

The Torch

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When is a Renault not a Renault? When it is an M1917.

by Maj. (Ret'd) Don Allen

In 1917 Louis Renault was convinced to create what we now recognize as the world's first modern battle tank. Known as the Renault FT, (FT is only a factory designation and stands for nothing) she was light (about 6 tons), versatile (she could mount a machine gun or a 37mm gun), fast (it is relative at 8 kph) and fearsome (described by the French as a small angry bee). When the US Doughboys entered the Great War in 1917 how could they not fall in love with this engineering marvel? They liked her so much they bought the license to build her in America. However, contract and production delays and a little matter of metric versus American measurements resulted in the first models, known as the "Six-Ton Special Tank" and later the M1917, not being ready until late 1918 and only 10 reached the troops before the Armistice but too late for action. Production continued, however, until 1919 for a total of 950 tanks. Three models were built: two octagonal turreted versions – one with a .30 calibre machine gun and the other with a 37mm gun; the third model was a box like structure and was used as a radio equipped but otherwise unarmed command tank.

A quick glance would suggest the turreted tanks were identical but closer scrutiny will reveal they are quite distinct. Regrettably, they were very similar in performance: that old familiar bone shuddering and ear shattering ride at a whopping 8 kph would have been familiar to American and Frenchman alike. The US replaced the four-cylinder Renault engine with a four-cylinder water cooled US made Buda which caused the obvious major external change – the muffler was switched to the left hand side for the M1917. A great advantage to the M1917 was addition of a self starting system – no more hand cranking unless an emergency start was needed. US tankers were noticeably concerned over the open space between the engine and the crew area in the Renault so they installed a bulkhead – a fine idea. It turns out that US crewmen were actually bigger than their French counterparts – must be the vitamins – and that forced the builders to raise the vision slits for the driver. The Renault FT had wooden clad steel spoked front idler wheels so the ingenious

Americans replaced them with full steel versions – less for the termites! A few other tiny changes were made all in the name of efficiency. When those changes are made though, you miraculously change a lovely French Renault into a very American M1917!

When Canada received the 236 or so M1917 Six-Ton Specials in 1940 for training purposes they were indeed barely more than the scrap they were sold as. The US Army had used them until 1931 and then put them into storage. They were old, cranky, worn, unreliable, leaky and prone to fire and asphyxiating their crews – ideal for training! To top it all off they were still erroneously called Renaults! Go figure.



M1917



Renault FT

Don Allen is a Volunteer Interpreter in the LeBreton Gallery

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President's Message

Linda Colwell



For my first message as President of the Friends of the Canadian War Museum, let me begin with a look back over the past two years of Friends' accomplish-

ments to salute our now Immediate Past President, Doug Rowland. Under his leadership, we have moved steadily forward and been invigorated with a renewed sense of purpose and direction. Doug leaves the legacy of an improved governance framework, a strong and well organized Board Directors, empowered Board Committees, a well-articulated Strategic Plan and an annual business plan that has translated and will continue to translate strategy to results.

In addition to leading our ongoing activities, Doug has done much to connect the Friends with other like-minded organizations and in so doing, extended our reach among Canadians of all ages. Our relationship with the CWM staff has evolved to produce synergies and a renewed spirit of cooperation that can only produce a better Museum and a more positive Museum experience whether visiting the Museum itself, enjoying one of the travelling displays throughout the country or participating in the growing number of virtual Museum experiences.

Looking forward, I am acutely aware of the big shoes into which I am now stepping and of the challenges that the Friends will face in the coming two years. As I speak with members of the Board and

other volunteers, I am encouraged by the strength of our shared vision for the Friends and the CWM, invigorated by the enthusiasm of all of our members and inspired by the dedication of so many who have worked for so long to accomplish so much as we support one of the best museums in the world.

