who assisted me brought out what appeared to be a new machine. When I asked where it came from, I was told that Pierre's family had donated it. I immediately knew that it was the one that Pierre had just recently purchased and I said to the staff “What a wonderful gesture of kindness and generosity that the Garneau family had made”. Pierre was a brother officer, colleague, fellow volunteer and friend to all of us at the Museum. This legacy gift will provide the means for us to remember Pierre whenever we see it being used to help others as they make their way around the galleries of the Museum. I, for one, am grateful to Pierre and his family for their generosity.



*The photograph shows Digger sitting on the Garneau Scooter.*



# Donations

The Friends are grateful to the following who made general donations during the period 1 October – 31 December 2017

Walker Wood Foundation	Mr. Gilles Chretien	Maj (Ret'd) Thomas Graham	Ms. Helen McKiernan
Jackman Foundation	Col John Clarry	Mr. Richard Green	LCdr David Mitchell
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		Mr. Peter Mace	Mr. Brian Watson
		Maj (Ret'd) Richard Malott	Ms. Irene Whelan

# In Memoriam

The following is a list of donors making in-memoriam donations during the period 1 October – 31 December 2017. The tributes are recorded in the language in which they were provided.

(Anonymous) in memory of Mr. Douglas Rutherford, Canadian Veteran of World War 1  
Mr. William Abbott in memory of Mr. Russel Morey  
Mrs. Susan Atkinson in memory of Mr. Maurice Alexander Enkel, WW2 veteran  
Mr. Bruce Brown in memory of Pte George Brown  
Col Angus Brown (Ret'd) in memory of Major Bill Smith  
Mr. Larry Capstick in recognition of the 100th birthday of Mr. Arthur Davies, a veteran of the Second World War, who served in four different operational theatres

Col Patrick Dennis (Ret'd) in memory of F/Sgt Norm Shannon, RAF 180 Squadron 1944-1945  
Cdr Richard Duffield in memory of Commander Bernie Grover, a close friend and colleague  
Ms. Joan Dunn in memory of LCol John (Jack) Dunn  
Maj Alan Earnshaw in memory of Captain Ted Hawe who served in the RAF and RCAF from the 1950's to the 1980's. He was a railway apprentice during the war and joined the RAF in the post war years. He served in Singapore and East Asia with the RAF. He joined the RCAF and served in numerous postings across Canada as an AERE officer. He passed away in early November, 2017.  
LCol Robert Farrell (Ret'd) in memory of BGen Michael Webber, RC Sigs. A veteran of the Second World War; Spitzbergen Raid, Italian and Northwest Europe campaigns

Mr. Gerald Gallagher in memory of Ms. Dorothy Malott  
 Dr. Jack Granatstein in memory of Colonel Ken Mitchell  
 Dr. Jack Granatstein in memory of Dr. Albert Tucker,  
 RCAF Second World War  
 Dr. Richard Johnston in memory of Major William S.  
 Johnston, RCAMC, Basingstoke Canadian Military  
 Hospital 1942-1945  
 Dr. R. Mervyn Letts in memory of F/L Michael Belcher  
 who was the last airman out of 115 ATU Camp  
 Marina in the Sinai just prior to the '67 war.  
 Ms. Heather MacQuarrie in memory of Lt(N) Donald  
 MacQuarrie, RCN "schoolie", served 1963-1985  
 Maj Jim Muckle (Ret'd) in memory of Captain (RCASC)  
 Robert Muckle, Korean Veteran  
 Ms. Lori Parent in memory of Mr. Robert Parent  
 Mr. Gordon Parker in memory of N/A Doris Grooms  
 Parker, beloved wife of late Capt Herbert Charles  
 Parker, RHLI, 1943-46

Ms. Patricia Pollak in memory of Fred and John Pollak  
 Mr. John Redmond in memory of Major John Thomas  
 Redmond, and all those who fought in Korea  
 Capt (N) William Reed (Ret'd) in memory of Major  
 Pierre Garneau  
 Capt (N) William Reed (Ret'd) in memory of Capt (N)  
 Helen F. Ott  
 Mr. Robert Smith in memory of Mr. Vernon M. Smith  
 Mr. André Tellier in memory of Lt. André Tellier, Royal  
 Cdn. Hussars. Always remembered, with love.  
 Ms. Norma West in memory of Col Ralph D.  
 West, OSJ CD, who passed away on 4 Apr 17  
 Maj Leonard Woollven in memory of Colonel D.  
 Ian Smith. Remembering a great Gunner and  
 Friend. Gone too soon.

