

The Torch

February 2017

Volume 28, Number 1

Medals, Decorations and Orders Project

by Jeffrey Chapman

August 2014 marked the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War. Since then, the Canadian War Museum, has been working tirelessly commemorating numerous events, unveiling new exhibitions, and arduously researching new projects, in correlation with the First World War.

One such project is “Medals, Decorations & Orders”. The CWM, with the support of the Friends of the Canadian War Museum, are creating an interactive digital database exhibiting the museum’s First World War medal collections, and related personal documents. The scope, and vision of this project is vast, and its success will depend largely on donations.

Along with the digitization of the individual medal collections, the project includes the preservation and maintenance of the medals themselves.

In addition to accepting monetary donations to assist in funding this project, the CWM will also be accepting individual medal collections. For those who may not wish to donate their medals to the collection, they will have the option of loaning them to the CWM, who will in turn, clean, catalogue, and digitize them, before returning them to the owners. For those who would prefer that the medals become part of the museum’s collection, they will be proudly accepted, and appropriately catalogued and preserved.

There is a multitude of military historians, researchers, volunteers, web-developers, conservators, and archivists involved in bringing this ambitious project to fruition. Their collective efforts point to providing Canadians and other museum-goers, with a user-friendly application showcasing remarkable, personal and unique military experiences, as well as photos, and related documents to capture the personal narrative of each individual soldier or participant.

It is important that the voices and stories of those who took part in past wars and conflicts have their memories and exploits remembered. “Medal, Decorations and Orders” will aid in piecing together these human stories of triumph and tragedy, and will create an overall understanding of the uniquely Canadian experience of war, at home and abroad.

One example of a unique experience is that of Pvt. William Brookes who served in the 2nd Canadian Infantry Battalion in the First World

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War. Pvt Brookes was taken prisoner during the 2nd Battle of Ypres in April 1915. He later participated in a mutiny against his prison guards, was court-martialed by the German authorities, and sentenced to 12 years hard labour. Brookes later died of pneumonia while imprisoned in 1917.

Pvt Brookes’ posthumously awarded medals (as seen above), citation and biography are part of the CWM’s collection, and are in the process of being added to the database.

The “Medals, Decorations & Orders Project” is slated to be launched in 2018.

Visit **The Friends of the Canadian War Museum** web page for more information and a chance to donate to the “Medals, Decorations and Orders” to assist in funding this project.

<https://www.friends-amis.org/index.php/en/medal-honours>

Jeffrey Chapman is a member of the FCWM Research Committee



**The Friends of the
Canadian War Museum**

1 Vimy Place
Ottawa, ON K1A 0M8
Tel: 819.776-8618
Fax: 819.776-8623
www.friends-amis.org
E-mail: fcwm-amcg@friends-amis.org

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His Excellency the Right Honourable
David Johnston
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.
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Editor/Layout: Ruth Kirkpatrick

Editor/Content: Mike Braham

Photographer: Bob Fowler

Mailing Team: Anthony Farrow,
Piotr Nowak, Gordon Parker

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President's Message

As we launch into 2017, let me begin this President's message by wishing all Friends of the Canadian War Museum and our fellow Canadians a Happy Canada 150th Birthday!

This edition of the Torch includes the 1917 World War Supplement. I trust that you are finding the expanding Torch an interesting mix of news and informative tidbits of military history. As more Friends opt for electronic delivery, and we benefit from the subsequent reduced printing and mailing

cost, we are confident the Torch will evolve into an even more informative publication. Thanks to our talented and dedicated editorial staff, each edition seems to top the last. That said, we know we know we can still do better and would welcome your inputs and suggestions for future editions.

In our 2016-17 campaign year, the Friends' Board, its committees and volunteers have been busy and productive. On the book front, this year's now successfully concluded Adopt-a-Book Campaign made it possible for the Hartland Molson Library of the Museum's Military History Research Centre to purchase 49 books totalling just over \$2,200. A big thank you goes out to Allan Bacon, our Campaign Manager, and to all of our Adopt-a-Book donors. The Book Room Team is on the way to another record year. At mid-January sales topped the \$23,500, making the activity a leading source of funding for Friends' projects. We are grateful to the Book Room Team for their perseverance in locating books for re-sale and for undertaking the daily and special sales activities at the CWM and various outside events.

