

The Torch

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MUSÉE CANADIEN
DE LA GUERRE
CANADIAN
WAR MUSEUM

Friends of The Canadian War Museum
Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre



THE ESCAPE BOOT

Submitted by Tom Dent, Volunteer Interpreter



How did a clause in the Third Geneva Convention [1929] initiate a change in the design of Allied air crew flying boots in 1943?

It came about this way; Chapter 3 of Article 92 in the 1929 Geneva Convention states that “a prisoner of war who attempts to escape and is recaptured shall be liable only to a disciplinary punishment, even if it is a repeated offence”. Since the duration of any single punishment “shall in no case exceed 30 days”, the powers that be ordered that it should be the duty of every prisoner of war to attempt to escape. It was no longer necessary to point out the duty of every member of the forces to avoid being captured. This was very difficult if you landed by parachute, were wearing 1941 pattern flying boots and had not remembered to bring along a spare pair of hiking boots.

This was because the 1941 pattern of flying boot was a fleece-lined Wellington style boot with a front zipper. If an air crew member landed successfully by parachute, he was stuck with footwear that identified him immediately.

The boots issued in 1943 changed that. These were fleece-lined shoes onto which were stitched zip up leggings. Inside the right leg was a

pocket with a small folding knife which was used after landing to cut off the top of the boot, giving the wearer normal looking footwear. In some cases Gigli saws were concealed in the laces and some boots had secret heel compartments. This was to prove extremely valuable either for evading capture or if captured, for wearing while escaping from prison camp.



The ‘escape boot’ was designed by Christopher William Clayton Hutton, an inventor with a flair for innovation. Known to his friends as ‘Clutty’ he researched the needs of evaders and escapers. Their priority requirements were maps and compasses. Hutton knew that a map printed on silk would fold up very small without creasing, but early attempts to print maps on silk failed. The inks ran and obscured details. “Add some pectin to the ink” said Hutton. It worked.

The instrument makers, Blunt Brothers, were asked to develop miniature compasses. Hutton realized that some of these were small enough to be hidden behind the front of a uniform button which could be unscrewed. Despite reversing the threads, the device was soon discovered so Hutton invented other versions. (continued on p.3)

The Friends of the Canadian War Museum

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*Ce Bulletin est aussi disponible en-
Français*

President's Message Bill Leach



I trust that all readers have had a safe and enjoyable transition from 2011 to 2012. I also trust that those who regularly look to the south for warmth at this time of the year are happy with where they are; conversely, I can assure you that I for one, in the winter wind/snow/rain/thaws, am not complaining - nobody has ever done anything about my bleating before so I'm trying to grin and bear it.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the outlook is much brighter for us today than it has been in either one of my last two "messages"!

Jerry Holtzhauer, a Past-President, has stepped forward and offered to fill the "Immediate Past- President" chair on the Executive Committee (Angus Brown had resigned to tend to personal health issues); Tom Dent, has stepped forward and has offered to Chair the Communications Committee; Megan Seto a new "Friend" and University of Ottawa Law student, has agreed to be our new Secretary. While we still lack a Vice-President, we have all other Executive Committee positions filled and we have a Chair for every Committee. We are good-to-go for 2012!

I should also mention how much we are indebted to Mike Braham for carrying on as the interim-editor of the "Torch".

We will have our first 2012 Board of Directors meeting a week from now and there is a lot to do. Not only is there a lot to do but there is/will be a lot going on. We have to cleanly close FY 11/12 and prepare the budget so we can start FY12/13; We have a lot of internal housekeeping to sort out in the Friends; We have to regularize many of the processes that govern how the CMCC, the CWM and the Friends work as individual entities and also work together; much of this work should improve how volunteers are used and managed and how the many Veterans' programs are understood, publicised and managed.

I should stop now before I make too many promises or create false expectations. I am comfortable that we have reconstituted the leadership team. I am also comfortable that we have a steadily improving relationship with the CMCC and the CWM. Onward and upward!

The Escape Boot (Continued from Page 1)

One used Gillette razor blades [remember them?]. These were magnetized so that when hung by a thread, the 'G' of Gillette pointed North.

This specialized equipment was useful for evaders especially air crew. The kits they were provided with, included maps, condensed food, razors, water purifying tablets etc.. Once taken prisoner however, these items would be taken away. Hutton set his mind to helping prisoners of war escape and devised a variety of ways in which escape items could be smuggled into POW camps.

Since Red Cross parcels could not be compromised, MI9 set

up a series of bogus charities to send Hutton's goodies to prisoners. Special parcels containing escape material were indicated by subtle differences in the return addresses printed on the outside. It was then up to the prisoners handling the mail to get these past the camp inspectors. This was often managed by bribery or by distracting the inspectors by faked fistfights. The special parcels would contain silk maps hidden in Monopoly and Ludo boards, packs of playing cards which peeled apart in water to reveal a map of the German frontier, there was German currency tightly rolled into the handles of awls used to tighten the laces on footballs. Escape clothing could be

assembled from blanket material which would, when wet, reveal the pattern for an overcoat. Dyes were in the ink sacs of fountain pens.

