

The Torch

August 2018

Volume 29, Number 3

Canada's Hundred Days: The Return of Mobility

Dr. Craig Leslie Mantle

Trenches are synonymous with the First World War; they are the stereotypical image of that conflict. Stretching continuously from the North Sea to the Swiss border, both sides carved furrows in the ground, separated by varying distances of contested space or No Man's Land, which for soldiers served as their home, their firing position, their start

line, and in many cases, their grave. But the Great War was not always so static. During the opening battles of 1914, when the Germans tried to knock France out of the war with the Schlieffen Plan, when Britain's contemptible little army fought a fighting retreat from Mons, and when the opposing armies raced northward to the sea hoping to outflank one another, the war was one of move-

ment. It degenerated into stalemate when one side failed to gain a positional advantage over the other.

Mobility on the battlefield returned in March 1918 when the Germans launched Operation Michael (or the Spring Offensive) in an attempt to break the Allied line and again in August some months later when the Allies returned the

continued on page 3

Magic Lantern Slides	4
General Paul Manson	5
Book review by Allan Bacon	6
Captain C. N. Mitchell	7
The 100 Days Campaign	9
Hill 70	10
Heritage Fair	11
Stars in My Eye	12
Mail Call	14
AGM	16



A Mk IV male Tank passing 8th Canadian Field Ambulance in Hangard, France during the Battle of Amiens, August, 1918. O.2967 PA-002888 Library and Archives Canada

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*Ce Bulletin est aussi disponible
en Francais*

President's Message

Dear readers, welcome to the August edition of *The Torch*; I trust that you all have been enjoying a relaxing summer. As you know, for your benefit, each edition of the Torch is now cast in a particular theme. Judging by the positive response to the May edition, this is a popular approach and I believe that the theme of this edition "The Last 100 Days" will be of great interest. The editor has done a particularly commendable and professional job in presenting this for your enjoyment.

As autumn approaches, we look forward to a busy period as we continue the preparations for our signature event "The Eleventh Hour" a gala program for Saturday, 03 November 2018. Building on the successful model of our April 2017 event, the aim is to support the Canadian War Museum (CWM) through building constituency and strengthening financial position. The project team representing the Friends, the CWM and the Cantata Singers of Ottawa (CSO) continues to meet on a regular basis and the formal campaign to solicit sponsor support is well underway. Online ticket sales went active in late spring and we are looking for your support to help fill the seats (all of them!).

In June, we held our Friends annual general meeting (AGM) during which the membership was briefed on the highlights of the past year, given a glimpse into the CWM way ahead and joined in congratulating our volunteer of the year, Charles Bradley! They then approved our financial position and selected the board of directors (BOD). In my remarks to the membership I summarized the results of the SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) which had been conducted earlier in the year. This analysis revealed that the greatest challenge facing the Friends is to remain relevant to the CWM. In this regard, the selection of CWM projects which need the support of the Friends is of fundamental importance.

I am pleased to advise that through joint Friends/CWM consultation, three projects have been chosen for our support; the Mons armoured car project for November 2018; the CWM historical conference, January 2019; and the World War Two Supply Line project which will begin to ramp up in the current fiscal year. If I may make particular mention of the Mons armoured car project, this unique CWM artifact called an "Armoured Autocar" was bought in 1914, used throughout the FWW and participated in the armistice parade in Mons Belgium in November 1918. It has been restored to fully operational condition and with the support of the Friends will take its place with Canadians in the 100th anniversary parade in Mons in November 2018. I am very proud that the Friends have been able to make this worthwhile contribution.



continued on page 3

continued from page 1

favour. Luckily for Canada, its soldiers arrived on the continent too late to participate in the early battles of movement and were largely spared from the German onslaught at the beginning of the war's final year. The powerful Canadian Corps, however, played an important role in what would ultimately prove to be the series of battles that concluded the First World War and that has since come to be known as the Hundred Days.

Starting at Amiens on 8 August and ending at Mons on 11 November 1918, the Canadians fought consecutive set-piece battles that continuously drove the Germans back. Whereas earlier in the war gains were measured in yards, now they were measured in miles. This rapid and significant advance, covering a total distance of some 83 miles (as the crow flies), was exceptionally costly. During these three months, the Corps incurred nearly 46,000 casualties, approximately

20 percent of Canada's total losses for the entire war! Decisions taken earlier to introduce conscription, to maintain twelve battalions in each division while the British reduced theirs to nine, and to break-up the 5th Canadian Division in England all ensured that the Corps had the hitting power of a small army (in organizational terms) and remained one of the most powerful on the Western Front despite its losses.

The operational tempo during this period was unrelenting. When one battle finished, planning and preparation began in earnest for the next, something that challenged the endurance of frontline soldiers and the ingenuity of staff officers. Like Vimy before it, battles such as Cambrai, Arras, the Canal du Nord, the Drocourt-Quéant Line and Valenciennes involved all-arms cooperation – the infantry fought alongside the artillery that fought alongside the engineers and so on in a coordinated manner. It could be said that

by the end of the war the Corps was truly at the “top of its game”, making a name for itself as the “Shock Army of the British Empire”.

When it was all over, the Canadians could be justly proud of their accomplishments: they had engaged and defeated 47 different German divisions (or elements thereof); took thousands of German prisoners; and liberated numerous towns and cities that had been occupied since the beginning of the war, much to the relief of the long-suffering citizens. The Canadians, it must be remembered, did not defeat the Germans single-handedly, but with their allies, especially the British and Australians, they helped bring the First World War to an end.