The Research Team has expanded its activity related to the Veterans' Interview Program. As well, as of 15 January 2017 they have posted 743 consecutive tweets the First World War Day-by-Day/La Première Guerre mondiale de Jour en Jour, @fcwm_amcg, hashtag: #daybyday1914_1918 and #jourenjour1914_1918 to follow unfolding days of war or, if you are not "twitter savvy", go to the friends website to view the daily posts.

The Medals, Honours and Stories Project undertaken by the Canadian War Museum with significant Friends' support will create an interactive website and database to display the Museum's collection of First World War military medals and honours along with the stories of the men and women who earned them. So far the Friends have contributed \$55,000 of the \$130,000 we pledged to the Project. To support the Project, we encourage members and others to donate by cheque made out to the Friends of the Canadian War Museum or on line at www.friends-amis.org. At the Friends website, click the special **Medals Honours** tab to make a personalized donation to the Project.

The Events Committee and the Marketing and Communications Committee, in addition to managing our regular Friends Forums, Awesome Sunday inputs and other events and communications opportunities, have joined forces with our ad hoc Special Projects Team to develop our first ever "Signature Event", *Vimy in Words and Music*. The event undertaken in partnership with the Canadian War Museum and Christ

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Church Cathedral will take place Sunday, 9 April 2017, in the LeBreton Gallery of the CWM. This once-in-a-life-time experience will appeal to music lovers and families in general. Andrew Ager's moving original work, *The Unknown Soldier*, will be performed by the Men's and Boy's Choir of Christ Church Cathedral with orchestra, under the direction of Matthew Larkin, the Cathedral's internationally-known music director, organist and choir master. Tickets are available through the Friends' and CWM websites.

Group Friends

As of 31 December 2016, the following organisations are Group Friends and we thank them for their support:

MacFie Clan Society of Canada

The Black Watch Association - Pacific Coast Branch,
North Vancouver

The Polish Combatants' Association, Branch 8, Ottawa

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153 (MB),
Carberry

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 167 (ON), Exeter

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 177 (AB), Caroline

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 542 (ON),
Westport

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 580 (ON),
Cobourg

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 593 (ON), Nepean

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 636 (ON), Minden

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 638 (ON), Kanata

Legion Branch 638 Supports the Friends

Doug Rowland, past President of the Friends, is shown receiving a donation cheque from the Branch's General Trust Fund in the amount of \$500 from Moira Green the Poppy Campaign Chair of Legion Branch 638 in Kanata, ON. This is the Branch's second donation to the Friends this year.

Branch 638 is one of 25 Legion Branches that are currently Group Members of the FCWM. They play an important role in the fulfillment the FCWM mandate to support the Canadian War Museum.

If your Branch is not a member, we encourage you to give it some consideration.

A Tribute to Dedicated Service



At a small ceremony in the Friend's Office on Thursday, 20 October, FCWM President Linda Colwell presented Maurice (Moe) D'Amour and Pierre Garneau each with a President's coin to recognise their long and dedicated service to the Friends and to the Canadian War Museum.

These two fine gentlemen, both of them in their nineties, have been volunteering with the Friends for over two decades. Since the move of the Canadian War Museum to its new location, they have devoted most of their efforts to the painstaking filing and cataloguing of photos in the Military History Research Centre.

A number of colleagues from the Friends and from the MHRC attended the presentations and shared some cake, coffee and reminiscences with Moe and Pierre.



Donations

The Friends are grateful to the following who made general donations during the period 1 October – 31 December 2016

United Way Toronto & York Region

MacFie Clan Society of Canada

Walker Wood Foundation

Ottawa Branch Ontario Genealogical Society

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 638 (ON)

St. Aiden's - Building Aiden's Community

Mr. Robert Argent Maj Michel Charrier

Mr. Alexander Babcock (Ret'd)

Mr. Charles Derek Bate Cdr John Chow

Ms. Dineen Beath (Ret'd)

Sgt. Cheryl Belanger Mr. Gilles Chretien

Mr. Dany Born BGen Linda Colwell

Mrs. M. Jean Bowie-Reed (Ret'd)

Mr. Bruce Brown Mr. Garry Comber

Mr. Eric Brown Maj Walter Conrad

Mr. Thomas Burnie (Ret'd)

Ms. Barbara Burton Mrs. Rochelle Craig

Dr. David Camm Mr. Darryl Damude

Ms. Jacqueline Carey Maj Thomas Dent

LGen Harold Carswell (Ret'd)

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Mr. Donald Hook

Mr. R.J. Houston

Mr. George Hume

Mr. William Kiss

Capt. Michael Lambert

(Ret'd)

