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by Paul Manson

Having lived a blessed life with many high points, I must say that nothing matches the excitement and satisfaction experienced on May 8th, 2005, at the official opening of the new Canadian War Museum. And I am sure that my sense of exhilaration was shared by the 2500 people gathered at LeBreton Flats in Ottawa that beautiful spring day for what was both a historic and historical event, it also being the 60th anniversary of VE Day. In attendance were countless veterans, senior politicians, bureaucrats and members of the general public. Her Excellency the Governor General, in her opening remarks, set the tone by stirring up a sense of joy in what was a truly remarkable national accomplishment, while complimenting the numerous Canadians whose dedication helped to make the new facility a reality.

A few weeks ago, the 15th Anniversary of that memorable occasion was widely celebrated. To be sure, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the celebration was subjected to severe physical limitations, but that didn't dampen the happy recollections of the official opening back in 2005, and of the wonderful achievement it represented. In this, the Friends of the Canadian War Museum can look back with great

pride on their instrumental role in the creation of a new museum that gave Canada's military history the recognition it so richly deserved. A vital part of the Friends' contribution was the fundraising campaign conducted under their auspices, appropriately named PASSING THE TORCH. Without that involvement, the new Canadian War Museum could not have been built.

As the chairman of the PTT campaign, I was privy to much of what happened during my seven years of full-time volunteer service in that task. On accepting the invitation in early 1998 to lead the fundraising effort, I inherited a campaign that had its origin back in 1993, and which by that time had raised about \$2 million in support of a plan to refurbish and expand the old War Museum on Sussex Drive in Ottawa. The story from this point is well known. A surge of controversy arose over the utter inadequacy of the existing facility. Canadians, having been forcefully reminded by eminent historian Dr. Jack Granatstein that the nation had forgotten and neglected its military history, increasingly understood that repairing the old facility was the wrong way to go. There followed much disagreement surrounding a proposal to add a holocaust gallery to the old museum, this being strenuously opposed by veterans' groups

and others on the grounds that the refurbished museum was not the right place for an exhibition not directly related to Canada's military history.

This and other issues became very public and subject to parliamentary scrutiny, giving rise to a growing conviction that what was really needed was a brand-new war museum, one that could effectively tell the full story of Canada's military history. A significant step in that direction was the appointment, in 1998, of Dr. Granatstein as the Director and CEO of the museum.

Of course, creating a new facility meant spending a lot of money. It was estimated that a new museum worthy of the challenge would cost more than \$100 million, which in turn raised the question of where the money would come from. It was here that the Honourable Barney Danson took charge. A highly respected veteran and former Defence Minister, he exercised his diverse talents and political experience in convincing the Prime Minister to agree that the Federal Government would commit to providing sufficient funds to allow the project to proceed. But there was one key condition: that \$15 million be raised from the private sector.

To our small PTT team, that number was stunningly beyond what we

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*Ce Bulletin est aussi disponible
en Français*

President's Remarks

Dear readers, welcome to the August 2020 issue of the Torch.

In this issue you will enjoy an excellent contribution from Gen Paul Manson reflecting on the thrill of the opening 15 years ago of the new Canadian War Museum (CWM) and the enormous developmental and fundraising effort in support. Gen Manson chaired the *Passing The Torch* campaign; in this regard we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. Also, in this edition we will recognize the 75th anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ) Day.

As I write, we continue to face the difficult health and wellness challenges imposed by Covid19; nevertheless, the number of cases in the country continues to drop, if unevenly, and in parts of the country the relaxation of restrictions is apparent. I am advised that the CWM is in the planning stages for a return to operations although I expect the new normal will be materially different from the past. In any case, vigilance and caution must remain front of mind.

Throughout the period of the pandemic, the Friends board of directors (BOD) has met regularly through electronic means and items of important business have been addressed. The project to renew the website and to establish it as the flagship carrier service to support outreach, constituency building and strengthening financial position continues to move forward. I anticipate that by the time you read these remarks we will have reached the initial trial stage.

On the governance front, the BOD has appointed the 2020 slate of directors; there have been some departures, many renewals and 3 new members. The new directors will soon join their colleagues on the BOD and at the annual members meeting (AMM) all appointments will be subject to ratification by the membership and the BOD will appoint its officers. We are planning to conduct the AMM on Wednesday 16 September using a combination of physical presence and electronic outreach. We intend to remain fully compliant with restrictions and with requirements of the Not for Profit Corporations Act. In the event that the CWM is not available, we have an alternate site in mind.

As we struggle in this difficult period, we must reflect on the role of the Friends as a registered charity existing solely to support the CWM. Our strategy must be anchored in broadening our outreach, fostering donation and encouraging sponsorship. This is more easily said than done; resources are scarce and competition is intense. Many like-minded organizations are suffering and in this challenging environment we must think deeply about what differentiates us from the competition and attracts support. This is a complex matter but I believe the answer rests in the particularly Canadian nobility of our cause in supporting a museum which never glorifies war but honours our history for a better future.

