

The Torch

August 2015

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Canadians and the second “Polish Invasion”, 1941-1944

by Edward Poznanski

During World War I, a very successful North American recruitment campaign was conducted to create a Polish Army for the Western Front in which 22,000 volunteers (mostly from the United States) joined up and were trained principally at Niagara-on-the-Lake, from 1917 to 1919 (see *The Torch*, November 2014) under Canadian command. This “first Polish invasion” of Canada was a remarkable recruitment mission, considering that Poland was still a partitioned land in World War I.

It was a different story in World War II. Following the collapse of an

independent Poland in the face of a joint German-Soviet invasion in September 1939, the Polish government-in-exile, based first in Paris and afterwards in London, worked quickly to reconstitute the Polish Armed Forces and continue the fight.

In April 1941, Canada and the Polish government-in-exile formally agreed to have a Polish Military Mission based in Canada to recruit North American volunteers. The Polish government-in-exile would finance the recruitment and the training. In May 1941 the Polish Armed Forces Military Mission recruitment centre was opened in Windsor, Ontario. In August 1941 a training camp (with Polish instructors from Great Britain) was opened in Owen Sound. The Polish authorities had hoped to double the number of North American volunteers who joined in World War I. By 1941 most Polish-Canadian volunteers had already joined the Canadian Armed Forces and Polish-Americans flocked to the US Armed Services later that year, after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

Records about the numbers of recruits are both dispersed and incomplete. Notwithstanding, the more authoritative sources indicate about 1,250 volunteers being received with about 1,000 of them (mostly from the United States) being accepted into the Polish Armed Forces in Canada. With the

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low numbers, the Military Mission in Windsor was scaled down in April 1942 until it closed in March 1943. From March 1943 until May 1944, a very small staff remained to process the last trickle of volunteers. In the meantime, the Owen Sound training camp closed in September 1942. A Polish Air Force Mission, however, was started in Ottawa in February 1943 and continued to recruit airmen until the end of 1944.

The Navy and Army recruits were sent to Owen Sound for basic training before being shipped to Great Britain. Most of the Army recruits also received training as mechanized infantry since many of them were destined for the 1st Polish Armoured Division in Great Britain (which would later fight in the Normandy and Northwest European campaigns as part of the 1st Canadian Army). The Air Force recruits were generally integrated into the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan in Canada and were joined by other Polish Air Force recruits from Great Britain, resulting in some 448 Polish airmen being trained in Canada by the end of the war.

In addition, about 30 women volunteered to join the Polish Armed Forces in Canada. They were trained in transportation, nursing, and office work in Windsor. They were sent to Great Britain in 1943, with all of

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Polish Army in Canada Recruiting Poster

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*Ce Bulletin est aussi disponible
en Francais*



President's Message

Linda Colwell

This edition of the Torch marks the beginning of my second year of serving the Friends as President. Thanks to the hard work of past and present Executive Committee members, directors, committee chairs and other volunteers, much has been accomplished during this phase of the Friends' journey.

Thank you to our outgoing directors David Parr, Treasurer, Wayne Primeau, Membership Chair, Katharine Trim, Marketing and Communications Chair, Tom Dent, Marvin Blauer and Gilles Morin for their contributions over the past years. We look forward to working with incoming Executive Committee members, John Chow, Treasurer, Brenda Esson, Secretary, and Robert Hamilton, moving from Secretary to Vice president and our newest director, Allan Bacon, who joined the Board in July 2015.

Congratulations to Julia Finn, our long suffering Office Manager, on being named the 2014 Volunteer of the Year. The Volunteer of the Year Award is the Friends most significant annual award and is designed to recognize the outstanding contributions of an individual volunteer.

Local Friends remain busy throughout the summer participating in National Capital Region (NCR) Friends and Canadian War Museum (CWM) Events. I would encourage non-NCR Friends who may visit Ottawa over the year to drop by the Friends Office at the CWM and make yourselves known to us. Remember that whether a local or a distant member, you can contribute to the Friends' efforts by, among other things, writing articles for the Torch, linking up with regional outreach events and Museum travelling exhibits or offering Personal Treasures for posting on our website. Don't forget to read and pass on to your own friends and families, Jean Morin's interesting and informative twitter posts: @fcwm_amcg, hashtag: #daybyday1914_1918 and #jourenjour1914_1918, The First World War Day-by-Day/La Première Guerre mondiale de Jour en Jour. For non-tweeters, the posts are accessible via our Friends Facebook page and website.