Mr. G. Jackson MacKenzie

Ms. Helen McKiernan

Ms. Marilyn Minnes

Mrs. Connie Mooney

Maj Jim Muckle

(Ret'd)

Robin Nelson

Mr. William Newton

Ms. Carole Olive

Mr. Frank Phillips

Dr. Victor Rabinovitch

Ms. Mea Renahan

Mr. Douglas Rowland

Mr. Michael Royce

Mrs. Janet Shirley

BGen Dean Smith

(Ret'd)

Mr. Robert Smith

Mr. David Stewart

Mr. Michael Street

Mr. George Tarasuk

Mr. Robert Tucker

BGen Michael Webber

LCol J. Roy Weir

Ms. Beatrix Wertheim

Mr. Sam Wong

In-Memoriam Donations

The following is a list of donors making in-memoriam donations during the period 1 October – 31 December 2016. The tributes are recorded in the language in which they were provided.

Mr. Michael Bedford,

In Memory of Stephen Dunne, CWM Volunteer and founder of the FCWM Book Room.

Mr. William Campbell,

In Memory of Colonel (Ret'd) TT (Tony) Baba, RCE, On behalf of the Canadian Army Staff College Class of 1963-65

Ms. Mai-yu Chan,

In Memory of Dr. Marvin Blauer, long time volunteer with the Friends

LCol Robert Farrell (Ret'd),

In Memory of Pte Nelson Farrell, a signals dispatch rider, Second Canadian Division, CEF in the First World War

Mr. Gordon Foster,

In Memory of Mr. Stephen Dunne, a long time volunteer with the Friends

Ms. Claire Gordon,

In Memory of LCdr William J. Gordon

Dr. Jack Granatstein,

In Memory of LGen Charles Belzile

Miss Christine Haley,

In Memory of Captain John Armand Scott Haley.

My Father, JAS Haley, passed away November 29, 2015 and I wanted to honour his memory on this Remembrance Day 2016. He is dearly missed today and always.

Ms. Jacqueline Neville,

In Memory of Mr. Edward Neville

Ms. Lori Parent, In Memory of Mr. Robert Parent

Dr. Victor Rabinovitch,

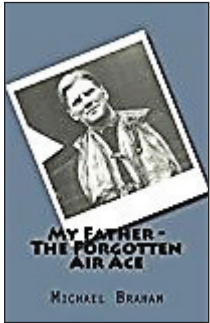
In Memory of Dr. Marvin Blauer, A wonderful volunteer, committed scholar, educator, public servant and a real family man. He loved helping at the CWM, sustaining the memories of those who served.

Ms. Margaret Walton,

In Memory of Private William Dundas Williamson, my Uncle who died in Belgium/France on 05 July 1915.

Mike Braham Publishes Two Books

Mike Braham, a Friend, Volunteer Interpreter at the Canadian War Museum and co-Editor of the Torch has recently had two books published.

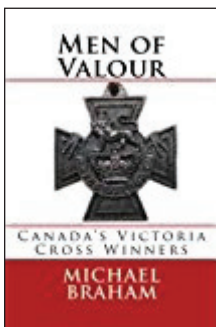


The first, *My Father – The Forgotten Air Ace*, tells the story of John Randall Daniel (Bob) Braham from the perspective of his eldest son. Bob Braham, with three Distinguished Service Orders (DSO), three Distinguished Flying Crosses (DFC), the Air Force Cross (AFC), the Belgian Order of

Leopold, and the Belgian Croix de Guerre, was the most decorated British Commonwealth fighter pilot of the Second World War. With 29 enemy aircraft destroyed, one probable, and six damaged, he was the top scoring Allied ace flying twin-engined aircraft, and the fifth ranked overall. Despite these distinctions, he remains relatively unknown.

The book provides an overview of his early life; a fairly detailed look at his wartime experience, including his time as a Prisoner of War; a description of his growing disillusionment with post-war Britain and the decision to immigrate to Canada; his distinguished RCAF career; and, finally, a brief look at his post-air force life up to his premature death at age 53.

This soft cover book is available through Amazon. Its ISBN is 9781537525594.



The second book is entitled, *Men of Valour – Canada's Victoria Cross Winners*. This is not a new topic and is one covered by a number of other authors. It does, however, suggest a different number of Canadian Victoria Cross winners than the generally accepted number of 94. A rationale is provided for 100 brave men who, in the opinion of the author, could be considered “Canadian”.