I would be grateful for your comments or suggestions at president@friends-amis.org.

Yours aye,



**Robert Hamilton
President**

thought was achievable. But Barney, in his inimitable and irresistible way, quickly convinced us that our new target was not up for discussion. It was a huge challenge, but we got to work immediately to make it happen. This naturally involved a big increase in the size of the fundraising team, and we brought together players from the staffs of both the War Museum and the parent Museum of Civilization, plus an army of volunteers from the Friends of the Canadian War Museum and veterans' organizations, from the business world, plus those who simply wanted to help meet the challenge. Overall direction was provided by the Museums' Board of Trustees and senior management staff, with guidance from a large PTT Steering Committee having representation from all the component sectors.

So, with our mandate and objective well established, in 1999 we set out to raise the necessary funds. We realized that if there was any hope of succeeding in the highly competitive fundraising field, we had to give prospective donors an assurance that their money would contribute meaningfully to a real and viable project. In other words, we had to present a credible story. Vitally important was the point that this was to be no ordinary museum, one that simply displayed military artifacts and told of great battles and famous generals. In the new museum there was not to be an ounce of glorification of war; the story must be told factually and intellectually, with a focus on those, of whatever rank or capacity, at home or on the battlefield, who were touched by warfare and its consequences.

An important first step in approaching donors was to identify the site of the new museum. Initially, the Government assigned an attractive property at the former Rockcliffe Air Base, and this looked like a good start, but then a political change of heart led to direction that a downtown Ottawa location be found. Two

candidate sites - the old railway station across from the Chateau Laurier Hotel, and the former Ottawa City Hall on Sussex Drive - were carefully inspected, but both were found to be totally inadequate. Then, to the consternation of many, direction was received in 2001 that the new museum be built at LeBreton Flats, just west of Parliament Hill. A century before, the Flats had been an active industrial centre until it was devastated by the Great Fire of 1900. In the 1960s the rebuilt community was expropriated and levelled by the Government, whose ambitious plan to develop a federal building complex at LeBreton Flats came to naught, and the area was left abandoned to the elements since then. Before any construction could be undertaken a major land remediation effort was needed. As we now know, that was done successfully, and the museum's final location has since proved to be excellent in every respect.

Once the site was successfully established, the next step in the process of attracting donors was to show them what the building was going to look like. Our team followed with great interest the complex competitive process of selecting an architect. The winner was Raymond Moriyama,

joined by Alex Rankin and his Ottawa-based architectural firm. Moriyama, a world-renowned Canadian architect, produced a captivating design based on the theme "Regeneration", which added greatly to the appeal of our campaign. Then came the enormous job of building the structure and outfitting it. While all of this was going

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Barney Danson, PC CC (1921-2011) reading his opening remarks on May 8th, 2005, at the official opening of the Canadian War Museum.



on museum staffs were busy designing the displays and exhibitions that would properly serve the purpose and mandate of the new Canadian War Museum. Here again, this was truly well done, to our great benefit as fundraisers. We quickly learned that the museum's priceless war art collection, then ignominiously stored in a rundown former streetcar barn called Vimy House, was extremely useful in convincing major donors that their help was needed in finding a worthy new home for what was a national treasure. Time and again throughout the campaign a prospective donor, after visiting the art collection and receiving a superbly guided tour by art curator Laura Brandon, followed up with a very large contribution.

Another effective means of soliciting major gifts was the development of a recognition and naming policy honouring key donors. The success of this technique is clearly evident today, as the museum visitor sees a number of features bearing names of individual donors and contributing organizations. (An important exception, though, was the naming of the Barney Danson Theatre, done in his honour as a principal force in the creation of the museum.)

PTT was by no means a local campaign. We produced a mass of promotional literature, brochures, articles and other forms of publicity, disseminating these from one end of Canada to another. Team members travelled to major centres like Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver to tell the story and seek donations. And here is an important point: although in all of this we had to focus heavily on major donations in order to attain our \$15 million objective, this was never at the cost of neglecting smaller contributions. In fact, the latter ultimately comprised a substantial proportion of the final tally. But just as important, each small donation established a personal link with the Canadian War Museum that was of great

value in the support of future museum activities, as time has proven.

A word about our team. Diverse as it was, there quickly evolved a remarkable spirit of mutual respect and cooperation as we worked together to reach our goal. I do not recall a single argument worthy of the name through the seven years that we worked together. As with all such campaigns, there were a few fundraising disappointments, but these were greatly outweighed by the frequent uplifting news of yet another donation, whether large or small. It was an exciting and rewarding time for all who took part. As a measure of the respect and friendships created during those years, members of the PTT team have frequently come together for reunions in the years since the official opening.

As the campaign progressed, we experienced the great satisfaction of seeing total donations rising steadily toward our objective. In November 2003 the \$15 million target was surpassed, and by Opening Day, which appropriately was also the final day of *Passing The Torch*, we had amassed more than \$16 million net of expenses, comfortably exceeding the Prime Minister's tough demand from seven years before. For us, therefore, the universal joy that characterized the celebration on May 5th, 2005 was felt in a very special way by those of us who played such an important part in making it happen.