Not all Hutton's inventions were successful. The self-heating soup can exploded all over the top brass during the demonstration. The fountain pen which fired phonograph needles was deemed unsporting. Regardless, many of the thirty five thousand Allied forces who evaded and escaped back to Britain owe a debt of gratitude to Hutton and his team. And, of course, to the drafters of Chapter 3 Article 92 of the 1929 Geneva Convention.

2012 Membership Renewals

Renewals for 2012 have gone out in the mail. If you have not yet received yours yet, please contact the Friends' office: 819-776-8618 or FCWM. AMCG@warmuseum.ca

It's not too late to **give the gift of membership** in the Friends of the Canadian War Museum. The gift of a membership is appropriate for all ages and is sure to be appreciated by all. The cost of an annual membership is \$25.00 for which

you will receive a tax deductible receipt. The recipient of your gift will receive a membership card, FCWM pin, the Friends' quarterly newsletter The Torch, and the Friends e-bulletin.

By giving the gift of a membership in the Friends you will be helping to support the Canadian War Museum in its mission to educate, preserve and commemorate Canada's military history.

The easiest way to give a Gift Membership is to use the Canada Helps site at <https://www.canadahelps.org/>.

Alternatively, you can also mail a cheque (\$25.00 per Gift membership) to the Friends office, indicating the name and mailing address of the recipient.

Volunteer Profiles

In our last edition we initiated this series on FCWM Volunteers. Our objective is to provide a picture of the wide scope of volunteerism being conducted and the varied backgrounds of those individuals giving of their time.

Stephen Dunne, FCWM Library Manager



Stephen Dunne was born in London, England in 1930. As a child he was evacuated from London to Cornwall in 1940 and returned to London in 1941. In 1944 his home was destroyed by a direct bomb hit. Fortunately, all of his family escaped injury. Stephen was educated at Salesian College, Oxford.

He volunteered for the Fleet Air Arm in 1948 and served in Korea and the Far East. He left the service in 1955, and went on to a career in the arts, working at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

He later came to Canada and worked at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa and the Brockville Arts Centre.

He became a Friend of the Canadian War Museum in 2000 and has devoted the bulk of his time in maintaining the Friends' book collection and organising book sales. In 2003 Stephen was named "Volunteer of the Year".

Literary Friends

Most of us are familiar with the name of our fellow Friend, Jack Granatstein and of his standing as one of Canada's most esteemed military historians.

Less well known are a number of other Friends who have put pen to paper to record their own experiences or thoughts on Canada's military heritage.

The following are a number of such authors who have come to our attention. With apologies to those of you we may have missed, please let us know and we will make up for our oversight in future editions.

Larry Gray has been published several times with articles in *Esprit de Corps* magazine. He has also published books on the war dead of Carleton Place; *Canada's World War II Aces*; and, most recently, *Canadians in the Battle of the Atlantic*. The two latter books were published by Folklore Publishing.

Angus Brown has co-authored two volumes with Richard Gimblett, on the Canadian Army in World Wars I and II. *In the Footsteps of the Canadian Corps, Canada's First World War 1914-1918*; and, *In the Footsteps of First Canadian Army, Northwest Europe 1942-1945*, are richly illustrated histories published by Magic Light Publishing.

In his most recent book, **Robert Fowler** has asked, "What is courage in battle and how has it been recognised?". *Courage Rewarded, The Valour of Canadian Soldiers Under Fire 1900 to 2007* is published by Trafford Publishing. Bob has also written *Valour on Juno Beach* and *Valour in the Victory Campaign*.

Finally, we reported in the last edition on **Dr. Marvin Blauer's** new book, *Struggle: A Quest for Life, Love and a New World*, self-published and printed by Tina & Co. of Ottawa.

FCWM Fact Sheets and Research Papers

The FCWM Web Site contains a growing number of Fact Sheets and Research Papers on a wide variety of topics directly and indirectly related to the displays in the Canadian War Museum.

The Fact Sheets are relatively short, dealing with specific, narrowly defined subjects whereas the Research Papers are longer documents describing broader based events.

Both are designed to provide

Volunteer Interpreters with background information to complement their own knowledge and experience, and to provide museum visitors with an easily accessible source of information to expand upon their visit experience.

There are new Research Papers on Canadian Submarines; 6 Group (RCAF) Bomber Command; and, the Fenian Raids. New Fact Sheets include Georgina Pope, the first Matron of the

Canadian Army Medical Corps; Fred Demara, the Great Impostor; and, the Fortress of Louisbourg.