## Transitions

### New Friends

From 1 October – 31 December  
 2017 the Friends of the Canadian  
 War Museum have welcomed the  
 following new Friends:

Mrs. Diana Abel  
 Mme. Line Bissonnette  
 Mr. Gerald Cann  
 Mr. Robert Fischer  
 Mr. Richard Green  
 Maj Denis Hotte  
 Dr. R. Mervyn Letts  
 Ms. Lauren McLuckie  
 Mr. Serge Peters  
 Mr. Sandford Riley  
 Ms. Cecile Sushal  
 Cdr Lucie Tremblay  
 Ms. Norma West

### In Memoriam

Since distribution of the last Torch in  
 November 2017, the Friends have  
 been notified of, and mourn, the  
 passing of the following colleagues:

S/L Harvey G. Schaan  
 BGen Michael Webber

## The Friends Encourage Art

During Awesome Sunday and other events at the Canadian War Museum  
 where the FCWM are represented and set up an information table, the Friends  
 provide free military themed colouring books to children at their information  
 table. The children are encouraged to send their favourite picture back to the  
 Friends where it is then posted on our website. This is an example provided by  
 Nico. Thank you for participating.

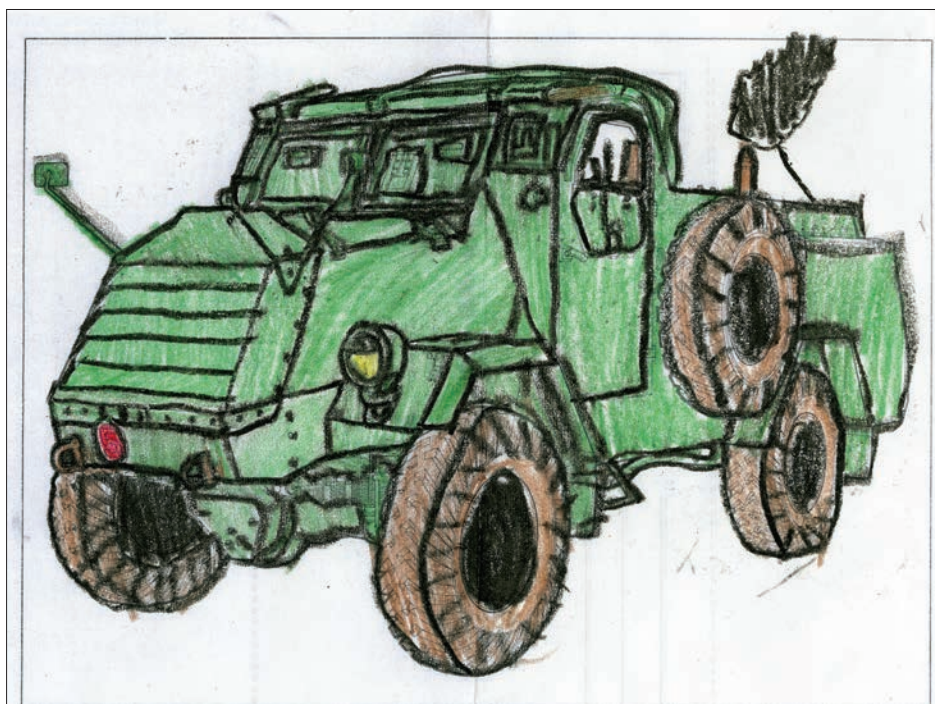


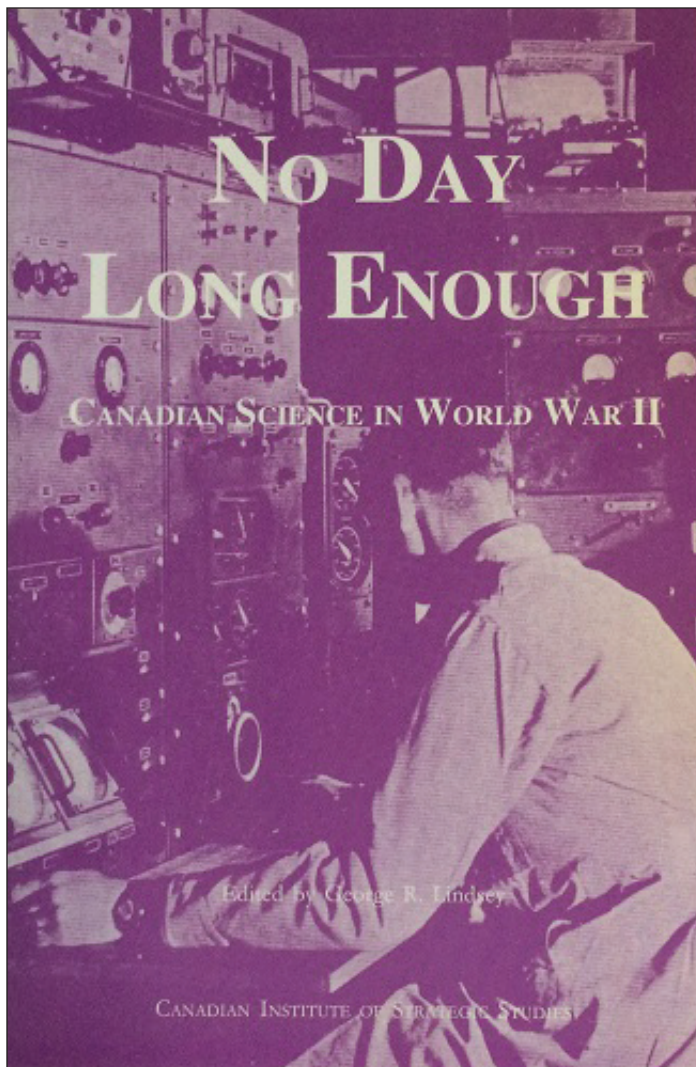
Fig. 1—15 Cwt. 4 x 4 Truck Armoured—Three Quarter Front View

Name/nom **Nico**

Age **8**



## Book Review by JOHN ANDERSON



### Edited by George R. Lindsey.

Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies, 1997,  
ISBN 0-919769-65-9

This book should be thought of as a companion to the book by David Avery that I reviewed in the November 2017 issue of *The Torch*. Avery's book painted "the big picture", whereas this book presents the view from "the coal face", if you will. Indeed, the chapters in this book were written by the scientists themselves.

It was my good fortune to know many of these authors, either personally or by reputation. Many of them occupied senior positions in the Canadian defence research organization when I joined in 1966. George Lindsey, the editor of this book, ended an illustrious career as Chief of Operational Research in DND. LeRoy Nelms, Chair of the Steering Committee, also had a long career in DRB mainly related to space and telecommunications. Many of the members of his committee had similarly long and memorable careers in the service of Canada.