And now, fifteen years later, our pride is not diminished in the least. Like all who have witnessed the brilliant success of the new Canadian War Museum since the opening, we look forward to its continued progress in the telling of Canada's rich military history in the years and decades that lie ahead.

General Paul Manson was a fighter pilot in the Air Force for 38 years, including ten years with NATO forces in Europe. He was Chief of the Defence Staff from 1986 to 1989. After retirement he was president and CEO of a large aerospace company, the chair of a defence and security think tank, a frequent media commentator on defence matters, and active in numerous volunteer endeavours.



Paul Manson during a 2004 tour of the CWM construction site.

Donations

Covering the period April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020
(Donations made through CanadaHelps after March 6, 2020 will be acknowledged in a subsequent issue of *The Torch*.)

Mr. Adam Belyea

BGen Linda Colwell (Ret'd)

George Dewar

Capt Steven Dieter CD MA FRSA

Mr. Robert Fischer

WO John Nayduk CD

New Friends

Mary Hilsinger

Dr. Alis B. Kennedy

WO John Nayduk, CD

HMCS Uganda

On His Majesty's Canadian Service in the East

by Jean Morin

Seventy-five years ago this month, the Second World War came to an end with the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan. Peace was confirmed with the signing of the Armistice onboard the USS Missouri on September 2nd, in Tokyo Bay. This came 117 days after the signing of the Armistice in Europe, on May 8th, 1945.

The surrender of Japan, on 14 August, had not been foreseen, except for the few people who were involved in the atomic secret. Industries were still churning out weapons and ammunitions in anticipation of continuing the war in Asia well into 1946. Armies, air forces and navies of the Allied forces were being re-directed from the European theatre to the Pacific and to the Asian continent for what appeared to be a difficult war which would involve an enemy no less determined than the Germans to dominate its continent.

Canada was among the nations involved in shifting their attention from the West to the East. An army division was being prepared in Canada for service with the United States Army; air forces were identified to fly to the Central Pacific to join Allied air forces there, and a flotilla of Canadian ships had already been mustered for re-fitting to sail in the hot climates of the China and Japanese Seas.

All this re-tasking, however, involved a political problem. None of the Allied countries had been as tormented by the question of conscription as Canada. The government of William Lyon Mackenzie King had fought tooth and nail to delay conscription to the last moment of 1944, and conscripts were sent to the battlefields of Europe only in early 1945, when the need for infantry replacements became absolutely vital. No conscripts served in the RCN or RCAF. With the signing of the armistice in Europe, King was adamant that the compulsory service be stopped *ipso facto*.

This policy signified that all service personnel that would be involved in the war against Japan would be volunteers, including the infantry. A new law dictated that people in uniform would have to sign a new contract if they wanted to serve in the Pacific. Even military personnel of

the Permanent Force could not be compelled to serve in the East. They had to sign again for Volunteer service.

This new set of regulations had some difficult consequences. Many Canadians served with foreign services already in the Pacific, and the new law gave them the option of leaving their post abruptly, returning to Canada, taking their discharge month's leave in addition to any leave accumulated while in service, and becoming civilians again, no questions asked.

A special case was particularly interesting at the time. One of the only two light cruisers that Canada possessed, HMCS Uganda, had already been in the Pacific since April 1945. It was assigned there for one year to be part of the British Pacific Fleet as a radar surveillance ship. Its complement of 700 officers and sailors were all Volunteers of the Regular or Reserve naval services of Canada. Uganda's crew had already been involved in two major operations in which it had gained a lot of experience.

When the option came for all members of the crew, in May, to decide individually if they wanted to sign up for further service or go back to Canada, this created a problem that had never been encountered before in the Canadian Navy. All on board were under the impression that they had signed 'for the duration,' and the idea of leaving the ship in the middle of the war to go back home smacked of dereliction of duty under fire. Feelings were very mixed among the sailors. The view was not, at first, that most wanted to leave.

However, when Commodore Rollo Mainguy OBE, CD, the Captain of Uganda, let it be known to all that he would consider those who left the ship as being wrong, it triggered the opposite view than the one he sought to encourage. Sailors thought that not only those who decided to leave were not in the wrong; but that they would themselves opt out. In their conversations they had come to the conclusion that if they delayed in returning home, the available civilian jobs would be taken by those who had been discharged first. Moreover, their families, in particular for those who were married, would not see such a re-engagement with an understanding eye.

It soon became apparent that so many wanted to opt out that the ship would have to go back to Canada and get a new crew of Volunteers, train them for the special light cruiser task, and return in the new year with other Canadian ships.

This is why HMCS Uganda found itself at Esquimalt on 14 August 1945,

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Commodore Rollo Mainguy OBE, CD



when Japan surrendered, and there was only the Canadian Military Attaché to Australia, Colonel Lawrence Cosgrave, to represent Canada at the signing of the Armistice, on September 2nd, at Tokyo Bay.