To find these papers one should go to the FCWM Web Site at http://friends-amis.org/fcwminde_x_e.html and click on Publications.

Comments on existing papers and suggestions for others are invited.

New Exhibition at the Canadian War Museum – New Brunswickers in Wartime, 1914-1946

Those readers that visited the Canadian War Museum since publication of the last Torch might have noted that we made an error in announcing an upcoming exhibition on Peace.

Unfortunately, that exhibition had to be postponed, and it is now scheduled to open on May 30, 2013. However, we are pleased to report that it has been replaced by one that is proving very popular.

Visitors to the Museum can explore the lives of New Brunswick-

ers during the First and Second World Wars, at sea, on land, in the air and at home.

New Brunswickers in Wartime, 1914-1946 is an adaptation of the highly successful exhibition created by the New Brunswick Museum. Through a rich selection of artefacts, images, artwork and interactive components, this exhibition illuminates how wartime profoundly affected not only the communities of New Brunswick, but the rest of Canada as well.

The exhibition is in the John McCrae Gallery and runs until

April 9, 2012.

To complement this exhibition, new Fact Sheets on the FCWM web site focus on the four New Brunswickers who have been awarded the Victoria Cross – Cpl. Herman Good; Lt. Milton Gregg; Lt. William Nickerson; and, LCol Cyrus Peck.

To commemorate its bicentennial, an important exhibition on the War of 1812 will open on June 15, 2012. Future editions of the Torch will contain more details.

The Electronic Torch – A Cost Saver

We are trying to reduce mailing costs, and you can help us by receiving your copy of The Torch electronically. If you would like to get The Torch by email, please return the yellow

slip that came with your membership renewal, or contact the Friends office: 819-776-8618 or FCWM.AMCG@warmuseum.ca

New Friends: Welcome to the following new Friends who joined between 1 Oct. and 31 Dec. 2011

Mrs. Jetty Poelstra
 Ms. Muge Lynch
 LCol. Sean I. Blundell
 Mr. George Evans Jackson

Mr. Ronald McJannet
 Mrs. Susan Atkinson
 Mr. Robert James Smith
 Mr. Peter Mills

New Group Members are included below and indicated by an asterisk *.

FCWM Group Friends

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
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| Brainify Educational Technologies Corp, Vancouver | *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 047 (NL), Labrador City | The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 264 (SK), Star City |
| Canada Veterans Hall of Valour, Ottawa | The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 055 (SK), Grenfell | *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 287 (ON), South Porcupine |
| Canadian Association of Veterans of U.N. Peacekeeping (Ottawa Chapter) | The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 068 (QC), St. Lambert | *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 322 (ON), Ajax |
| Canadian Intelligence & Military Police Association, Tillsonburg | *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 093 (NB), Oromocto | *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 415 (ON), Port Loring |
| Korea Veterans Association of Canada (National Capital Unit), Orleans | The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 (SK), Nipawin | *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 (ON), Corunna |
| NATO Veterans Organization of Canada, Spencerville | *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 130 (SK), Hudson Bay | *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 544 (ON), Lancaster |
| Royal Military Colleges Club (Ottawa Branch) | *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 133 (ON), Cobourg | The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 580 (ON), Cobourg |
| The Black Watch Assn - Pacific Coast Branch, North Vancouver | The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 167 (ON), Exeter | The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 593 (ON), Nepean |
| The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 002 (SK), Prince Albert | *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 171 (ON), Alliston | The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 618 (ON), Stittsville |
| The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 006 (ON), Owen Sound | *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 177 (AB), Caroline | *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 641 (ON), Ottawa |
| *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 011 (ON), Toronto | *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 185 (QC), Deux Montagnes | The Royal Canadian Legion, BC/Yukon Command, Victoria |
| *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 024 (ON), St Catharines | The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 201 (ON), Essex | *Western Front Association - Pacific Coast Branch, Ladner |
| The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 031 (NS), Dartmouth | The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 208 (ON), Wiarton | |
| *The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 037 | | |

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Corporate Friends play a significant role in the success of FCWM. Corporate Friends are companies that believe in what we do and wish to provide additional assistance through a higher level of support.



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Recent Donations to the Friends

The Friends gratefully acknowledge the following donations which were received by the Friends during the period October 1 to December 31, 2011. With your financial help the Friends continue to support the Museum through

programs of acquisition, research, conservation and restoration of artefacts, and special events, as well as publication of this Newsletter.