Following some introductory pages on the history of the Victoria Cross and a number of other facts associated with the medal and its award, the book then provides a brief biographical sketch of

each of the individuals identified with an emphasis on the specific event that led to each award.

There will undoubtedly be some argument with some of those identified as “Canadian,” but there can be no doubt about the individual acts of courage displayed by these *Men of Valour*.

This soft cover book is available through Amazon. Its ISBN is 9781540459480.

Poems of Remembrance

The following poems were received too late for inclusion in our November edition, but their messages are timeless and therefore reproduced below. The first, *My Daily Mantra*, is by Major (Ret'd) Frank Lucano who is a Volunteer Interpreter with the Friends. The second was written in response to John McRae's *In Flanders Fields* by 19 year old Donald C. Bridgeman in 1941, who was in the RCAF and killed returning from a bombing raid in 1943.

(Ed: Regrettably these may lose something in the translation, but we are confident that the sentiment will remain.)

In Flanders Fields Remembered

To me from failing hands you threw
The Torch; it's mine to hold on high.
If I break faith with you who died
You shall not sleep, and neither will I.
At the going down of the sun and in
The morning, in the lull at dawn
I remember you.

Major Frank Lucano
RCEME 1951-1981

My Daily Mantra

We take the torch which you did throw,
And hold it high against the foe.
Oh sleep, brave dead – we hold it high
We hold the torch that cannot die.
So sleep great dead, where poppies grow
In Flanders Fields

Donald C. Bridgeman
1924-1943

Vimy - A Commemoration in Words and Music

The Friends of the Canadian War Museum present *The Unknown Soldier* by Canadian composer Andrew Ager and featuring the combined choirs of Christ Church Cathedral under the direction of Matthew Larkin.

The Unknown Soldier, Andrew Agers moving work for choir, baritone and orchestra is presented as the centrepiece of the evening. Using poetry by young First World War combatants from Canada, France, England and Germany, the music evokes not only the loss of those promising lives, but also the very real feelings they had in the midst of conflict.

The excerpts from journals and letters written by soldiers in moments of rest are read between movements. In this way, the Battle of Vimy Ridge, now a century past, is brought to life for the contemporary audiences in this unforgettable performance.

The Friends of the Canadian War Museum invite you and your family and friends to join us on April 9th, 2017 at the Canadian War Museum for the "Vimy - A Commemoration in Words and Music" concert commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Tickets are available through the Canadian War Museum Box Office: Adults \$30, Students \$20 and Children Under 12 \$1 (a reservation is required for each child).

<https://billets-tickets.museedelhistoire.ca/webstore/shop/ViewItems.aspx?CG=CWME&C=CWMESpecialEvents>

Vimy – A Commemoration in Words and Music

Canadian War Museum, LeBreton Gallery
1 Vimy Place, Ottawa.

Sunday April 9th, 2017

7pm (doors will open at 6:30pm)

Reception at 8:15pm

The Canadian War Museums Vimy Exhibit will be open to guests.



THE FRIENDS OF THE CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM PRESENTS

LES AMIS DU MUSÉE CANADIEN DE LA GUERRE VOUS PROPOSENT

Vimy

A COMMEMORATION IN WORDS AND MUSIC

UNE COMMÉMORATION EN MOTS ET EN MUSIQUE

APRIL 9, 2017, 7 P.M.
CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM
LEBRETON GALLERY

LE 9 AVRIL 2017, À 19 H
MUSÉE CANADIEN DE LA GUERRE
GALERIE LEBRETON

A RECEPTION WITH LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BEGIN AT 8:15 P.M. THE MUSEUM'S VIMY EXHIBITS WILL BE OPEN TO GUESTS.


ADULTS: \$30 / STUDENTS: \$20
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER: \$1

TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE FRIENDS OF CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM'S WEBSITE OR AT THE MUSEUM TICKETING.

LA PRESTATION SERA SUIVIE D'UNE RÉCEPTION À 20 H 15 ET DES RAFFRAÎCHISSEMENTS SERONT SERVIS. LES EXPOSITIONS DU MUSÉE PORTANT SUR VIMY SERONT ACCESSIBLES AUX INVITÉS.

ADULTE : 30 \$ / ÉTUDIANTS : 20 \$
ENFANTS 12 ANS ET MOINS : 1 \$

LES BILLETS SONT EN VENTE SUR LE SITE WEB DES AMIS DU MUSÉE CANADIEN DE LA GUERRE OU À LA BILLETTERIE DU MUSÉE.