The hectic activities in preparing an army division, air force squadrons, and a naval flotilla for duty in the

Pacific came to a screeching stop. The Uganda never returned to the Pacific for war duties, its crew of reservists all returned home, with the majority being immediately discharged.

Undoubtedly, a large national sigh of relief was heard at the time. Not only were lives not going to be lost in many more months of combat, but the huge problem of staging the Canadian armed services for a very different Front was swept off the table in one swoop.

- Now, that's what you call relief!

More information can be found in the two Resources used for this article:

- (1) W.A.B. Douglas, Roger Sarty, Michael Whitby, Robert H. Caldwell, William Johnston, William G.P. Rawling, *A Blue Water Navy: The Official Operational History of the Royal Canadian Navy in the Second World War, 1943-1945, Volume 2, Part 2.* (DND; St. Catherines, Ontario: Vanwell Publishing; Her Majesty in Right of Canada, 2007)
- (2) Bill Rawling, "Paved with Good Intentions: HMCS Uganda, the Pacific War, and the Volunteer Issue." *Canadian Military History, Volume 4, Number 2, Autumn 1995, pp. 23-33.*

A five-minute video with information about the ship's history may be found at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAKVzTmAPzs&list=PLMK9a-vDE5zHhzbzq6CCN-hZhgLviQMjgU&index=30&t=0s>

Editor's Comments

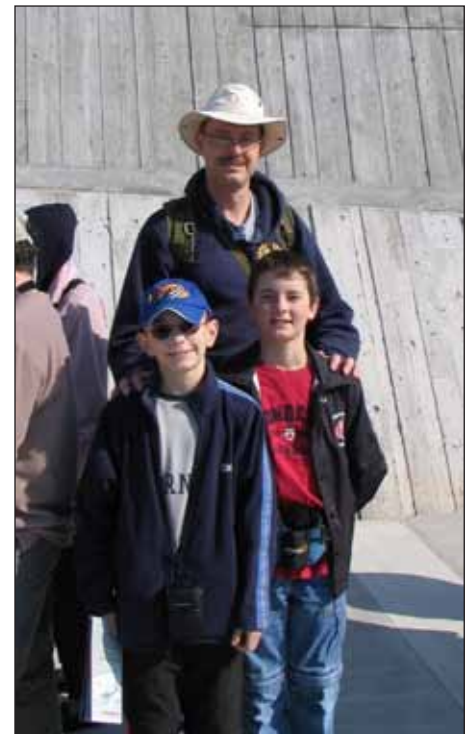
I am writing these comments in mid-June and it looks like a couple of months of isolation have started to 'flatten the curve'. The stores have once again opened, restaurants can now use their patios and many of the amenities that we had to do without are once again available. Life is not completely back to normal, but my wife and I have noticed during our daily morning walks that there are once again more cars on the streets and smaller line-ups to get inside the stores.

Canadians during this COVID-19 pandemic were only asked to self-isolate at home with their internet and electronic devices for two months and give up for a short time many of the social and economic amenities they had grown accustomed to enjoying. For the generation who fought the Second World War eight decades ago their story was much different. They had to focus for six years on winning

a war which for most meant not only working to support the Allied cause but also dealing with rationing and having loved ones serving in the military.

As we all anticipate the day in which we are not governed by COVID-19 emergency orders, it is easy to envision the relief felt in Canada as the war came to an abrupt end on 15 August, 1945, VJ-Day. The formal surrender of the Empire of Japan was signed in Tokyo Bay on the U.S.S. Missouri on 2 September, 1945 and on that day it was hoped that the sacrifices made over many years of war would bring lasting peace and prosperity.

It was with much fanfare fifteen years ago, in May 2005, that the new Canadian War Museum on Lebreton Flats was opened to the public. Retired General Paul Manson knows first-hand how it feels to run successful campaigns, and perhaps the one of which he is most proud of



Ed Storey with son Charles (left) and his friend Alex Lecours (right) wait in line to visit the CWM on its opening day.

was his 1998 to 2005 chairmanship of Passing the Torch in which he and his volunteer team raised over \$15 million towards the construction of the new museum. Here at *The Torch* we are very fortunate as Paul has generously agreed to write our lead article and recount the *Passing The Torch* story for us.

I have again called on Allan Bacon and Jean Morin to contribute VJ-Day themed articles for this edition and as expected they have not let me down. Allan has reviewed the book, *Hiroshima Nagasaki: The Real Story of the Atomic Bombings and Their Aftermath*, by Paul Ham which sets out to present a fuller and perhaps truthful account about the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Few Canadians know that HMCS Uganda, a light cruiser serving with the British Pacific Fleet, voted itself out of the war and Jean gives us the details behind the very Canadian set of circumstances which sparked that vote. Colonel Cosgrave, Canada's Military Attaché to Australia, represented Canada at the surrender ceremony at Tokyo Bay and we have the details about his military service in both world wars as well as when he signed the surrender document on the Missouri.