Dr. Craig Leslie Mantle is the director of research and senior editor at the CDA Institute, an Ottawa-based not-for-profit focussing on defence and security in a Canadian context.

continued from page 2

In closing, I again urge you all to propose articles for or suggest possible contributors to *The Torch*. *The Torch* is a key communications vehicle; without exaggeration it is the principal window on the Friends; it helps present who we are and what we are about to a broad readership. Please give it your full support.

Yours aye,
Robert Hamilton

**Canadian Automobile
Machine Gun Brigade
Armoured Autocars on
display at Rockcliffe, Ontario
in September, 1914.
Library and Archives Canada**



Magic Lantern Slides

By: Ed Storey

The magic lantern was an early type of image projector employing pictures painted, printed or produced photographically on transparent plates (usually made of glass), one or more lenses, and a light source. It was mostly developed in the 17th century and commonly used for entertainment purposes and was increasingly applied to educational purposes during the 19th century. The magic lantern was in wide use from the 18th century until the mid-20th century, when it was superseded by a compact version that could hold many 35 mm photographic slides: the slide projector.

In 1895 there were between 30,000 and 60,000 lantern showmen in the United States, giving between 75,000 and 150,000 performances a year. Most of these

shows were the equivalent of our modern “Nova” or the “Discovery Channel” – illustrated lectures on subjects of popular interest like Travel, Science, and Art, using photographic lantern slides to create interest and excitement. In addition to this “moral entertainment” as the Victorians called it, there were shows that emphasized stories, songs, and comedy — the kind of shows that would eventually lead to motion pictures.

Three and a quarter inches by four inches, are generally thought of as American size. If they are 3.25 inches square, then they are known as the British size. However, both sizes seem to have been produced in countries other than the United States and England. Slides were produced by black and white photography, and if



Lock No. 4 on the Canal du Nord was captured on 27 September with the task falling to the 3rd Brigade (1st Canadian Infantry Division consisting of 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th Infantry Battalions) who attacked on a front of slightly less than a kilometre. One their right was the 1st Brigade and then the 10th Brigade (4th Canadian Infantry Division). It was the 14th Battalion who dealt with the lock and the village of Sains lès Marquion.

From Crossing the Canal Combined Arms Operations at the Canal du Nord, September–October 1918 published in Canadian Military History Magazine Volume 20 Number 4 Autumn 2011 David Borys wrote “The crossing of the Canal du Nord would

never have succeeded without the engineers. In fact, the extensive and effective use of the engineers in this battle is what marks it as such a unique First World War action.” He also recorded that historian Bill Rawling argued that “the operation became a foreshadowing of the next war, when engineers in many theatres would be hard pressed to keep tanks, artillery and truck borne infantry moving over rivers and rough terrain.”

This photograph was taken months after the battle and what had been a dry canal in September is now begun to fill with water.

W.E. Storey Collection

they were coloured, it was necessary to do this by hand as colour photography was still in its infancy during the peak production of this slide type.

Naturally military topics were popular with battlefield and casualty scenes coming into their own during the American Civil War. Fifty years later photographs depicting topics associated with the First World War were just as popular.

In an age where practically everyone now carries a camera and can instantly send images to anyone anywhere on earth, it is easy to forget that 100 years ago cameras were large bulky affairs that required glass negatives and long exposures. Capturing a current image of a person or a scene in 1918 was a novelty that we now take for granted.

The successes of the Last 100 days came at a heavy cost with Canadians suffered 20% of their battle-sustained casualties of the war during this period. During the offensive the Canadian Corps suffered 45,835 casualties and 19 sustained by the 47th Battalion (4th Canadian Division, 10th Brigade) have been recorded on this cross in Cemetery Aulnoy, France (now Aulnoy Communal Cemetery located in Aulnoy-Aymeries 30km south of Mons).

W.E. Storey Collection



No Ordinary Volunteer—Kudos No. 15 Spring 2018

In 1997, the Canadian War Museum, then housed in an old building on Sussex Drive, was bursting at the seams. The federal government was willing to help fund a new building, but the Museum had to raise \$15 million from the private sector.

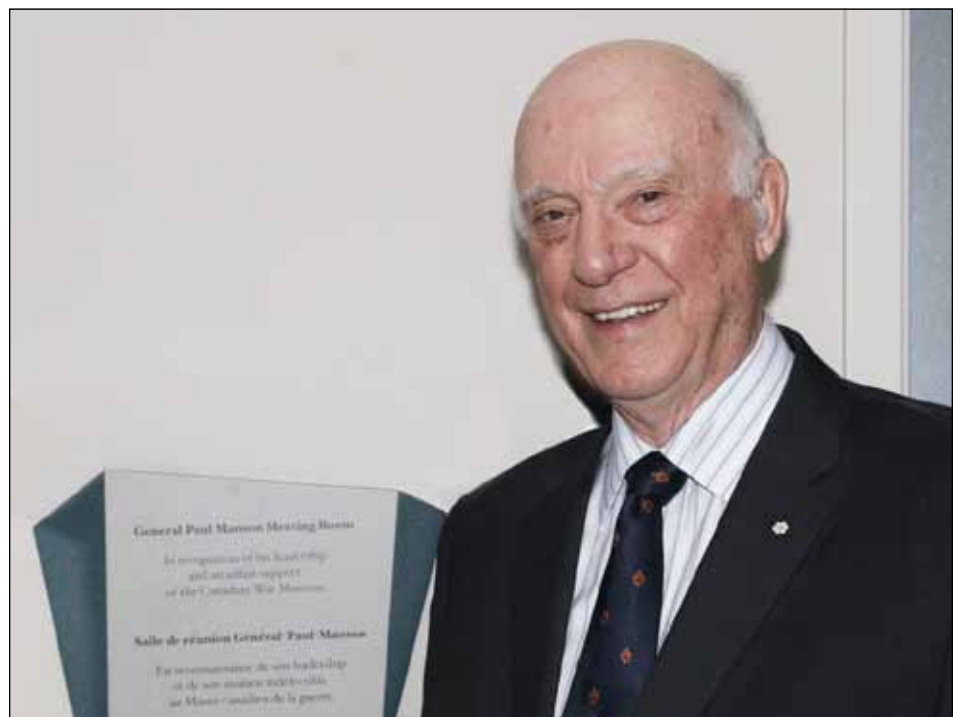
General Paul Manson was newly retired (“For a second time,” he says, smiling, referring to his earlier service as a fighter pilot with the Royal Canadian Air Force, and his more recent adieu to the aerospace industry). The timing was perfect. Appointed volunteer Chair of the *Passing the Torch* campaign, he describes the next seven years as “the happiest of my life.” General Manson and his dedicated team hit the goal and then some, netting \$16.5 million from the private sector, and setting the record for the most successful fundraising effort of any federal cultural institution.