An Electronic Torch?

A major expense of funds and time associated with the Torch is entailed in the mailing of 3-400 hard copies every issue. We would like to reduce those costs through an increased use of the electronic version on the Web Site.

We are aware that not everyone has access to a computer, and for those individuals, we will be pleased to continue with the mailing of a hard copy. However, for those of you currently receiving a copy in the mail and who have access to a computer, we would like to ask that, in future, you rely solely on the electronic version.

If you are one of those latter individuals, and you are willing to give up the hard copy, you are requested to let us know by e-mail at membership@friends-amis.org or by calling the FCWM Office at (819) 776-8618.

**Your assistance
will be most appreciated.**

Transitions

New Friends

From 1 October – 31 December 2016 the Friends of the Canadian War Museum have welcomed the following new Friends:

Ms. Barbara Burton	Ms. Mary Ellen Koss	Ms. Marlyne Saikaley
Ms. Deborah Burton	Mr. Samphe Lhalungpa	Mr. Raymond Schell
Mel and Carol Dillon	Ms. Delores McPhee	Mr. Curt Sutton
Mr. David Dimitri	Mr. Harold Mills	Ms. Anne Vanderlaan
RAdm Patrick Finn	Ms. Miriam Rabinovitch	Mr. Neil Wood
Ms. Colleen Fitzpatrick	Ms. Mea Renahan	Ms. Susan Wood
Miss Christine Haley	Dr. Ken Reynolds	

In Memoriam

Since distribution of the last Torch in November 2016, the Friends have been notified of, and mourn the passing of the following colleagues:

LGen (Ret'd) Charles Belzile
 Dr. Marvin Blauer
 LCol (Ret'd) J. Bryce
 Mr. Arthur Fisher
 Mr. Roland Hamilton
 Cdr. Thomas Treherne

ERRATUM

In our article, "FCWM Used Military Book Room" in the November 2016 edition, we got the e-mail address wrong. The proper address for the Book Room is

books@friends-amis.org.

Sorry about that.

Book Review

Hiroshima Diary:

**The Journal of a Japanese Physician,
 06 August – 30 September 1945
 by Michihiko Hachiya M.D., Director,
 Hiroshima Communications Hospital**

Reviewed by John Anderson

ISBN 978-0-8078-4547-9

There appear to be very few books written by Germans or Japanese describing wartime civilian life. This is one of the exceptions, indeed a victim's-eye view of being on the receiving end of an atomic bomb.

This book is the personal diary of the medical director of the Hiroshima Communications hospital. The diary begins on the morning of the blast, 06 August 1945, and ends roughly two months later on 30 September. The author, who was at home at the time of the event, was injured but not burned or blinded. He managed to get to his hospital where he was laid up for a few weeks while his wounds healed.

The author's hospital, a reinforced concrete structure located some 1500 metres from Ground Zero, was badly damaged by the blast but continued to function, albeit at a very primitive level with no running water, no electricity, and most windows blown out. The hospital was terribly overcrowded with very badly wounded and burned patients, and with almost non-existent sanitation.

The author refers to external conditions only in passing: the thousands of badly burned dead, many more thousands of dazed, badly burned and injured people fleeing the city by any possible means; the devastating fires that followed the blast; the filth and stench that pervaded the hospital, and the millions of flies everywhere.

Of more interest to the author are his patients: Many of these

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In Memoriam

CPO1 Bruno Lambert

22 August 1920 – 10 August 2016

Captain (Retired) Michael Lambert, C.D, a Friend and Volunteer Interpreter at the Canadian War Museum has provided the following obituary for his father who passed away earlier this year at age 95.

CPO1 Bruno Lambert joined the RCN in 1945. During his 22 years and 282 days of Naval Service, he served aboard four proud warships, commencing with HMCS Crescent and later, HMCS Nootka and HMCS Haida. His final sea sojourn was aboard Canada's last aircraft carrier, HMCS Bonaventure. Of his Service, Frederick C. Frewer, captain of the Bonaventure, wrote the following commendation: "[He] Can take effective charge of any Captain's office in the Fleet." Fittingly, for a matelot from the province of Quebec, his first love was always the high seas: *Maria pulchra amavit.*

continued from previous page

started to recover normally within a few weeks, but then he noticed the emergence of new symptoms seemingly unrelated to blast injuries or burns. Eventually he figured out (not clear how) that he was dealing with radiation sickness, and he was able to correlate the severity of these symptoms with each patient's distance from Ground Zero at the time of the event.