The FCWM Board of Directors has decided that *The Torch* will only be published in a digital format, which means that printed copies will no longer be mailed out and instead the quarterly will only be found on the Friends website. This has not changed how the small Torch staff does business and means that we are no longer constrained to a set page count, potentially allowing more content. To do this we need more volunteers, so if you are interested in writing for *The Torch* then contact the Friends. Likewise if you have any comments about this or past editions then feel free to contact me at edstorey@hotmail.com. Enjoy the summer, stay safe and healthy and we will see you in November.

Colonel Lawrence Vincent Moore Cosgrave DSO and Bar

by Ed Storey

Few Canadians realize that the poem "In Flanders Fields", written in 1915, and the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender in 1945 are linked to Colonel L.V.M. Cosgrave D.S.O. and Bar. Colonel Cosgrave was the Canadian signatory to the Japanese Instrument of Surrender at the end of the Second World War.

Lawrence V. Moore Cosgrave was born in Toronto, Ontario, on August 28, 1890, the son of wealthy brewer Lawrence J., founder of Cosgrave & Sons Brewery Company and brother of James, a partner with E. P. Taylor in horse racing's Cosgrave Stables. Lawrence was a 1912 graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada, student No. 851, and subsequently attended McGill University.

According to his Personnel File held in the Archives, Cosgrave had both an adventure filled and successful wartime service. He joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force in October 1914 as a Lieutenant, having previously served as an Officer with the Non-Permanent Active Militia in the 2nd Battery, 1st Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery (C.F.A.). He also recorded his civilian occupation as a brewer. He was appointed as a Captain to the Headquarters Staff, 1st Brigade, C.F.A. and embarked for overseas with the Brigade in October 1914. In February 1915, while on Salisbury Plain he was posted to the 4th Battery, 1st Brigade, C.F.A., and two days later proceeded to France.

In May 1915 he was posted back to the Headquarters Staff, 1st Brigade C.F.A. where he was appointed Temporary Major in October. It was during this time that he earned his Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) for conspicuous gallantry in action while carrying out several reconnaissance's under heavy



Colonel Cosgrave in Australia – 1945.
LAC Photograph ZK-1051-1

fire and exploring the enemy's wire in daylight. Shortly after his promotion Cosgrave was transferred to the Training Depot in Shorncliffe, England where he was taken on strength by the 6th Canadian (Howitzer) Brigade at Bramshott, England. During this time, he married, became the Adjutant in November and was back in France with his Brigade in January 1916. Days later he was appointed Staff Captain and was taken on strength by the 2nd Canadian Divisional Artillery. It was while attending a two-month Junior Staff Course that Cosgrave was diagnosed with bronchitis, spending four days with No. 20 Field Hospital. Following completion of the

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course Cosgrave rejoined his unit in December 1916.

Captain Cosgrave was attached to Canadian Army Corps Headquarters in January 1917 as a Staff Cap-

tain and in March he was appointed as Staff Captain for Artillery reconnaissance which he held for a year. He earned his Bar to the D.S.O. when a lorry carrying ammunition

was blown up causing six casualties. Under heavy shell fire, Captain Cosgrave supervised the removal of the casualties and had the lorries nearest the burning vehicle removed, eliminating the possibility of a secondary explosion. It was during this action that he was wounded under the left eye resulting in some vision loss.

In March 1918 he was promoted to Major and taken on strength by the 9th Brigade, C.F.A., staying with them until November 1918 when he was posted back to his old formation the 1st Brigade, C.F.A., this time as a Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel. Following the end of the war, Lieutenant-Colonel Cosgrave proceeded to England with the 1st Brigade, C.F.A. in March 1919; he returned to Canada in April and was demobilized in May 1919. Lieutenant-Colonel Cosgrave's file also shows that he was three times Mentioned in Dispatches (1915, 1917 and 1918) and was awarded the Croix de Guerre in June 1919.

Following the war he had an equally successful Federal Government career, joining the Department of Trade and serving as the Assistant Canadian Government Trade Commissioner in London, England (1922-24); Canadian Trade Commissioner, London, England (1924); Shanghai, China (1925-1935); Melbourne, Australia (1925-1937); and Sydney, Australia (1937-1942).

From 1942 Colonel Cosgrave served as the Canadian Military Attaché to Australia, but his most notable moment came on September 2, 1945 when he was the Canadian representative who signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender aboard the U.S.S. Missouri. He caused a little-known mishap, perhaps due to his vision problems sustained in 1917; Colonel Cosgrave inadvertently placed his signature one line too low on the Japanese copy of the documents. He signed on the line for the French Republic, which set off an unfortunate chain reaction whereby each suc-



Colonel Cosgrave (centre) along with the other representatives of the Allied nations at war with Imperial Japan, listens to General MacArthur's speech on the U.S.S. Missouri – 2 September 1945.