The late Barney Danson described General Manson as “no ordinary volunteer.” In December 2017, the Museum proudly dedicated the General Paul Manson

Meeting Room to the extraordinary volunteer, donor, and valued friend of the Museum.

The general donates monthly to the Museum and has implemented a bequest contribution. “I am a part of

the Museum, and it’s a part of me,” he says. “The story the War Museum tells is of great importance to Canadians, and it is superbly well told. We needed to do it in 1997, and we need to do it now.”



THE GREATEST VICTORY: CANADA'S ONE HUNDRED DAYS, 1918 by J.L. Granatstein

Reviewed by Allan Bacon

In this book historian J.L. Granatstein adds to his considerable reputation with a masterly, fast-paced and compelling account of the Canadian Corps' significant role during the last One Hundred Days of the Great War, leading to the German defeat and the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

Without in any way diminishing the Canadian achievement at Vimy Ridge, Granatstein makes the case that much that has been written about the victory is more the stuff of legend than fact and was of limited strategic significance. Vimy did, along with Hill 70 and Passchendaele, establish the Canadian Corps' reputation as an élite formation, but, Granatstein argues, it was the battles that took place during the final One Hundred Days – Amiens, the Drocourt-Quéant line, the Canal du Nord, Valenciennes and Mons – that constituted Canada's greatest victory.

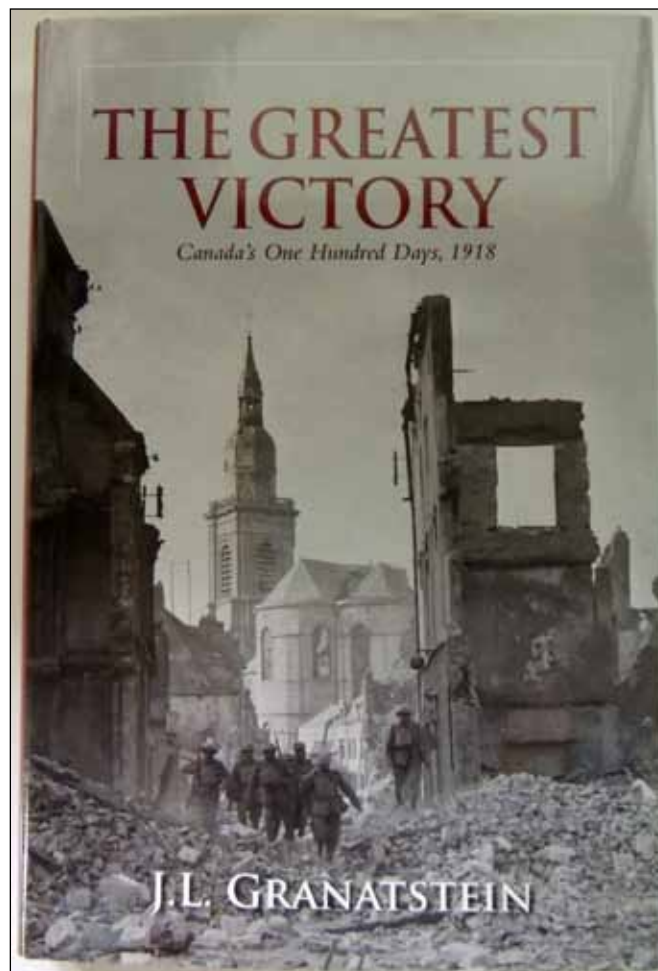
Chapter 2 is a masterly overview of the coming of the war, Canada's initial reaction and contributions. Granatstein skilfully weaves together the story of the raising of the Canadian contingent that arrived in France in February 1915 and its heroic stand against the first gas attacks, the malign influence of Sam Hughes, the Ross Rifle debacle, the conscription crisis, Vimy, Hill 70 and the horrors of Passchendaele, in which the Canadian Corps, by now under the command of Sir Arthur Cur-

rie, showed that it was a "highly professional military machine that had learned how to adapt and to fight."

By 1918 the Canadian soldiers were tough, experienced and well-led fighters, the "shock troops" of the Allied forces. Currie gained a reputation as one of the Great War's ablest commanders and a tactical innovator in combined arms warfare, utilizing massive artillery, engineering, tank and air support in order to minimize casualties as far as possible. Skilled staff planning based on the careful study of intelligence and lessons learned, and the thorough training of

the Corps and its supporting arms in "fire and movement" were at the heart of Canadian success. Granatstein describes how in turn the Canadian Corps successfully attacked incredibly strong German defensive positions at Amiens, the Drocourt-Quéant line, the Canal du Nord, Cambrai and Valenciennes, ending its war at Mons. One of the greatest achievements was logistical, the capacity to supply and sustain the infantry, engineers, artillery and signallers at the front. Victory had been achieved at a heavy price. Granatstein concludes his account with a description of the movement of the Canadian 1st and 2nd divisions into Germany as part of the army of occupation, and the eventual demobilization of the Corps.