As we enter the Fall campaign season, we are making progress on delivering on our 2015-16 commitments to the CWM. Here is a summary of that progress:

1. Gunter Awards: The four \$1,000 awards were presented to graduating high school students in June 2015
2. Adopt-a-Book: the 2015 program is complete. Friends donated \$2,000 to purchase new books for the CWM's Military History Research Centre – Hartland Molson Library
3. Medals Stories: \$25,000 a year for five years will go to support start-up and ongoing costs related to cleaning and preserving for digital display, First World War medals held in the CWM's collection. Four Friends are volunteer researchers with the Project.
4. Veterans' Parking at the CWM: \$5,000 a year
5. Support for CWM Awesome Sundays: we have committed up to \$30,000 in 2015-16 to support the CWM's very interesting monthly program, Awesome Sundays. You won't want to miss the following Awesome Sundays at the CWM:

August 30, 2015 – Gladiators	September 27, 2015 – Art
October 25, 2015 – Codes	November 29, 2015 – Knitting
December 27, 2015 – Peace	

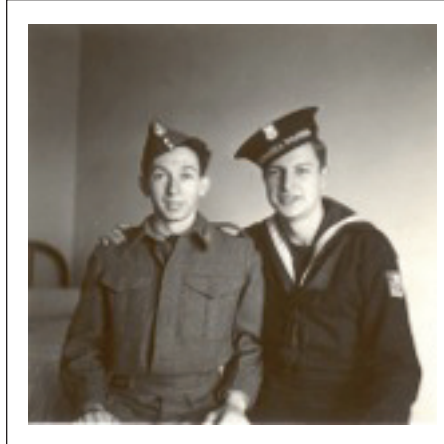
continued from page 1

them going into the Navy and the Air Force, except for one who went into the Army.

Although few in number, the Polish recruits who passed through Windsor and Owen Sound were warmly welcomed by their Canadian hosts. Both cities made facilities available for them and the recruits often paraded through both the cities wearing Canadian uniforms adorned with Polish insignia. A special North American volunteer sleeve patch was designed for the uniforms, which featured the flags of Poland, the United States, and Canada. The Toronto hat manufacturer, Muir Cap and Regalia Limited, made the distinctive Polish four-cornered caps for the Army recruits while G.J. Garratt Company of Toronto and William Scully Limited of Montreal made top-quality Polish cap badges. Today it is very difficult to find any examples of the Canadian-made Polish uniforms and insignia.

My only personal mementos of the Polish recruitment mission in Canada are a photograph of my uncle (18 years old) with his Navy

colleague in Windsor in 1943 (the latter wearing the rare North American volunteers patch on his left sleeve) and my uncle's cap badge manufactured by G.J. Garratt.



While the "second Polish invasion" of 1941-1944 was not nearly as massive as the first of 1917-1919, there was an interesting connection between the two - LCol Arthur D. Lapan, a prominent resident of Owen Sound, had been the Canadian commander of the Polish training camp at Niagara-on-the-Lake in World War I and a great supporter of an independent Poland. Although no longer on active military service in World War II,

he nevertheless used his local influence to find barracks and a training centre for the Polish Armed Forces in Owen Sound. About the only tangible reminder of the wartime Polish presence in Owen Sound today is an old beech tree on the Bruce Trail on which an unknown Polish soldier carved the opening words to the Polish national anthem.

Edward Poznanski is a Friend and Frequent Contributor to *the Torch*



Canadian-Made Polish Army Hat Badge

The First Canadian APC – The Kangaroo

by Larry Diebel

In early June 1944 with the Normandy bridgehead secure, the British and Canadian forces sought to fight inland, however, hopes for an immediate breakout were dispelled by strong German resistance. Once the Germans accepted that the allied landing was not a feint but the major assault, they reorganized and reinforced their forces opposing the bridgehead. The allies found themselves attacking well-trained, well-led, well-equipped German troops fighting from prepared positions on the ground of their choosing.

Confronted by this resistance, allied advances were possible but only at the cost of shocking losses. In one attack (Operation Spring) the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry lost 200 hundred men, the Black Watch lost 307 and the North Nova Scotia Regiment 432, these losses from



Priest Kangaroo, Royal Artillery, Italy, 1945



A Kangaroo of B Sqdn, Armoured Personnel Carrier Regiment

battalions of something like 800 men. Casualties in this order were simply not sustainable!

Losses were primarily of infantry and most of these were sustained in crossing the enemy's fields of fire, the 600-800 yards between the attack start line and the objective. If these losses were to be avoided it was essential to find a way to move the assaulting infantry more safely and quickly onto their objective.