General MacArthur is at the microphone leading the ceremony as Colonel Cosgrave signs the instrument of surrender on behalf of the Dominion of Canada. Life Photograph

ceeding signatory also signed one line too low on that copy of the documents. The Dominion of New Zealand representative, left without a place to sign, had to have his name and country written in at the bottom margin of the document. Cosgrave did not repeat this error on the American copy. The error was “corrected” by U.S. General Sutherland who crossed out “French Republic” and wrote in “Dominion of Canada” then made similar corrections for the rest of the document. Both the United States and Japanese copies of the surrender document are on display on the USS Missouri which is berthed at Battleship Row in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

It has been reported that Colonel Cosgrave knew Mamoru Shigemitsu (who accepted The Surrender of Japan for the Japanese Emperor and Government) from their diplomatic days in Shanghai. Their eyes met when Mamoru Shigemitsu boarded the Missouri, they mutually smiled with recognition, and then Mamoru Shigemitsu realized where he was and became stern and serious. They also had occasion to meet each other again many years later in London, at the Coronation of Elizabeth II, in 1953.

Cosgrave has reported that the poem “In Flanders Fields” by fellow Canadian and friend Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae was written upon a scrap of paper on his back during a lull in the fighting on May 3, 1915 after McCrae witnessed the death of his friend, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, the day before. The poem was first published on December 8 that year in Punch magazine, London.

Cosgrave’s service to Canada continued after the war with various consular posts in Asia; and in the 1950s his diplomatic career continued with European consular posts until he retired in 1955.

On July 28, 1971, Cosgrave died at his home in Knowlton, which is located just outside of Montreal.

Group Friends

ANAVETS in Canada - Dominion Command, Ottawa, Ontario

ANAVETS Unit 217, New Waterford, Nova Scotia

Canadian Association of Veterans of U.N. Peacekeeping
(Col John Gardam Chapter), Ottawa, Ontario

Ladies Auxiliary - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 370 (ON),
Iroquois, Ontario

Polish Combatants’ Association, Br. 8, Ottawa, Ontario

Royal Canadian Legion Br 185 (QC)

- Légion canadienne royale fil. 185 (QC), Deux-Montagnes, Quebec

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 009 (SK), Battleford, Saskatchewan

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 024 (ON), St Catharines, Ontario

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153 (MB), Carberry, Manitoba

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 638 (ON), Kanata, Ontario

Royal Canadian Legion Everett Branch 88, Chester Basin, Nova Scotia

Royal Military Colleges Club (Ottawa), Ottawa, Ontario

Walker Wood Foundation, Toronto, Ontario

Hiroshima Nagasaki: The Real Story of the Atomic Bombings and Their Aftermath by Paul Ham

reviewed by Allan Bacon

This richly detailed, well researched book, which is often disturbing, and in places harrowing, sets out “to present the grisly unadorned truth about the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, blurred so long by postwar propaganda.” Drawing upon official American, British, Russian and Japanese sources and hundreds of interviews with survivors, Ham argues convincingly that we should dispense with a number of ‘myths’ concerning the atomic bombings. His central thesis is that these did not shock the Japanese into submission; they did not save the lives of a million servicemen; and they did not in and of themselves end the war. He challenges the prevailing view that the use of the bombs was “the least abhorrent choice,” and makes it clear that he regards the strategic bombing of Germany by Bomber Command and the USAF, as well as the devastating attacks on Japanese cities, as “terror bombing.”

The book covers familiar territory, with its comprehensive overview of events, from the creation of the Manhattan Project in August 1942 with the objective of developing a nuclear weapon, under the leadership of Brigadier General Leslie Groves and Robert Oppenheimer, to the dropping of the atomic bombs, ‘Little Boy’ on Hiroshima on August 6th 1945 and ‘Fat Man’ on Nagasaki on August 9th 1945. Ham describes the increasing distrust between the Western Allies and the Soviets and the determination of the Americans to prevent Russia accessing “the spoils of the Pacific,” or being

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entrusted with atomic secrets, unaware that Klaus Fuchs had already betrayed these. By early July 1945 American air raids had firebombed 66 Japanese cities and a Target Committee had drawn up a short list of cities against which the atomic bomb would be used, provided of course that Trinity (the testing of the weapon) was successful. In Washington President Truman's administration was divided, between hardliners like James Byrnes the Secretary of State on the one hand, and moderates such as Henry Stimson, Secretary for War, on the other. In Tokyo the Supreme Council for the Direction of War was similarly divided between moderates, such as Prime Minister Suzuki, and hardliners led by War Minister Anami. The Japanese military dominated, determined to fight to the end no matter what.

One of the strengths of this book is the description of life in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki prior to the bombings. Ham paints a picture of hardship and suffering on the part of ordinary civilians, as food supplies dwindled and other necessities were unobtainable because of the American naval blockade. Citizens were becoming demoralised. Fire-fighting equipment and medical resources were almost non-existent, and the full weight of defence against air raids fell increasingly upon elderly men, women and children.