This outstanding, gripping and authoritative account is a product of solid scholarship and is enlivened by personal accounts by Canadian soldiers that add vividness of detail, over 100 original photographs and 8 pages of full-colour war art. Unusually, there are no citations but instead a balanced and fair assessment of sources. The book is highly recommended, very readable and full of often surprising and unexpected detail. It could become the standard account of Canada's One Hundred Days, one of the greatest contributions of any nation to the defeat of Imperial Germany.



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2014
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216 pages

Editor's Comments

As I sit composing my comments on a sunny warm May afternoon I cannot help but think that a century earlier the intense 1918 Spring Offensive, or Kaiserschlacht (Kaiser's Battle), also known as the Ludendorff Offensive was being fought on the Western Front. This campaign was launched on 21 March, 1918 and would last until 18 July resulting in some of the deepest German advances since 1914. Even though the Germans had a temporary advantage in numbers afforded by the nearly 50 divisions that had been freed up by Russia withdrawing from the war, they were unable to move supplies and reinforcements fast enough to maintain their advance. The fast-moving storm troopers leading the attack could not carry enough food and ammunition to sustain themselves for long, and the German offensive eventually petered out. In August 1918, the Allies began a counteroffensive which not only forced the Germans into retreating or being driven from all of the ground that they had taken in the Spring Offensive, but also caused the collapse of the Hindenburg Line, and the capitulation of the Germans in November.

This leads me into the theme of this edition of The Torch which is The Last 100 Days, the name given to the series of attacks made by the Canadian Corps between 8 August and 11 November 1918. It goes without saying that my life as Torch content editor is made easier with the help provided by Susan Ross at the CWM's Military History Research Centre who once again graciously provided both artwork and images. Dr. Craig Mantle, director of research and senior editor at the CDA institute and Heather Mcquarrie very kindly provided themed articles and this time we have two book reviews written by Allan Bacon and John Anderson. All are Friends and amply illustrate the wealth of knowledge contained within our organization. As well a big thank you to Jon Deurloo from Kingston for writing a report on a Hill 70 pilgrimage that was conducted in 2017. I want to spread the wealth around when it comes to contributing to The Torch and am always looking for volunteers.

This month also marks a quarter century since I was deployed overseas to The Former Yugoslavia for a year with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Headquarters in Zagreb. I was the first Geomatics Technician to serve in a theatre of Operations since my par-



ent unit Mapping and Charting Establishment (MCE) had provided surveyors to the Golan Heights in 1974. The 12-month tour was not only an adventure for me but also my wife as she was raising our first child, a son in Kingston who was only three-weeks old when I left. Charles is now starting his career as a Cook in the RCN Reserves and I was very pleased to attend his graduation parade this May in CFB Borden.

The theme for the November Torch will be 1918 Armistice and Remembrance and I am already looking ahead to the February 2019 edition. I hope that you enjoy this installment of The Torch and if you have any comments or wish to contribute please contact me at edstorey@hotmail.com.

Captain C.N. Mitchell —Victoria Cross

By: Ed Storey

Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on 11 December 1889, Coulson Norman Mitchell graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1912 with a degree in engineering. He enlisted in the Canadian Engineers as a Sapper on 10 November 1914, and later transferred to the Canadian Overseas Railway Construction Corps. He sailed to Britain in June 1915 and served briefly with his unit in Belgium from August to October.

Back in Britain, Mitchell was promoted to Sergeant in November and commissioned as a Lieutenant in April 1916. He was transferred to the 1st Canadian Tunnelling Company and served in Belgium in tunnelling operations, where he was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery in continuing to lay mines while cut off from his own lines. Mitchell was promoted to Captain in May 1917.

In the summer of 1918, Capt Mitchell's unit was broken up and its soldiers sent to newly-formed divisional engineer battalions. Mitchell was posted



Alexander Stuart-Hill; Portrait of Captain C.N. Mitchell, The Victoria Cross CWM 19710261-0159 Beaverbrook Collection of War Art Canadian War Museum

to the 4th Battalion and went on to participate in the major battles of the Canadian Corps.

Captain Mitchell earned his Victoria Cross on the night of 8 to 9 October 1918 while leading a party of sappers on a reconnaissance mission near Cambrai in France. Their task was to venture beyond the Canadian front line to examine bridges over which the Canadian 5th Infantry Brigade proposed to advance, and to prevent their demolition. After finding one bridge destroyed, Mitchell moved on to the next, which spanned the Canal de l'Escaut. Running across the bridge in total darkness, Mitchell found that it had indeed been prepared for demolition. With a non-commissioned officer he cut the detonation wires and began to remove the explosive charges. When the Germans realized what was happening, they charged toward the bridge but were held off by Mitchell's sappers until reinforcements arrived. Saving the bridge over the Canal de l'Escaut contributed significantly to the later success of the 5th Infantry Brigade's offensive operations.

Mitchell returned to Canada in 1919, resumed his civilian engineering career and served briefly in a militia engineer unit. In 1936 he was

one of thousands of Canadian pilgrims to attend the unveiling of the Canadian memorial at Vimy Ridge. While in France he returned to the bridges where he had earned his VC.

During the Second World War, he served in Britain in command of engineer units. In 1943 he returned to Canada as a Lieutenant-Colonel to command an engineer training centre. He left the army in 1946 and returned to his pre-war job with Power Corporation and lived in Montréal, until he retired in 1957.

LCol C.N. Mitchell, VC, MC died in Montreal, Quebec on 17 November 1978, and is the only Canadian Military Engineer to earn the Victoria Cross.