In the next issue of the Torch I will update you on our accomplishments as measured against the following 2014/15 Priorities:

1. Increase Friends membership and revenues
2. Produce a Marketing Plan to improve our outreach and awareness of the museum among Canadians
3. Expand education initiatives to better fill the Friends' education related activities
4. Complete the implementation of the new website and expand our strategy for use of Social Media
5. Continue to work with the Museum leadership and staff to identify synergies and new areas for cooperation and mutual assistance
6. Complete internal management structures and policies including executive measurement of progress of projects – dashboard of daily activities
7. Identify and commence planning for a Signature Fundraising event or project

THE ROYAL 22nd REGIMENT IS A CENTURY OLD

By Pierre Senecal, R22eR



I am honoured and delighted to present the Royal 22nd Regiment, which, as of 2014, has been serving Canada for one hundred years. My regiment was formed on October 21, 1914, in order to provide French-Canadians with a French unit in which they could support Canada against the Germans. The 22nd (French-Canadian) Battalion was created with the help of the newspaper *La Presse* and a meeting between Prime Minister Borden and a few members of the French-Canadian elite, which included Doctor Arthur Mignault and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. During the recruitment campaign for the 22nd, 23rd and 24th infantry battalions, the 22nd Battalion was reserved for French-speaking Canadians. Colonel Frédéric Mondelet Gaudet was the Battalion's first commanding officer. The recruits gathered at Fort St-Jean, where they received either a Ross rifle or, at a lack of rifles, broom sticks. The 22nd Battalion trained in St-Jean until they were transferred to Amherst, Nova Scotia, in March 1915. The schedule included marching, weapon training and trench-life training. On May 20, 1915, the Battalion was transported to England aboard Her Majesty's Ship, Saxonnia. On September 15, 1915, after staying in barracks in East Sandling and undergoing monotonous training, it was sent to the trenches of the First World War. The 22nd Battalion's *esprit de corps* brought them glory in many battles: Courcellette, the Regina Trench, Neuville-Vitasse, Mervatel, and Chérisy, where all of the Battalion's officers were either wounded or killed.

In June 1928, the 22nd Battalion became the Royal 22nd Regiment. When the Regiment was not in battle, it was either training or called to help the civil power in various missions. During the Second World War, the Regiment participated in the Italian campaign to end the war in the Netherlands. During the Korean War, the Regiment expanded to three battalions.

The Royal 22nd Regiment, donning its beaver badge, has since become the largest regiment in the Canadian Army. It is comprised of three regular force battalions, two reserve force battalions, a regimental band, a board of general officers (general officers serving the regiment), a board of directors, the *Association du Royal 22^e Régiment*, the *Fondation général Vanier*, a regimental museum, the *Société du patrimoine de la Citadelle*, and a magazine entitled *La Citadelle*. The Regiment's regular and reserve force battalions have served for NATO and the United Nations in various parts of the world, including Germany, Cyprus, the Former Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Afghanistan.

To conclude, I will cite the last sentence of *Le Royal 22^e Régiment 1914–1999*, a book written by the historian Serge Bernier. "Sacrifice, tenacity and devotion contributed to the success of the Royal 22nd Regiment, a regiment made to fight for great and noble causes." On behalf of the three recipients of the Victoria Cross in our regiment, *je me souviens*.

For more information, see www.r22er.com

Pierre Senecal is a Friend of the Canadian War Museum

War— Quotes

There is many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory, but, boys, it is all hell.

William Tecumseh Sherman, 11 August 1880

When was a war not a war? When it was carried on by methods of barbarism.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, 1901

In war, whichever side may call itself the victor, there are no winners, but all are losers.

Neville Chamberlain, 1938

There never was a good war, or a bad peace.

Benjamin Franklin, 1783

The Bartram Locket by Lilia Lockwood and Kristen Lewis

'Neath Afric's burning sun they fought, like vet'rans, did their duty;

Full many a blow for Empire struck, our thoughts of home and beauty

"When Johnny Canuck Comes Home," Henry Herbert Godfrey

It was heralded as a "great gathering" by the *Ottawa Evening Journal* and a night long to be remembered by those who attended. Between eight to ten thousand people packed the Aberdeen Pavilion on the evening of November 5, 1900, to celebrate, honour, and welcome home Ottawa's returning Boer War soldiers. One of these soldiers was a young man by the name of William Bourbank Bartram.