By early 1945, Ham argues that Japan was in fact already defeated. She had lost the air and sea wars; her ground forces were being steadily driven back across the Pacific; the American naval blockade had choked Japan's capacity to wage war (no oil was imported in 1945); Japan's entire merchant fleet had been destroyed; and her economy was broken. This was the situation when the Allies met at Potsdam in July 1945, and on July 26th issued the Potsdam Declaration (signed by the USA and Britain) demanding the unconditional surrender of Japan. While the Potsdam meeting was in progress news reached Truman and the British Prime Minister Churchill that Trinity had been successful. The Soviets were not informed, and by July 26th the bomb components had already reached Tinian Island from where the attacks would be launched. Significantly, earlier in July, the Americans had also cancelled any plans to invade southern Japan, aware of potential unacceptably high casualties as defences there were strengthened.

The Japanese leadership's reaction to the Potsdam Declaration was to ignore it (mokusatsu). The hardliners reaffirmed their determination to fight on. The moderates secretly instructed Sato, the Japanese Ambassador in Moscow, to seek Soviet assistance in mediating a peace settlement, unaware that Stalin had indicated at Potsdam that Russia would be ready to invade Manchuria by August 15th. All Japanese leaders were united in insisting that the Emperor should be preserved, a view that was

communicated to the American leadership by Joseph Grew, who, having served for ten years as the United States Ambassador to Japan, understood the great significance to the Japanese people of their Emperor. Meanwhile American air attacks continued on Japanese cities, resulting in thousands of casualties.

The chapters detailing the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the appalling devastation and injuries, are harrowing. The Target Committee had decided that no warning should be given ahead of time. Survivors were hideously disfigured and injured and everywhere there were charred corpses. Some people "held their inner organs in their hands, staring at them with appalled curiosity." "A man in rags cycled around with what appeared to be a piece of charcoal fastened to his bicycle: it was the remains of his child." Many were suffering from a strange sickness that induced nausea and death. Japanese leaders were in denial, and the military suppressed all media reports, issuing instructions that to protect themselves against a 'new bomb' the public "need not worry, so long as they covered themselves with white cloth." Some 70,000 had died immediately at Hiroshima and many thousands would die in the months ahead from radiation sickness. The Japanese Supreme Council met, but its members were at an impasse. Hardliners were opposed to surrender on any terms, unmoved by the destruction of Hiroshima. Moderates wanted to propose their own conditions for surrender. The dropping of the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, again with appalling casualties, and more significantly the launching of the Soviet attack on Manchuria, led to the Emperor Hirohito becoming

Deceased Friends

Mr. Gerald Bowen	LCol Donald Carrington
Maj Ross Christensen	LCol Augustin Victor Coroy
Mr. William Cox	LCol Kenneth G. Farrell
Mr. Stanley C. Fields	MGen Denys Goss
F/L Harry Hardy DFC, CD	Dame Vera Lynn
Dr. Judy McIntosh	Mrs. Ann Pollak

In Memoriam Donations

- Dr. Alis B. Kennedy, in memory of
Sgt Leonce Plante, my father a WW2 veteran.
- Mr. & Mrs. Ted and Dot Smale, in memory of
Captain J. Ken Smale, Ted's uncle who was in
the Royal Canadian Artillery. He died of wounds
suffered in Germany in WW2.
- Mr. David Stinson, in memory of
Lt Col (Ret'd) Donald Carrington, a true gentleman
and strong supporter of the Organization of Military
Museums of Canada (OMMC).

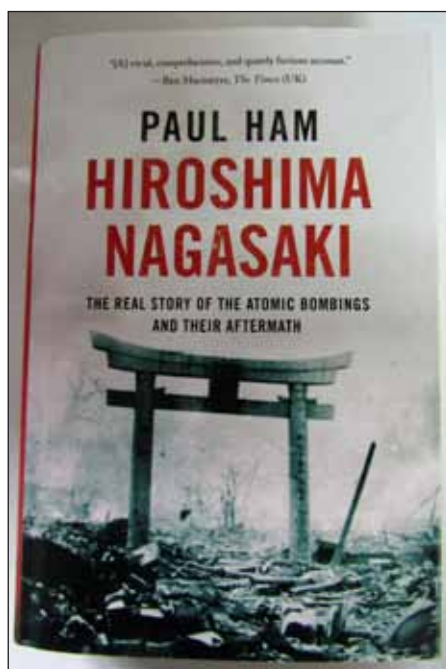
ing involved, and an offer of surrender, provided that the Imperial line would be preserved, was flashed to the Americans via Bern and Stockholm.

Intense debate ensued in Washington over whether to accept this offer. Eventually the Byrnes Note was communicated to Tokyo, setting out the terms of surrender, recognizing the Emperor's role in Japanese society, but insisting that the USA would control his powers. On September 2nd 1945 General MacArthur and other Allied leaders received Japan's surrender on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

The most disturbing section of the book has to do with the policy of the American occupation administration and military in the aftermath of the bombings. MacArthur imposed a rigid censorship on all news emanating from Japan, and it was determined not to let information about the effects of radiation on bomb victims become public knowledge. Teams of scientists, doctors and researchers flooded into the country to study "the human exhibits of widespread radiation disease," but there was never any pretence that they were there to help ease suffering. Japanese reports of the effects were dismissed as 'propaganda' and a press release put out by the Manhattan Project argued that there could be "no lingering toxic effects because of the height of the explosions." Yet Groves from the very beginning had been acutely aware of the dangers of radiation, which he described as "a serious and extremely insidious hazard." Authorities refused to share information about how to treat radiation sickness with Japanese doctors struggling with few resources to treat victims. For many of the victims (hibakusha) life was unbearable and the consequences terrible in Japanese society. They were regarded as untouchable, unemployable, unable to marry and shunned even by their families. Many committed suicide and the government refused to recognise their medical complaints.