Citation

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the night of 8th-9th October, 1918, at the Canal de L'Escaut, north-east of Cambrai.

He led a small party ahead of the first wave of infantry in order to examine the various bridges on the line of approach and, if possible, to prevent their demolition.

On reaching the canal he found the bridge already blown up. Under a heavy barrage he crossed to the next bridge, where he cut a number of 'lead' wires. Then in total darkness, and unaware of the position or strength of the enemy at the bridge-head, he dashed across the main bridge over the canal. This bridge was found to be heavily charged for demolition, and whilst Capt. Mitchell, assisted by his N.C.O., was cutting the wires, the enemy attempted to rush the bridge in order to blow the charges, whereupon he at once dashed to the assistance of his sentry, who had been wounded, killed three of the enemy, captured 12, and maintained the bridgehead until reinforced.

Then under heavy fire he continued his task of cutting wires and removing charges, which he well knew might at any moment have been fired by the enemy.

It was entirely due to his valour and decisive action that this important bridge across the canal was saved from destruction."

(London Gazette, no.31155, 31 January 1919)

The Hundred Days Campaign

By: Heather McQuarrie

August 8, 1918. General Erich Ludendorff, Chief of the German General Staff would later describe that fateful day as, “the Black Day of the German Army”. On the eighth of the eighth, the Allies launched the series of fierce battles that began on August 8 at Amiens and raged on for 96 days, ending with the signing of the Armistice on November

11. The “Hundred Days” campaign, ultimately delivered to the Allies the victories that ended the Great War [1914-1918].

On March 8, 1918, Russia’s new Bolshevik government signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with the Central Powers, formally ending its participation in the war. Russia’s exit nearly turned the tides of war in the

Germans’ favour, by allowing the transfer 800,000 men and materiel to the Western Front. The Germans—desperate to convert this temporary advantage to victory—launched a massive Spring Offensive on March 21, striking hard at the Allied Forces. As the British and French armies fell back, the Germans gained ground, but at an insupportable cost. The



Canadian troops rest and mingle with civilians in the Grand Place de Mons, 11 November, 1918. Library and Archives Canada photograph O.3658



The same location a century later. Google Maps

exhausted German army lost 800,000 men and spent the last of its resources. With reinforcements pouring into the western front, Allied plans for a counter-offensive took shape.

Throughout the Hundred Days, the Canadian Corps, its four divisions of 100,000 men commanded by Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie, played a decisive role in the battles that ended the war. Although more than 2,000,000 men served in the multicultural armies of the Dominions, it was the Canadians, often fighting side by side with the ANZAC, who were deployed time and again as the shock troops for the Allied counter-offensive. They earned a reputation for courage fortitude and an indomitable will to win. One battle after another, they fought without respite from Amiens to the Somme, then Canal du Nord, Cambrai, Selle, Valenciennes, finally capturing Mons on November 11.

Faces of War

The Canadians suffered 45,835 casualties during the Hundred Days' offensive. Among these was a 27-year-old fisherman from Victoria, Prince Edward Island. Private Heath Macquarrie [1892-1918] enrolled in Charlottetown in February 1918 and soon departed for France with 26 Battalion (New Brunswick Regiment) (5th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Infantry Division), known as the "Fighting 26".

Private Macquarrie wrote regularly to family and friends. Several letters have survived. He thanks his wife for food parcels, telling her they "never go far enough" and he is "hungry all the time". He is pleased to receive chewing tobacco. "It's always easier to chew than smoke in the trenches for Fritz might see the light and if he does he always tried to get a shot at one and that's not very healthy believe me."

Together with 46 of his mates in the 26th, he was killed in action

on August 8, 1918. The men were advancing towards the village of Guillaucourt, unaware that German machine gun nests to their rear had survived the artillery barrage and lay in wait to inflict heavy casualties. Private Macquarrie "... was so severely wounded in many parts of his body by enemy fire while taking part in operations at the Sunken Road in front of Guillaucourt that, despite the fact he received First Aid promptly, he succumbed shortly afterwards."

He was survived by his 22-year-old wife Bertha and son Dick. His brother Glen [1894-1927] was wounded serving with the 105th Battalion (Prince Edward Island Highlanders)(broken up in England to reinforce the 13th, 14th and 25th Battalion) and died due to those injuries.

Said Historian Tim Cook, "The Hundred Days campaign was the greatest series of battles ever fought by the Canadian Corps and perhaps in all of Canadian military history."

Hill 70 by Cpl Jonathan Deurloo

Last year my regiment saw fit to send myself and several others to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the battle of Hill 70. We did this by conducting a 5-day battlefield tour in France and Belgium. The idea of the trip was that we would follow the path of the 21st Battalion C.E.F (4th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Infantry Division) the unit whose battle honours we perpetuate, ending with Hill 70. We also made sure to visit a few other important Canadian memorials. This trip was an incredible, once in a lifetime experience that I am still in awe of months later.

Travelling from Canada to Europe is no small journey. Whether it took you 7 hours or 5 days, you are on a different continent, with different people, sometimes speaking a different language. The significance of this journey hadn't really sunk in for me until we got to our first real battlefield.

For two nights we had the opportunity to stay in the town of Ypres, Belgium. While staying in Ypres we were able to attend a service at the Menin Gate. We had the opportunity to play a lament and lay a wreath to the men of the 21st Battalion. I had the chance to lay a wreath for my great uncle whose name is on the gate. It was humbling seeing the names of regiments and people who I never knew, but who had contributed and sacrificed so much to the war effort. They are



The unfinished Filip Konowal walkway leading up to the Hill 70 memorial. (Jonathan Deurloo, 2017)

all people with stories and a history of their own who are from the four corners of the world and are all honoured on an arch in a small town in Belgium.