The Boer War, also known as the South African War of 1899-1902, was fought between British colonizers and Dutch settlers (Boers), whose independent republics impeded British plans for development. In Canada, public opinion was divided on whether or not to become involved. Some wholeheartedly supported Britain, while others were reluctant to engage in a conflict so far removed from them. Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier eventually compromised by agreeing to send a volunteer force.

Bartram was one such volunteer. Perhaps, as a bachelor and a lumber clerk, he sought adventure like others did. Perhaps he was among those motivated by a lingering loyalty to the Empire, hinted at in his tattoo of the British ensign and Union Jack. Whatever the reason, he found himself in South Africa with more than 7000 other Canadians. They developed a reputation as good soldiers in battles such as the victory at Paardeberg. Their role in Britain's defeat of the Boers aroused national pride and they returned home to a hero's welcome.

When Bartram and his fellow comrades entered the Aberdeen Pavilion on that November evening, they were greeted to loud cheers and a standing ovation. Governor General Lord Minto, who was in attendance at the reception, praised the men for their strength and courage. It was a treacherous mission and many Canadian soldiers lost their lives. In recognition of their services in the Boer War, Bartram and the sixty-one other members of the Ottawa brigade were each presented with a gold locket. A symbol of gratitude from the Citizens of Ottawa, the specially de-

signed lockets featured the Union Jack on the front and the soldier's name inscribed on the back. Bartram's locket, now over 113 years old, is a treasured keepsake and a testimony of Ottawa's enduring support and admiration for its Boer War soldiers.



The Bartram Locket



The Bartram Locket (Reverse)

Lilia Lockwood and Kristen Lewis are researchers with the FCWM Research Committee

2013 FCWM Volunteer of the Year - Michael Bedford



Mike Bedford was announced as the winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award at this year's Annual General Meeting in June. His tireless efforts and countless hours spent on trying to attract new members, to retain the existing membership,

and to improve our management of the membership process make him a highly deserving recipient of this award.

Mike was born in Oakland, California in 1946 and immigrated to Canada with his parents in 1960. After graduating from McGill University, Mike joined Bell Canada. His career with Bell spanned a variety of middle management assignments in Engineering, Marketing, Public Affairs,

Regulatory Affairs and Human Resources. He moved with his family to Ottawa in 1978. From 1984 to 1986 Mike worked in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province as an advisor to the Saudi Telecom Expansion Project.

Mike retired from Bell Canada in 2001 and began volunteering with the Friends of the Canadian War Museum. As FCWM Volunteer Coordinator he led the development of new systems to support the Friends' recruiting of CWM volunteers.

In 2005 Mike joined the FCWM Membership Committee and, as Chair of the Committee, worked on modernizing the FCWM membership database. Mike served on the FCWM Board of Directors from 2007-2013.

When not volunteering at the CWM, Mike enjoys photography, woodworking and spending time with his adult children and four grandchildren.

Well Done Mike!

The Secrets of Radar Museum

Founded in 2001 and opened to the public on May 24, 2003, the Secrets of Radar Museum is an incorporated not-for-profit museum located in London, Ontario. The Museum is committed to sharing Canadian radar history, from its earliest experimentation to recent advances, and most importantly, to the preservation of real life stories and personal experiences of the people who have worked and continue to work in radar.

The mandate of the Museum is threefold: To preserve the history and artifacts of the men and women who have served the Radar division of the Canadian Military; to educate the public on the history of Radar in Canada; and, to provide a therapeutic setting for veterans.

The Museum offers curriculum-linked school for students in Grades 5 to 12; group tours of the museum; and, off-site talks to community groups.

Its unique artifacts and displays cover Canadian radar history from WWII through the Cold War and the Museum is home to a substantial archival collection that is available for research purposes.

For more information on the Museum, check out its web site at <http://secretsofradar.com/>.