The author refers only briefly to external events: News of the Japanese surrender on 15 August came as a big shock, followed by vilification of the military for letting the Emperor down. Until the surrender, there had been general support for the war, and civil order and discipline had been maintained; after the surrender both started to break down, notably with an increase in begging and looting.

American and British personnel started to be seen in Hiroshima around the beginning of September,

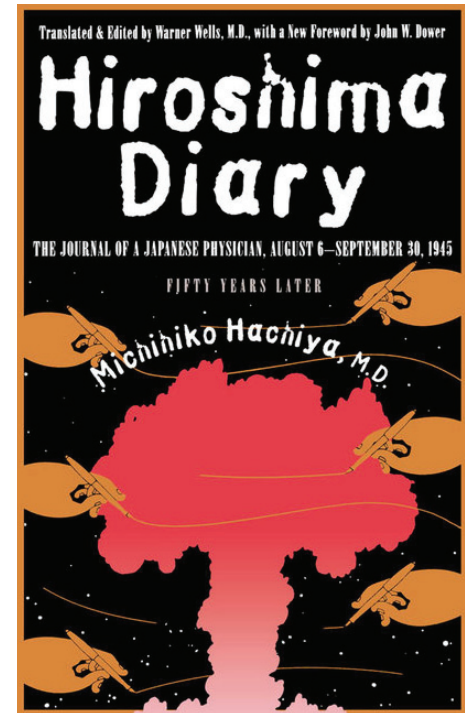
but the first formal American visit to the hospital came on 28 September. There were further visits on 29 and 30 September, and that is where the diary ends. However the Postscript, completed seven years later, refers to further visits by American officers, and a developing mutual respect and friendship.

The author as a educated man, a doctor, and medical director of a major hospital, could read and write, but not speak, English. Consequently, he personally had no fear of Americans, although some members of his staff did not share his confidence. In this respect, the translator's account of how this book, the English version of the diary, came to be is interesting and instructive, even touching.

I found this book to be of great historical importance. Readers should be aware, however, that the translator took great pains to retain the understated, low key, almost dispassionate tone of the original Japanese

text; only after reading it carefully and reflecting on what the author has said does the emotional impact of the narrative come into focus.

Most highly recommended.



***Hiroshima Diary* — My Back Story**

by John Anderson

I first heard about the book “Hiroshima Diary” almost sixty years ago, shortly after it was published. My father was a Professor of Physics at the University of Toronto, and deeply involved in Canadian defence research during and after the Second World War. In the 1950’s, the subject of a possible Soviet nuclear strike on North America was a not-infrequent subject of conversation at our dinner table, and Dad mentioned this book as a record of what the aftermath of a nuclear strike might be like.

Also about this time, the United States detonated the first Hydrogen Bomb (Ivy Mike, 01 November 1952). I clearly remember my father saying that Ivy Mike was not a weapons test but rather, as he put it, “They built a laboratory, and then blew it up.”

Flash forward about forty years. By then my own career in defence research was well established, and consequently I was acutely aware of the almost impenetrable secrecy surrounding U.S. nuclear weapons development. But then details of early U.S. nuclear weapons research were declassified and, to my surprise, my father’s capsule description of Ivy Mike turned out to be essentially correct!

How did my father know all this? How did he know about the book “*Hiroshima Diary*”? Dad was involved in Canadian defence research but, as far as I know, he never held a security clearance and he never travelled to the United States, although he travelled to Chalk River several times for reasons he never discussed.

One possible connection: In 1944 Dr. Carson Mark went to Los Alamos as a member of the British delegation to the Manhattan Project. In 1947 Mark succeeded Hans Bethe as head of the Theoretical Division at Los Alamos. He was thus in charge of a very large proportion of all post-war U.S. nuclear weapons development until he retired in 1972. I then discovered that not only was Mark a Canadian (and thus able to stay at Los Alamos after all of the Brits had been sent home courtesy of the McMahon Act) but that he had obtained his doctorate in Mathematics from the University of Toronto in 1938 where and when my father was on the faculty of the Physics Department.

Did my father thus know Carson Mark? Was that the channel of information, despite the draconian secrecy surrounding American nuclear weapons research? Was there some other “old boy network”? My father is now long dead (as is my mother), so I guess that we will never know.