The last major event of the trip was the commemoration of the Hill 70 memorial. Unfortunately, since the war, the hill itself has had a prison built on it, any monuments to the battle can



Members of the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment hold up the regimental camp flag in front of the hill 70 memorial. (Lisa Greenwood, 2017)

21ST BN. CANADIAN INF.	
LIEUTENANT	PRIVATE
MALONEY J. F.	GILLIES A.
	GREGORY H. W.
SERGEANT	HENDERSON J. P.
SCOTT J.	HILL W. A.
	JONES W. F.
LANCE SERGEANT	LAZENBY T. E.
RUDGE S. H.	LOGAN J. L.
CORPORAL	McFARLANE A. M.
FARRELL C. A.	MGRAYNE G. H.
	MILLER J.
LANCE CORPORAL	MINDLE O. A.
WRIGHT H. G.	MUTTON H. B.
	OAK J. G.
PRIVATE	PICKELL I. J.
ACTON R. E.	PLUNKETT T. G.
BALSDON L.	REDDICK P. C.
BRODRIB A.	RICHARDS J. H.
BROOKS A. J.	ROBINSON R.
BURGESS C.	SKARREZI A.
CHARLES R. S.	SMALL W.
CLIFFORD N. J.	SPENCE C. L.
COOPER S.	SWALLOW A. E.
CORNFORTH T. A.	THORNTON H.
CRAITE D.	VILNEFF H.
ENGLISH J.	WEESE T. G.
FIRBY H. D.	WHITE L. R.
GAMBLE A. R.	WHITFIELD E.
	WOODHEAD A. H.

The names of the fallen members of the 21st battalion C.E.F on the Menin Gate. (Jonathan Deurloo, 2017)

only be placed nearby. Hill 70 is not well known, although it marked the first time Canadians were able to fight together under the command of Canadians, and there was no shortage of heroism. Over the 10 days of fighting, 6 Victoria Crosses were earned, and after the Canadians took the hill, they repelled 21 counterattacks resulting in over 9,000 killed and wounded Canadians. The monument in the town of Lens features an obelisk, amphitheatre and park area. The obelisk top stone is 5.6m tall, which was the average height of a Canadian soldier during the First World War. The tip of the obelisk reaches the height of 70 meters above sea level for which the hill 70 was named. The Filip Konowal walkway is named after the only Ukrainian-Canadian soldier to have earned a Victoria cross and features 1,877 maple leaves one for every Canadian killed in the battle. The significance of this monument provides an excellent place to start expanding the knowledge of Hill 70, which now, as we approach the 100th anniversary of the end of the war, has become more critical than ever. Lest we forget.

2018 Ottawa Regional Heritage Fair

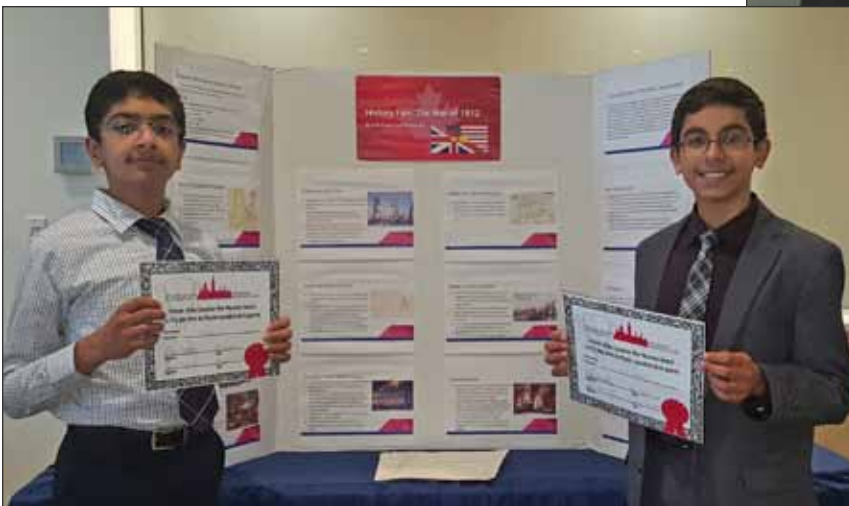
The 2018 Ottawa Regional Heritage Fair was held at the Canadian War Museum on 24 April, 2018. Participants were from: Ottawa Carleton District School Board, Ottawa Carleton Catholic District School Board, Several Private Schools and Home Schoolers. The Friends provided judges and sponsored two \$100.00 prizes (split equally among each team). As well, each winning team member received a year's membership to the FCWM.

Below, from Hawthorne Public School (teacher Blake Dietrich) and winning for their War of 1812 display is (L) Faraaz Jan and (R) Adil Amars.



Above, representing Cedarview Middle School (teacher Dana Hall) and receiving their award from Robert Hamilton (President FCWM) for Canadian Animals in Service are (L) Valerie Han and (R) Ria Patel.

Congratulations to the winners from all members of the Friends of the Canadian War Museum.



Gunter Awards 2018

Allan Bacon

This year there were 81 submissions in total, compared with 43 in 2016 and 46 in 2017. This year there were 54 text submissions, 25 visual art submissions and 2 audio-visual submissions. The provincial breakdown was: Nova Scotia 4, Prince Edward Island 5, New Brunswick 5, Quebec 1 (English), Ontario 28, Manitoba 7, Saskatchewan 9, Alberta 9 and British Columbia 13. There were no submissions in French, and none from Newfoundland or the Territories.