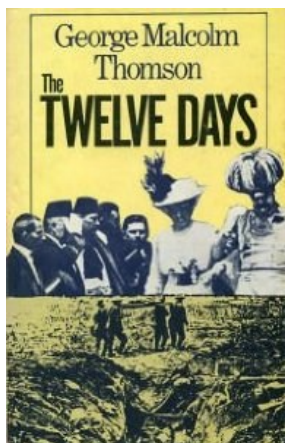


3 Generations: Robert Fleming, WWII radar veteran, locates himself in a 1941 group photograph on display at the museum while his daughter and granddaughter look on.

Provided with permission of Maya Hirschman, Museum Curator/Manager

Twelve Days by George Malcolm Thomson.

Reviewed by John Anderson



Putnam, 1964

ISBN-10 1125866888

ISBN-13 978-1125866887

228 pages

This is a fascinating account of how World War I actually started. Another little gem from the Used Military Book Room of the Friends of the Canadian War Museum, but now, of course,

long out of print and hard to find.

On 28 June 1914, Archduke Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated by Serbian nationalists while on a state visit to Sarajevo, the Serbian capital. On 24 July, in retaliation, Austria sent a humiliating ultimatum to Serbia. This book chronicles the events of following twelve days, ending with England's declaration of war on Germany on 04 August.

The book is filled with fascinating little insights into the personalities of the people involved, culled from memoirs and other contemporary accounts.

But the account of the twelve days would be sterile without an extensive prologue and epilogue. The prologue points out that all of the major powers in Europe had huge standing armies, in effect a powder keg waiting for a spark. And the tinder for the spark was the long-smouldering resentments left over from the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. And the accelerant for the fire was the failure of the diplomacy of the day to foresee clearly what was coming and speak plainly.

And the epilogue points out that, once the confla-

gration was well and truly underway, almost all of the "old order" in all of the involved countries was gone by the end of the year. All that was left after that was almost four years of indescribable destruction and human annihilation that absolutely no-one foresaw.

And one of the little ironies was that, following Serbia's rejection of Austria's 24 July ultimatum, Austria did invade Serbia -- and was almost immediately defeated and sent packing. But by then the main event -- Germany, France, Russia and England -- was well underway, with absolutely no cognizance of how it all started!

And then when, with the aid of Thomson's epilogue, the reader sees how much Europe changed in the four years ending in November 1918, it is easy to understand why World War I was referred to as "The Great War".

Thomson also includes little vignettes on Hitler, Stalin, Trotsky and Lenin. All were active and/or involved during World War I, and it is interesting to contemplate how their lives played out leading up to World War II.

Written in a very articulate style, very easy to read, almost "old English" to the modern generation. It even uses sentences!!

There may be "better" accounts now, but for immediacy and insight into how it all went sideways and ended in catastrophe, I think this account is hard to beat. I commend this book to you.

John Anderson is a member of the Friends and a Volunteer Interpreter in the CWM.

The FCWM Welcome the Following New Members (1 Apr. 2014-30 Jun. 2014)

Able, John

Trim, Katharine

Shaw, Nigel

Canada's Submarine Service Celebrates its Centennial by Mike Braham



When war was declared on 4 August 1914, the Premier of British Columbia, Sir Richard McBride, was extremely concerned over the lack of naval forces to protect BC waters.

McBride acted upon his concern and on his own initiative. He had learned that the Seattle Dry Dock and Construction Company had two submarines available for sale. *Iquique* and *Antofagasta* had been built for the Chilean Navy but the Chileans refused to accept them since there were significant unspecified deficiencies. After three days of negotiating back and forth between Seattle, Ottawa and Victoria, in the middle of the night of 4-5 August 1914, the submarines slipped out of the yard under cover of darkness.

After an inspection by Canadian authorities, a cheque for \$1.2 million was handed to the President of the shipyard, James Paterson, in exchange for

possession of the submarines in Canadian waters off Esquimalt in the early morning of 5 August. The following day the Canadian Government ratified the purchase and commissioned the vessels into the Navy as HMC Ships CC 1 and CC 23.

Thus was born the Canadian submarine service. One hundred years later, the Royal Canadian Navy boasts four modern conventional Victoria-class submarines and a cadre of highly trained submarine professionals. Read more about the vicissitudes of this perilous and relatively unknown service in the Research Paper "*Canadian Submarines and Submariners*" by Cdr (Ret'd) Mike Young that can be found on the FCWM Web Site at Publications/Research Papers.