In the years immediately after the war the American public and press were satisfied with a job well done. The media helped cement the 'myth' that the atomic bombs alone won the war and were the least abhorrent choice. Only later, as the truth of the destruction became known, did the voices of moral outrage grow, including those of the Vatican and also many of the scientists involved in the Manhattan Project, who had argued against the dropping of the bombs without prior warning.

Truman and other politicians continued to argue that the bombs had "saved a million American lives" and that it



had been a case of either or: invade or drop the bombs, deliberately ignoring the fact that Truman had always been opposed to an invasion and by early July 1945 plans for it had been abandoned. The US Strategic Bombing Survey argued that the dropping of the bombs had been militarily unnecessary and that Japan had been effectively defeated long before their use. Ham argues convincingly that everyone involved expected, and hoped, to use the bomb as soon as possible and gave no serious consideration to any other course of action. Truman described the bomb as "the most powerful weapon in the arsenal of righteousness" and said "I never had any doubt it should be used." Churchill said "the decision was never an issue." Perhaps more telling is a comment by

Byrnes in the 1960s that the bombs were dropped to end the war "before Russia got in."

The evidence is seemingly conclusive that the Japanese leadership did not surrender because of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These had only 'contributed' to the decision, as Emperor Hirohito made clear in his unprecedented radio broadcast to his people on August 15th. It was Russia's invasion, the loss of Manchuria and the collapse of the Kwantung Army that were the decisive factors. General George Marshall had warned the US military leaders in June 1945 that "the entry or threat of entry of Russian invasion of Manchuria might well be the decisive action leveraging Japan into capitulation." The Japanese people had always been fearful of a Russian invasion. The purpose of the atomic bomb had been to shock the Japanese into submission by annihilating a city. This it did not do. However, it did provide Tokyo's leaders with a face-saving expedient – to surrender to the more acceptable enemy, America rather than Russia. It allowed them to present the surrender as "the act of a martyred nation," a surrender without conceding defeat on the battlefield, where it mattered most to the samurai mind.

Concluding with a short overview of the nuclear arms race that developed between Russia and the United States in the postwar era, an era described by Winston Churchill as "the peace of mutual terror," Ham's account is highly readable and an important contribution to the literature about the final stages of the war against Japan and its aftermath. This very interesting book is highly recommended.

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Vera Lynn

“The Forces Sweetheart”

Ed Storey

Dame Vera Lynn CH DBE OStJ has been an honorary life member of the Friends since its inception in 1985 and sadly she passed away at her home at Ditching, East Sussex, England on 18 June at the age of 103. Vera Lynn was a British singer, songwriter and entertainer whose musical recordings and performances were largely popular during the Second World War. She was widely known as “the Forces’ Sweetheart” and gave outdoor concerts for the troops in Egypt, India and Burma during the war as part of Entertainments National Service Association (ENSA). The songs most associated with her are “We’ll Meet Again”, “The White Cliffs of Dover”, “A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square” and “There’ll Always Be an England”.

She remained popular after the war, appearing on radio and television in the United Kingdom and the United States, and recording such hits as “Auf Wiedersehen, Sweetheart” and her UK number one single “My Son, My Son”. Her last single, “I Love This Land”, was released to mark the end of the Falklands War. In 2009, at the age of 92, she became the oldest living artist to top the UK Albums Chart with the compilation album *We’ll Meet Again: The Very Best of Vera Lynn*. In 2014, she released the collection *Vera Lynn: National Treasure* and in 2017, she released *Vera Lynn 100*, a compilation album of hits to commemorate her centennial year - it was a No. 3 hit, making her the first centenarian performer to have a Top 10 album in the charts.



Vera Lynn in her ENSA uniform – 1941.

In 1941, during the darkest days of the Second World War, Lynn began her own radio programme, *Sincerely Yours*, sending messages to British troops serving abroad. She and her quartet performed songs most requested by the soldiers. Lynn also visited hospitals to interview new mothers and send personal messages to their husbands overseas. In 1941, Lynn married Harry Lewis, a clarinetist and saxophonist, whom she had met two years earlier. They had one child in March 1946, Virginia Penelope Anne Lewis (now Lewis-Jones). Her husband died in 1998. Vera Lynn was appointed as Dame of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for her charitable work in 1975.

Vera Lynn sang songs with feeling, with lyrics which were very meaningful as they expressed the sentiments and hopes of the generation who fought the Second World War.



Vera Lynn sharing a Jeep with some RAF personnel in Burma – 1944