To this end, on the 31st of July, General Guy Simonds commander of the Canadian Corps in Normandy issued orders to convert 72 M7 "Priest", 105 mm artillery self-propelled howitzers to infantry transporters. (The Priest was a 23 ton vehicle based on the chassis of the US M3 Lee tank.) The task of modification was handed to a purpose created RCEME workshop codenamed "Kan-

garoo". The term kangaroo described the mission of the vehicles "em-pouching" the infantry for movement on the battle field. The workshop was to remove the 105 mm gun, the ammunition storage bins and crew seating and place armour plate over the 105 mm gun aperture and to do so by 6 August! Astonishingly, by the evening of the 5th of August the task had been completed and on 7 August a hastily assembled Canadian armoured personnel carrier unit carried Canadian and British troops forward in a major attack (Operation Totalize). Each of the "Priest Kangaroos" transported 10-13 infantrymen onto their objective, safe from rifle and machine gun fire and shell splinters and at the speed of their supporting tanks.

The success of this innovation was immediately recognized; in the following weeks the Kangaroos, now designated the 1st Canadian Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadron, were frantically busy either on vehicle maintenance or moving from one location to another to move Canadian and British troops into battle. A further consequence of success was the decision of Canadian Army

HQ to re-equip the unit. It was decided to replace the on-loan US M7 vehicles with converted Canadian Ram Tanks then held for training in the UK. With the turret, ammunition storage bins and unnecessary equipment removed, the Ram could carry 10 fully equipped troops with better armoured protection and a lower target profile than the M7. Again, the modifications took place on a "most urgent" basis and by early October "Ram Kangaroos" had replaced the M7. Further recognition of the success of the Kangaroo was the decision by General

Montgomery's 2nd Army HQ on 9 October to quadruple armoured carrier resources. It ordered the creation of two new regiments, one British, one Canadian, each with two carrier squadrons, each squadron capable of lifting the assault elements of an infantry battalion. The Canadian unit was subsequently designated the 1st Canadian Armoured Personnel Carrier Regiment.

During the following months Kangaroos played a role in every major and many smaller operations. They carried 54 battalions or elements of battalions into battle, normally with insignificant casualties. The Regiment was the first Canadian armoured unit through the Siegfried Line and, on 26 March 1945, the first across the Rhine.

With the war in Europe over, on 20 June 1945 the regiment was disbanded. Although it had existed for only eight months it was subsequently awarded 14 battle honours.



The CWM's Kangaroo. Marion II

The War Museum Kangaroo was obtained from a private US collection in 2000. The Armoured Personnel Carrier Regimental Association gave it the nickname "Marion II" derived from a carrier "Marion" named after the wife of one of the regiment's squadron commanders of 1945. The 79 Divisional marking is black for the Cana-

dian Armoured Corps and orange for the Netherlands House of Orange. The control number beginning with the letters "CT" (for Canadian Tank) is that of one of the regiment's vehicles of the time.

Larry Diebel is a Friend and a Volunteer Interpreter in the LeBreton Gallery

Donations

General Donations

The Friends are grateful to the following who made general donations during the Period – 1 April – 30 June 2015

Walker Wood Foundation
Winnipeg Foundation
LCol. William R. Aikman
Cdr. Pat D.C. Barnhouse
Col. William K. Bawden
Mr. Michael Bedford
Mr. and Mrs. Ross and
Dorothea Conners

Mr. Kenneth Cownley
Mrs. Brenda Esson
Mr. Joseph Gambin
Mr. William J. Gervin
Mr. John W. Grainger
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CPO 2 Charles S. Hamilton
Mr. Richard Hem
Capt. (N) S.E. Hopkins
Mr. Gregory G. Hug
Mrs. Marilyn E. Joseph
Mr. Michael Koch
Mr. Robert J. LeBlanc

In-Memoriam Donations

The following is the list of donors making in-memoriam donations during the period 1 April – 30 June 2015. The tributes are recorded in the language in which they are provided.