Notable to me is that the Preface was provided by Marc Garneau. Marc is well known as Canada's first astronaut, but before that he was a Combat Systems Engineer in the Canadian navy. Many DRB/CRAD personnel, including myself, knew him and his colleagues in that capacity because the combat systems suite on a modern naval vessel reflects the cutting/bleeding edge of military science and technology.

One thing this book illustrates very well is the astonishing variety of work that was carried out. Problems presented themselves and were addressed. At the time, much of the work was highly classified and therefore not publicly visible. As an example, a massive effort was devoted to chemical warfare research, including the establishment of a new specialized facility for field work (Suffield Experiment Station. Now CFB Suffield, in southern Alberta). Another example is work on proximity fuzes; during WW2, a brand new highly-classified technology but now an accepted feature of the military technology landscape.

But other work initiated during WW2 has become increasingly important. Nuclear power is one such area. The concept was discovered shortly before WW2 and immediately seized upon as the basis for a weapon of immense power. This work has continued in the decades since, but even during the war the potential for peaceful uses such as electricity generation were recognized. Another, of course, is radar, but now much more sophisticated and versatile.

My final thought is to note that a significant proportion of the work discussed in this book would not today be classed as research. Much of it was "problem solving", and the time/distance between the research laboratory and the front line was in many cases astonishingly short. Today, without the impetus of the wartime emergency, "research", "development", "production" and "in-service use" tend to be walled off in separate bureaucratic silos in the interests of "efficiency".

As the Introduction points out, only two of the contributors to this book were professional writers, so the quality and style of the prose are somewhat uneven. But this nevertheless serves to emphasize the "first person" nature of the book. It is a record of accomplishment of which all Canadians should be proud. Most highly recommended.

**Editor's Note:** John Anderson has reluctantly reported that this will be his last book review (at least for now). He has faithfully produced thought provoking and interesting reviews since the August 2013 issue of *The Torch*. His efforts have been most appreciated and will be sorely missed.