I am indebted to Larry Capstick and Rob Collins who assisted me with the evaluation of the text and audio-visual submissions, and Larry Capstick and Marilyn Minnes who assisted me with the evaluation of the visual art submissions. After meeting with the

CWM team three \$1,000 awards were given. The winners were:

Ms. Laora Fonderflick, Cochrane High School, Alberta, for her essay 'Canada Day versus Memorial Day.'

Ms. Xuesi (Athena) Zhong, Bayview Secondary School, Richmond Hill, Ontario, for her visual art 'The Unseen Contributors to the Canadian Identity.'

Ms. Sarah Sheppard, Etobicoke School of the Arts, Etobicoke, Ontario, for her photographic montage 'Everyday Memorials – Bringing Meaning to Streets Named for Canada's First World War Soldiers and Battles.'

Discussions will be held with CWM staff at a later date concerning the future of the Awards.

Stars In My Eye: 35 Years of Navigation from WW2 to GPS

by John Anderson

In February 2018, *The Torch* published what I thought would be my “last” review. That was before this book came to hand courtesy of a good friend who in the “old days” was station chief for KLM Royal Dutch Airlines in Montreal. I also bring this review forward because this book was published privately and is thus not widely available.

Today, most of us can instantly determine our geographical location thanks to smartphones and cars equipped with GPS chips. But only a few years ago navigation over the ocean or in remote areas of the world depended on celestial navigation techniques that have not changed materially in the last 250 years. Hoy’s book speaks to this era which is, unfortunately, being rapidly forgotten.

Hoy began his career as a navigator in 1942, aged eighteen, with RAF Ferry Command flying aircraft to Europe. Initially he flew on the southern route: Bermuda, the Caribbean, Brazil, Ascension Island, Dakar. Later he flew the northern route: Goose Bay, Narsarsuaq, Keflavik, Prestwick. Being navigator on these flights was a full-time job; position estimates and heading corrections based on star sights were made several times an hour.

After the war Hoy was discharged, but he rejoined in 1948, and gained extensive flying experience as a navigator in Northern Canada where map-reading skills and celestial navigation skills were critical because the magnetic compass was essentially useless.

Then, in 1956, he was posted to the U.S. Air Force Rome Air Development Centre as an exchange officer. There he worked on the very

first automatic ground-controlled approach systems and other radio/radar-based navigation systems. He was also at RADC when the Russians launched Sputnik, and thus he witnessed the very early work on satellite navigation.

The remainder of Hoy’s operational Air Force career was spent with 426 Transport squadron, stationed first at Dorval and later Trenton, and then with 412 Transport squadron based in Ottawa. These appointments took him literally all around the world, often to remote and underdeveloped areas where ground-based navigation aids were primitive or unreliable, and where, in the days before inertial navigation systems and satellite navigation, map reading skills and celestial navigation skills were vital.

Then, in 1974, at age 47, with no university degree and therefore no prospect for promotion, Hoy was forced to retire in spite of unmatched technical, operational and staff experience.

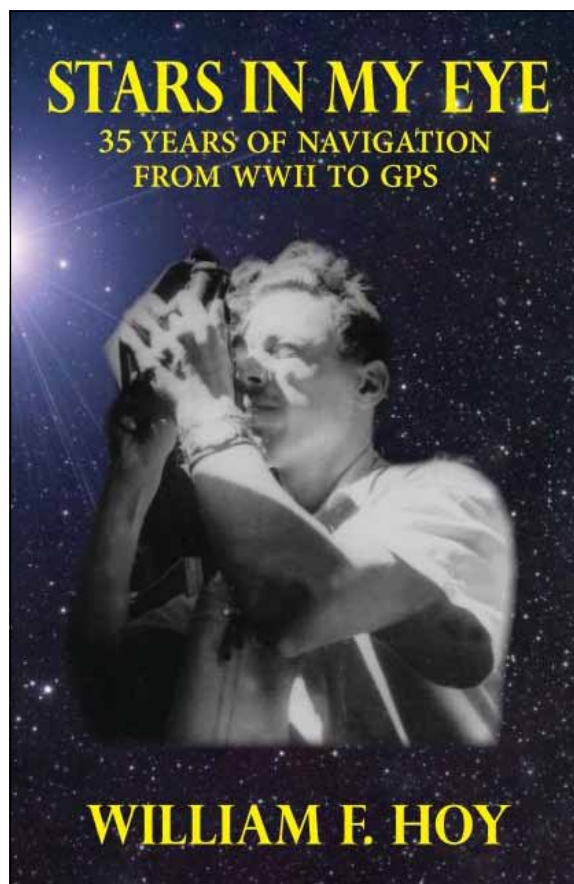
But Hoy was not yet finished. After retirement, he caught on with Department of Transport Flight Operations. His first major assignment was investigating the feasibility of real-time airborne ice reconnaissance in the Northwest Passage, with the resulting charts transmitted to Montreal by airborne telefax. Another major operational assignment during this time was being navigator on DOT’s Lockheed Jetstar aircraft on an extensive series of flights to aid the development of satellite navigation. These flights

took him all over Eastern and Northern Canada and the North Atlantic.

Hoy finally retired for good in 1983.

As the author points out, his narrative is based on his diaries, flight logs and memory (pretty good memory!). Being personal, it cannot be construed as history, but it is certainly a good summary of one important part of the RCAF flying experience. It is also a good summary of what aerial navigation was like before the advent of inertial navigation and satellite navigation, in the days when navigators and radio operators were essential members of the flight crew. Highly recommended.