Mr. Larry Capstick in memory of Ms. Phyl Reading

Mr. James G. Gifford in memory of Mr. Ted Lagerquist

Dr. J. L. Granatstein in memory of Abraham Rotstein, Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of Toronto

Ms. Lori Parent in memory of Robert Parent

LCol (Ret'd) Patrick O. Read in memory of Tpr Alfred Ward, BCD & RCAMC

Mr. Douglas C. Rowland in memory of Bill Leach

LCdr. David H. Mitchell in memory of LCDR Murray W. Knowles, RCNVR (1940-1946)

Transitions

New Friends

From 1 April – 30 June 2015 the Friends of the Canadian War Museum have welcomed the following new Friends:

Mr. John Chow
M. Bernard Max Tessier
Mrs. Brenda Esson

Mr. John Kabesh
Mr. Les Corbett
Mr. Derik McLellan

Ms. Joanne Power
Mrs. Sandra Beach
Mr. Owen Cooke

In Memoriam

Since distribution of the last Torch in May 2015, the Friends have been notified of, and mourn, the passing of the following colleagues:

Mrs. Joan W. Bond
Capt (Ret'd) Hendrik Burgers
Mr. Frank R. Cleminson

WO William O. Hough
Cdr. Donald S. Jones
Mr. William Lycett

Mr. Horace R. MacCaulay
Capt (N) (Ret'd) Joe Pelisek
Ms. Phyllis Reading

FCWM Volunteer Interpreter Program (Part 3)

by Gordon Foster

Some of our volunteer Interpreters have also provided training for staff Animators so that they would have a fuller understanding of the characteristics of equipment and how it is used. We are always ready to give technical assistance.

The Volunteer Interpreter programme leads to interaction between staff guides and volunteers and useful partnerships have developed within this activity.

New activities have emerged in the new Museum. We have sent Volunteer Interpreters to external events sponsored by the Museum. Our purpose is to tell the public about vehicles and equipment sent by the Museum to air shows or military events.

Members of the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers have made group visits to the Museum. They have had tours of the

LeBreton Gallery and the tank shop. These tours have been conducted by Volunteer Interpreters and tank shop volunteers.

Recently, another new activity arose. No Museum staff guides were trained for two temporary art exhibits, "Witness" and "Transformations." Volunteer Interpreters undertook a rigorous training programme to prepare them for this task. Our numbers were augmented by docents from the National Gallery who became temporary Volunteer Interpreters. The public benefitted from having two distinct approaches to the interpretation of the art works.

Because of her extensive knowledge of the art works in these exhibits, one of the Volunteer Interpreters was asked to conduct a tour of "Witness" by the Prime Minister. She was later asked to take the entourage

accompanying the President of Germany through "Transformations."

The number of Volunteer Interpreters is currently close to seventy. We have volunteers who are presently serving, some recently retired and some who served as long ago as the Second World War. The rumour that one of our people is the last surviving veteran of the War of 1812 is unfounded. As you can see, we have an active and interesting programme. New activities are being devised. Our contribution to the Museum continues to expand. We are always seeking new recruits and if you are interested in participating, contact the Friends office for assistance.

This is the third of a three part article on the Volunteer Interpreter Program by Gordon Foster who is the long-time FCWM Coordinator of the Program

9 May 2015: CWM Celebrates 10th Anniversary in New Building

On Saturday, 9 May, the Canadian War Museum held an Open House to celebrate its 10th year in its stunning new venue on the LeBreton Flats. On hand throughout the day to greet the large crowds that attended the event was Mark O'Neill, CEO of the Canadian Museum Corporation and interim Director of the Canadian War Museum.

Visitors were entertained by musicians from the Netherlands Youth Orchestra who played in various locations throughout the Museum, greatly adding to the festive atmosphere.

The event was marked by a ceremonial cake cutting by Mark O'Neill, Linda Colwell (President of the Friends), and by three 10 year old children selected from the crowd.



Cupcakes decorated with the Museum logo were handed out.

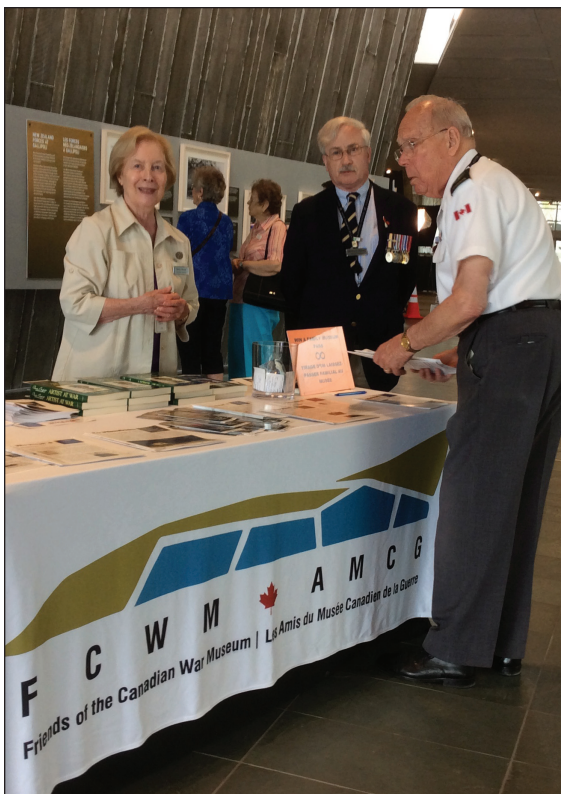
A big crowd favourite was the vehicle demonstrations as a number of CWM vintage machines were on site as stationary displays while others were put through their paces by Museum staff. Videos of the latter may be found on the FCWM web site.