HMCS Windsor

World War I in Photos by the Editor

Have you been following the FCWM Face Book Site? There is a wide variety of interesting material drawn from a vast array of sources available on the internet and covering a broad spectrum of military history topics as well as other subjects of interest to the Friends.

One that I find particularly interesting is a collection of photographs from *The Atlantic* magazine depicting scenes from World War I. What makes them so interesting, aside from their remarkable quality and clarity, is the scope of the subject matter that gives a better appreciation of global impact of the war. There are pictures of troops from a variety of Colonial countries in Africa and Asia, of Chinese front-line labour troops, of Romanians, Japanese, and of Russians in British uniforms and under British command.

In addition to pictures of the Western Front, there are

scenes from actions in Africa, Gallipoli, the Eastern Front, Mesopotamia, and the Far East.

I think you will find this to be a fascinating collection. You can find it by scrolling through our Face Book site or by going directly to <http://www.theatlantic.com/static/infocus/wwi/global/>. The following picture is an example of what you will find.



Algerian soldiers in Europe during World War I. (Library of Congress)

Take a Veteran to Dinner Night by Tobin Kelly

Ottawa's sixth annual Take a Veteran to Dinner Night was held on October 21, 2013 and the words of guest speaker Sergeant Bjarne Nielsen awed those who attended. As one Korean War Veteran commented, "to have recovered from such severe trauma of mind and body is a most remarkable feat that is likely beyond the imagination of many here tonight."

On Canada Day 2010, while Sergeant Nielsen was leading the 11-man patrol, in Panjwahi District, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan he was catastrophically injured by an IED. The injury required amputation of his left leg eight inches below the hip, extensive surgery for the left side of his body and years of therapy. During his recovery, despite the low points Sergeant came to realize that his perse-

verance could serve as a good model of other injured vets. His first attempt to walk on a new leg was on June 17, 2011. Today Sergeant Nielsen continues his work with the Forces as a Soldier On peer supporter.

The idea for Take a Veteran to Dinner Night was born of a strong desire to show appreciation of the men and women who sacrificed much for Canada during their military service. The annual event offers those who have not served a chance to express thanks to those who have served – including active Canadian Forces members. Organizers of the dinner were inspired by a similar tribute that first occurred in Orillia, Ontario in 2005.

The crowd of over hundred people enjoyed an excellent meal prepared

by the staff at Tudor Hall and once again CTV Ottawa's Carol Ann Meehan did a marvelous job as the evening's emcee. Local artists Bruce Stewart and Alison Fowler lent their artwork to brighten the room and the Ottawa Citizen generously donated door prizes.

Plans are underway for the seventh annual Take a Veteran to Dinner Night, which is scheduled for October 26, 2014. For more information call visit <http://www.veteransdinner.ca/> or call 613.680.5486

Tobin Kelly is the Organizing Committee Chair of the Take a Veteran to Dinner Night Association

Notes from the FCWM Book Room by Bob Hamilton

The FCWM operates a used military book room where a wide range of titles are available for sale at very reasonable prices. The facility is staffed by volunteers and all revenues accrue to the FCWM; its business is growing and its contribution to the revenue stream is significant.

However, the book room is now becoming a victim of its own success. Its collection derives entirely from books which are donated from individuals and other sources. Growing sales are depleting the shelves and more donations are needed. Please contribute books to the FCWM. They may be delivered direct to the site located adjacent to the CWM Research Library or the staff would be delighted to collect them from your home. Contact Robert Hamilton at bobhamilton@sympatico.ca.

At the recent AGM, the Book Room was presented with a special award to recognise its contribution to the FCWM mandate. Missing at that presentation was Stephen Dunne, the original driving force behind the existing book room. He was unable to attend due to illness. However, on 25

June, six members of the Book Room team visited Stephen to present him with the plaque. This photo shows him receiving it from Bob Hamilton. The group was pleased to see how well Stephen seemed to be feeling.