William F. Hoy
Published privately 2017
ISBN 978-1-606465-3



Mail Call

I received via the FCWM head office a very nice letter from Ms Margaret Ratcliff in Taber, Alberta and she wrote to say that she thoroughly enjoys reading (keeping) every copy of *The Torch*. She noticed that this issue was going to focus on The Last 100 Days and wanted to mention that her Father 2006836 Frederick James Ratcliffe (Stouffville, Ontario) had served as a Sapper (Divisional Signals) attached to the 10th Battalion (starting in July 1918) which was raised in Western Canada. Ms Ratcliffe wrote that she has numerous letters and some photographs in her possession so I took the liberty of telephoning her to ask if there is anything which she might wish to share in *The Torch* and she has graciously provided these images.

As an aside, during their four years of active service in France and Flanders the 10th Battalion (2nd Canadian Brigade, 1st Canadian Infantry Division) suffered 55 Officer and 1249 Other Ranks fatal casualties and double those numbers for non-fatal casualties. This equates to over 100% casualties, unimaginable numbers by today's standards but a testament to the heavy cost in lives that we now associate with the Great War.



above:

Mirror and folding ruler used by F.J. Ratcliffe in France and Flanders.

below:

Enlistment Form, Photograph and Canadian Engineers cap badge for Sapper F.J. Ratcliffe.

Photographs by Ms Margaret Ratcliffe



New Friends

Mr. William Abbott
 Mr. Adil Amarsi
 Mr. Colin Cooke
 Mr. Douglas Fish Jr.
 Maj Nicholas Fysh
 Mr. Roger Gelinat
 Mr. Greg Haley
 Ms. Valerie Han
 Mr. Faraaz Jan
 Col Keith Lawrence
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 Dr. David Sutton
 Ottawa Branch Ontario
 Genealogical Society

FCWM Adopt-a-Book Campaign 2017

The Adopt-a-Book Campaign 2017 was again a success. All 52 titles listed by the CWM Research Library were adopted, for a total value of \$1980.00. A copy of this Report will be sent to the editor of The Torch for insertion in a future edition of the newsletter.

All adoptees have received a thank-you letter from me, and income tax receipts have been sent separately.

The 52 titles were adopted by the following Friends: Robert Argent, Allan Bacon, Pat Barnhouse, Larry Capstick, John Chow, Linda J. Colwell, Dr. Jonathan Epstein, Brenda Esson, Robert Farrell, Liliane Grantham, Robert Hamilton, Eva Hammond, Jarrott Holtzhauer, Maureen Jennings, Michael P. Koch, Michael Lambert, Terence Moore, Jean-Guy Perron, Leo Patrick Rafferty & Sharon Rafferty, Bill Reed, Roy Thomas, Richard Thorman, Sylvain Trudel, Rolande Vézina.

In due course \$1,980.00 will be required to reimburse the CWM Research Library for their costs of acquiring the adopted titles.

The campaign for 2018 will be notified in The Torch.

In Memoriam Donations

Several of the following donations were received between January 1 and March 30 but were not included in the May issue of The Torch. We regret the delay.

Mr. William Abbott, in memory of Mr. Russel Morey
 Mr. Dany Born, in memory of Capt André Dany Born
 Mr. Gordon Foster, in memory of AB Nelson J. Langevin, Served as an able-bodied seaman with the British Navy Combined Operations. Nelson participated in the Dieppe raid, and the Invasions of North Africa, Sicily and Italy
 Mr. Charles Gruchy, in memory of Maj William Smith
 Ms. Maureen Leaver, in memory of P/O Harry Leaver, RCAF, and Captain Gerry Leaver, First Survey Regiment
 Maj William Love, in memory of Col Bob Peacock, A fine officer and a good friend
 Ms. Sylvia McPhee, in memory of Mr. Alfred Leather, 1895-1917, "C" Coy, 2nd. Bn. York-Lancaster Regiment
 Ms. Lori Parent, in memory of Mr. Robert Parent

Deceased Friends

Mr. Al Anderson
 Maj Maurice D'Amour (Ret'd)
 Mr. William Sloan
 Kenneth J. Thorneycroft

Group Friends

ANAVETS in Canada - Dominion Command, Ottawa
 Canadian Association of Veterans of U.N. Peacekeeping (Col John Gardam Chapter), Ottawa
 Ladies Auxiliary - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 370 (ON), Iroquois
 Royal Military Colleges Club (Ottawa), Ottawa
 The Polish Combatants' Association in Canada, Head Executive Board, Toronto
 The Polish Combatants' Association, Branch 8, Ottawa
 The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command, Kanata
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 006 (ON), Owen Sound
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 009 (SK), Battleford
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 029 (QC), Montreal
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 037 (AB), High Prairie
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 047 (NL), Labrador City
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153 (MB), Carberry
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 185 (QC), Deux Montagnes
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 229 (ON), Elora
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 238 (ON), Fenelon Falls
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 290 (SK), Nokomis
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 314 (ON), Manotick
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 341 (SK), Pense
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 442 (ON), Erin
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 542 (ON), Westport
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 636 (ON), Minden
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 638 (ON), Kanata
 The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 641 (ON), Ottawa
 Walker Wood Foundation, Toronto

Donations

April 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018

Mr. Allan Bacon
 Ms. D. Elizabeth Brannen
 Col Angus Brown (Ret'd)
 Mr. Thomas Burnie
 BGen Linda Colwell (Ret'd)
 Maj Walter Conrad (Ret'd)
 Ms. Carol Dillon
 LCol Robert Farrell (Ret'd)
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 Capt (N) Louise Siew (Ret'd)
 Mr. John Spriggs
 Ms. Phyllis Spriggs
 The Benevity Community
 Impact Fund
 Mr. Frederick Troop
 Mrs. Frances Waters
 BGen William Yost

The Friends of the Canadian War Museum Annual General Meeting was held on 7 June, 2018. During the meeting Pierre S  n  cal was presented with his 25 Year 'Silver Friends' certificate and Charles Bradley was recognized as Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations to both Pierre and Charles.