The Friends played an active and visible role in the celebrations. In addition to the cake cutting, Jerry Bowen, one of the Volunteer Interpreters was featured on the cover of the program; and, an information table was manned by a number of Friends throughout the day where copies of war artist Charles Comfort book, "Artist at War," was given out to interested visitors.

The Friends held a raffle and three names were drawn from the numerous entries. The three winners were given a one-year FCWM membership and free passes to the Museum.

Everyone concerned with the event considered the day to have been a great success and a fitting tribute to this outstanding monument to Canadian military history.

Photos and videos courtesy of Friend Mai-yu Chan.



This Hour of Trial and Sorrow: The Great War Letters of the Leonard Family

by Michelle Hamilton, PhD

“The war situation is very serious and I fear that the British Empire is launched on a long campaign...”

So penned Woodman Leonard in a letter to his mother during the summer of 1914. Few imagined the Great War would last so long nor the profound impact it would have on soldiers, families, communities, and nations. *This Hour of Trial and Sorrow* is an edited collection of wartime letters from the Leonard family of London, Ontario, which recounts their experiences during the First World War.

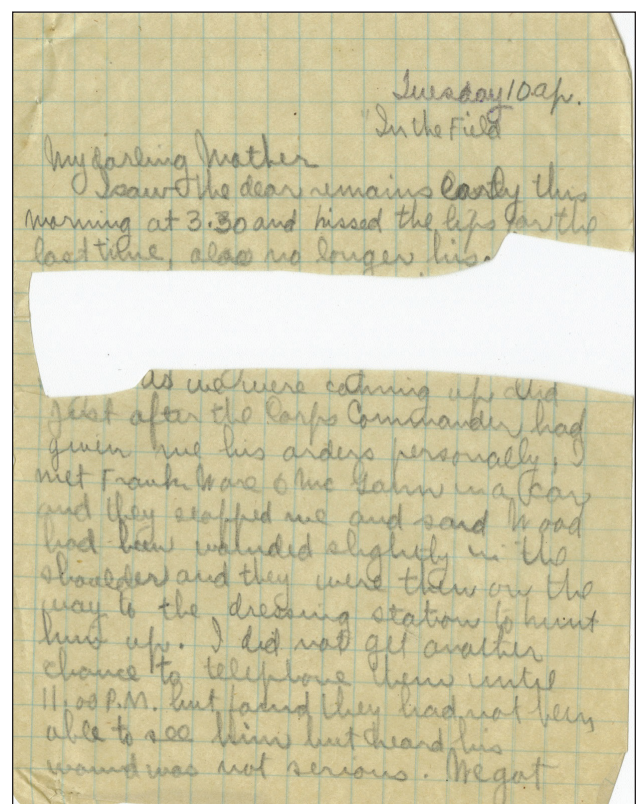
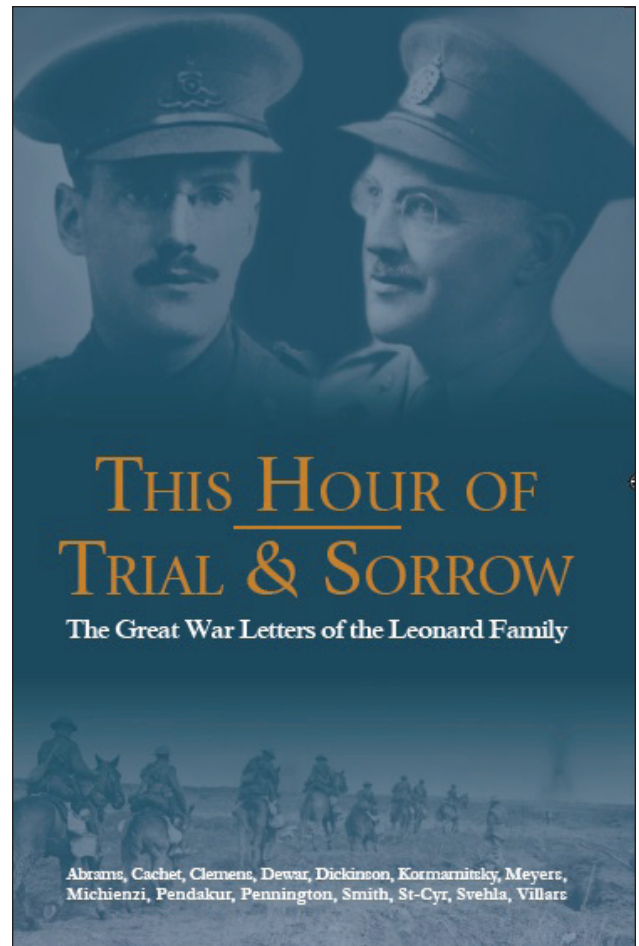
All members of this prominent family contributed to Canada’s war effort both overseas and on the home front. Run by patriarch Frank Elton Leonard, the family foundry E. Leonard & Sons produced almost 250,000 shells for the Imperial Munitions Board. His wife Alice Louise, and their three daughters Alice, Estelle, and Elaine dedicated their time to local charitable causes and relief efforts such as the Red Cross and the Young Man’s Christian Association. Brothers Ibbotson and Woodman served in France and Belgium as officers in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Ibb returned home to London and to his wife Sarah in 1918 but left his brother Wood behind, buried at the Lapugnoy Military Cemetery in Pas de Calais, France. Woodman died from being struck by shrapnel which pierced his spine during the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917.

The Leonard family wartime letters and other family papers survive at the Western University Archives and the Ivey Family London Room of the London Public Library. This rich and evocative correspondence reveals the experiences of the Leonards during the First World War, the struggle on the Western Front, and more broadly, how Canadians coped at home.

The Leonard family’s wartime correspondence, supplemented by contextual essays and notes, brings to life the personal impact of war on Canadians.

This letter is the first page from Ibbotson Leonard writing to his mother just after he has seen the body of his brother Woodman who died shortly after the Battle of Vimy Ridge. It has been censored.

Dr Hamilton is the Associate Professor & Director of Public History at Western University and this book is the result of a project by her Masters Public History students. They have kindly distributed copies of the book to public libraries and military history museums throughout Ontario, including the FCWM Book Room.



4 June 2015: The 2015 FCWM Annual General Meeting

by Cmdre (Ret'd) Robert Hamilton

On the evening of Thursday June 04, the FCWM held its annual general meeting in the Barney Danson Theatre of the CWM. Beginning at 7:00 PM, with some 50 persons present, the event opened informally with refreshments furnished courtesy of Chartwell Retirement Residences against a background of light music. At 7:30 PM, the business portion of the evening began in earnest with the president's call to order followed by the motions necessary to approve the agenda and the summary record of the 2014 annual general meeting.

As a first order of business the president formally recognized as `Silver Friends` those who during the year had achieved 25 years as members of the FCWM. Six in number and hailing literally from coast to coast, their dedication and loyalty was recognized with applause from the membership. Also honored at this time was Mrs Julia Finn, FCWM office manager, who was chosen by the Board of Directors (BOD) to be recognized as volunteer of the year.

Following these pleasant duties, the president welcomed Mr. Peter McLeod of the CWM who spoke to highlights of the museum program. He made particular reference to the contribution of the FCWM during the year noting the financial contributions to both the medals projects and the planned family days and confirming the CWM intention to ensure that the FCWM shared in the public recognition.

Thanking Mr. McLeod, the president then moved on to her own formal report to the general membership. Expressing appreciation to both her executive committee and the BOD she outlined some of the

important achievements of the year including the finalization of a memorandum-of-understanding with the CWM setting out respective roles and responsibilities, the development of a handbook for directors and the broadening of the FCWM website functionality to embrace electronic payment and donation. She also acknowledged the extraordinary effort of those involved in the ``First World War Day-to-Day`` twitter-based educational initiative.

At this juncture, the president introduced the treasurer who outlined the FCWM financial position. His report indicated positive performance with a solid asset base. From an operational perspective, membership revenues could certainly enjoy some strengthening but the treasurer was particularly complimentary about the strong performance of the FCWM used military book room operation which had contributed materially to the bottom line. On associated financial administrative matters, the membership

then approved a motion to waive the requirement for a public accountant for fiscal year 2015-16 and approved the appointment of Mr. Terry Payan as the FCWM auditor for the period.

The final order of business was the election of the BOD for the 2015-16 fiscal year. There being no nominations from the floor, the general membership agreed the presidents recommendation to the election of 3 new members to the BOD and acknowledged the departure of 5 existing members who were resigning. The BOD so constituted for 2015-16 comprises of 18 members and is compliant with the terms of the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act as it pertains to the FCWM.

The meeting was then brought to a close at 2015. In her final remarks, the president thanked the Chartwell Retirement Residences for having furnished the refreshments, the CWM staff for having set up the venue and very importantly, the general membership for having been in attendance.



Linda Colwell, Doug Rowland, Peter McLeod

Dad Meets the Queen

by John (Robbie) Robertson

In the summer of 1991 I was in Paris with my wife for the Confédération Interalliés des Officiers de Réserve Conference. When the conference was over my wife Irene and I went on a tour of Canadian battlefields and cemeteries. In the course of our tour we went to the Battle of Normandy Museum in Bayeux. Irene had gone outside but I continued looking at the exhibits. I was astonished to find a large poster of my Dad talking with Her Majesty the Queen during her inspection of the Toronto Scottish Regiment on the 7th of May 1943 in England. When I joined Irene I asked her if she had seen the picture of my Dad in the museum. Museum, she eventually agreed to come with me to see if I was pulling her leg or not! She, like me, was much surprised and proud that a photo of her father-in-law with the Queen should be in a prominent place in the Battle of Normandy Museum. But not half as much as my father would have been!

Robbie Robertson is a Volunteer Interpreter with the Friends



Irene Records the Historic Poster



How Heavy is a 20 Pound Bomb?

by Mark Tunnicliffe

This rather sounds like a “Who is buried in Grant’s Tomb” question. However, while U.S. Grant’s final resting place is secure, the rational nomenclature of British WW 1 aerial bombs is anything but – as the museum’s Cooper bomb exhibit (found in the LeBreton Gallery) illustrates.

While Britain had developed some bombing capability prior to the onset of WW 1, the limited carrying capacity of aircraft in 1914 placed severe constraints on the tactical potential of aerial bombing. Indeed the military wing of the Royal Flying Corps placed far more emphasis on Army cooperation duties for aircraft. It was the Royal Naval Air Service which initially explored the potential of destroying targets from aircraft by developing a 100 lb blast bomb for use against submarines and a “20 Lbs Hales Aircraft Bomb” for attacking Zeppelins.¹

By 1916 the Hales bomb was replaced by the 25 lb Cooper bomb (as it was then called) for use either as a supplementary weapon by dedicated bombers or as a ground attack weapon for fighters. The Cooper bomb consisted of a steel case with a wooden afterbody supporting four sheet metal fins filled with about 4 lbs of Amatol explosive.² It was armed by inserting the detonator and cutting the safety wire and suspended by the lug on the main body onto a bomb rack (usually a four bomb carrier located under the cockpit in a small aircraft like a Sopwith Camel or and SE5). The arming vane was kept from turning while the aircraft was in flight by a “stop” located at the front of the bomb rack. Upon release, the vane would start to spin as the bomb fell, rotating a pair of cog wheels until a striker car-



20 Lb. Cooper Bomb

rier inside the fuse aligned with the detonator. When the bomb hit the ground the vane drove the striker against the detonator exploding the bomb.

With its limited charge to weight ratio, the Cooper bomb was essentially useless against buildings as Air Ministry investigations into its post-War use in Iraq revealed. Accuracy was improved by early bomb sights like the CFS (Central Flying School) Mk IV strapped to the side of the cockpit which provided corrections for aircraft speed and height taking some of the guess work out of the hands of the pilot. Later sights also corrected for wind speed and direction aircraft roll and pitch. Consequently, when used in conjunction with strafing runs against troops in the open and unprotected supply wagons, the Cooper bomb was potentially devastating – especially when used in large quantities. During the German Army’s spring 1918 offensive, the RFC’s Camels and SE5’s were deployed primarily in attacking the long logistics trains supporting the attack with an expenditure rate of 12000 Cooper bombs per week.

The Cooper bomb was subsequently re-designated as the “Bomb:

H.E. Cooper, 20 Lb” by the Air Ministry. It was after all intended as a replacement for the 20 lbs Hales device. However, it did not weigh either 25 or 20 pounds in British service. The “actual weight of bomb” according to Air Ministry circulars was 24 pounds, or as the museum’s identification card correctly points out, 10.9 kilograms. Presumably this was not much of a problem for the Ministry – after all the Hales bomb did not weigh 20 pounds either – it was actually 18.5 pounds.

Mark Tunnicliffe is a retired Naval Officer, currently serving as a Volunteer Interpreter in the LeBreton Gallery

¹ Zeppelin LZ 37 was destroyed while in flight over Belgium June 1915 by a pattern of 6x20 lb Hales bombs dropped by Flight Sub Lieutenant Warneford in a Moraine Parasol monoplane winning him the VC. An earlier attack in 1914 on Zeppelin sheds in Cologne was a complete failure but a good propaganda event.

² The actual weight and composition of the explosive depended on where the bomb was built. A large number of Cooper bombs were built during and after the war in the US using a different explosive composition from the British one.

Courage Remembered

By G. Kingsley Ward, (Maj.) Edwin Gibson

Reviewed by John Anderson

The Story Behind the Construction and Maintenance of the Commonwealth's Military Cemeteries and Memorials of the Wars 1914-1918 and 1939-1945

McClelland & Stewart Inc., Toronto, Crown Copyright 1989, ISBN 0-7710-8786-1

This is a remarkable book, another gem that surfaced recently in the FCWM's Used Military Books Room.

At first brush, this book appears to be just another book discussing the treatment of Canadian casualties on the Western Front during the First World War. But, unlike most such books, this book was not written from a Canadian perspective, or a British perspective. Rather, it is written from the perspective of the Commonwealth. So Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan and, indeed, Newfoundland, as well as Canada and the United Kingdom, are treated equally. And I found it really refreshing to see an acknowledgement that, indeed, other Commonwealth nations suffered at least as grievously as Canada in the two World Wars.

Most of the material in this book is by now almost certainly available on the Internet. But this book was published twenty-five years ago, before the Internet became well established. And even if the material is available on the Internet, this book provides a compendium of extremely valuable historical information that would be difficult to assemble otherwise. And nearly all of the information in the book is still current.

Of course, many Commonwealth countries were more involved in the Middle East and the Far East than in Europe. And so the book contains information relating to these theatres as well as information on events in Western Europe.

Part I of the book, "Historical," lays out the background for the rest of the book. In only forty pages, Part I contains what I judge to be an excellent summary of not only the First World War and what led up to it, but also the rise of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan in the inter-war years, and then the Second World War. This historical summary concludes with country-by-country summary of the involvement of each Commonwealth country in these conflicts, including a summary of their contributions and sacrifices.

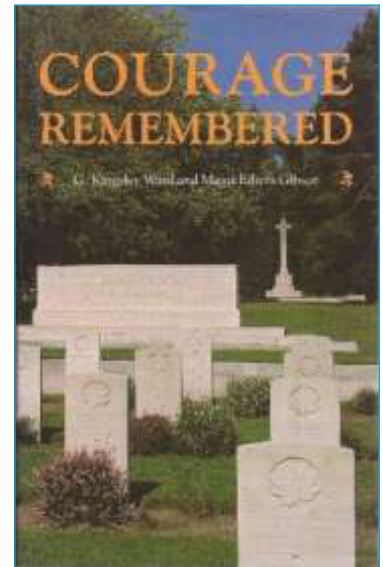
Part II of the book then focuses on the conception of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, its mission and responsibilities, and its history, particularly the transition from its initial establishment after the First World War, through the upheavals occasioned by the Second World

War, and then into the modern day. There is also a very interesting chapter, under the heading of "The Business of the Commission," that discusses some of the Commission's practices in the day-to-day treatment of burials in its charge.

The last part of the book, Part III and its associated appendices, contains a vast array of information on the CWGC cemeteries and memorials, again including all Commonwealth nations, not just Canada and the United Kingdom, and not just in Europe. And, as you might expect in a book of this nature, there is a fascinating variety of historical factoids which only serve to deepen the sense of respect and remembrance for our fallen.

This is not a "beautiful" book with lots of nice photographs. This book is mostly "hard," albeit very interesting, data. But the few plates that are included have significant historical value.

An interesting and valuable perspective on the two World Wars of the last century. Highly recommended.



Calling All Aeroplane Modellers

The FCWM Used Military Book Room has received two partial sets of books that will be of interest to keen aeroplane modellers. The first is a UK publication called, "Aero Modeller Annual" and we are holding 18 from the period 1951/52 to 1972/73. These are highly detailed publications showing the details of modelling from scratch.

The second set is very similar to the first, but is from the US and is called, "Model Aeronautics Year Book" by Frank Zaic. We have 9 editions dating from 1935/36 to 1964/65 with the same kind of details as described in the first set above.

We suspect that these volumes might be collectors' items for those interested in modelling. If you are interested, make us an offer by contacting the FCWM Office or by dropping in to the Book Room. No reasonable offer will be refused.