In-Memoriam and Special Donations

- Britton Smith Foundation, in memory of BGen Christopher Kirby
- The Community Foundation of Ottawa, on behalf of the Mary and Leslie Barnes Family Fund
- Mrs. Maggie A. Abrams in memory of her late husband, Captain Alan Abrams, CProC
- Mr. Philip J. Anido, in memory of Dr David Anido
- Anonymous thank you to the Friends
- Mrs. Susan Atkinson, in memory of Maurice Alexander Enkel, WW2 veteran
- Cdr. Pat D.C. Barnhouse, in memory of Cdr. G.W.B. Wagland, CD, RCN (Ret'd)
- LGen. Charles H. Belzile, in memory of the Honourable Barney Danson
- Mr. John Boland, to offset the costs of coffee for the CWM volunteers
- Mr. Dominique Boulais, in memory of Officier d'aviation Jean-Georges Boulais
- Mrs Barbara Earl, in memory of Capt. W.F. Earl
- LCol. Donald B. Carrington in memory of Col. W.J. Rankin, CD, RCOG; and Maj. B.V. Tweedy, CD, RCOG
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- Mr. Fred A. Christie, in memory of Dr. Andy Anderson
- Mr. David H.B. Clark in memory of Howard Bevan Clark, RCAF, deceased 8 September, 1941
- Mr. David H.B. Clark, in memory of Howard B. Clark
- Capt. (N) James G. Dean, in memory of Canadian War Artist Charles Goldhamer, a personal and family friend
- Mrs. Joan Dunn, in memory of her late husband, LCol J.S. Dunn
- Mr. Jeffery Owen Eggleton, in memory of Lorraine Eggleton and in memory of Dennis Eggleton, RAF Flt. Eng., and Denis Eggleton, A.B., RN
- Mr. Gordon Foster, in memory of Master Gunner (WO1) M. Gordon Foster
- Maj. Ian M. Galbraith, in memory of your father, Colonel R.A. Harvey Galbraith, OBE, CD
- Mr. Gerald J. Gallagher, in memory of Dorothy Malott
- Dr. J. L. Granatstein, in memory of the Hon. Barney Danson, without whom there would have been no new CWM
- LCol. Robert J. Gurney, in memory of Jim Goodfellow, died February 20, 1944
- Mrs. Eva Hammond, in memory of your husband, Lt. Russell A. Hammond of the Canadian Grenadier Guards
- LCol. Sydney B. Hancock, in memory of Dr. Daniel Dimitroff
- MGen. James E. Hanna, in memory of George R Lindsey OC PhD
- BGen. (Ret'd) James I. Hanson, in memory of Dr George R. Lindsey, Defence Scientist
- Mrs. Pearle Hayes, in memory of F/O Bob Hayes 174 RAF Typhoon Sqdn
- Mr. Frederick H. Hayward, in honour of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada
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- Mr. R.J. (Sam) Houston, in memory of Col. Ralph A. Genest, OMM, CD
- Maj. Frank Jefferies, in memory of Lillian I. Jefferies, RCAF (WD)
- S/L Gordon W. Johnston, to honour the RCAF
- Dr. and Mrs. Richard Johnston, in memory of Major Wm. S. Johnston, RCAMC, WWII
- Mr. W. Jim Kingsley, in memory of all 1st Cdn. Para Bn. Members
- Mrs. Margaret O. Kohler-Milledge, in memory of Mrs Alison Withers
- Ms. Karen Leach with Bea Leach in memory of Bill (EWT) Leach, RCOG
- MGen. Wilson G Leach, in loving memory of Mabel K. Leach
- Ms. Terry J. MacDonald, in memory of Keith Frank Sheppard, Croix de Guerre avec Palm (Belgium), Navigator 582 Squadron
- Mrs. Carole L.W. MacFarlane, in appreciation of the magnificent Canadian War Art Collection and the fine artists who created it
- LCol. (Ret'd) Ralph L. MacIntosh, in memory of Gordon Chess, RCEME
- Maj. Richard K. Malott, in memory of S/L Bill Fellows and Mary Fellows; and Major William Nottingham and Madelaine Nottingham
- Maj. (Ret'd) Howard Mansfield, in memory of Dr. Leith Douglas, MD, FRCS (C), FACS
- Gen. Paul D. Manson, in memory of the Honourable Barney Danson, P.C., C.C., LL.D
- Lt. (N) Robert C. Maveety, in memory of C97291 C.S.M. R.J. Maveety, WWI & WWII
- Mr. Ronald McJannet, in memory of Flight Lieutenant John Kenneth McJannet, WW 2 Vet RCAF; Died July 17, 1981
- Ms. Sylvia McPhee, in memory of Jean E. McPhee, RCAF Reserve
- Col. (Ret'd) Alexander D. McQuarrie, in memory of Capt. R.J. Mahar, a wonderful member of the Royal Canadian Regiment,
- Mrs. Alice Murphy, in memory of Cpl. Jamie Murphy
- Mr. Michael E. Parry, in memory of Ken Brown of 617 Squadron
- Mr. Hubert Perey, in memory of Steve Gawiuk
- Mr. Joel A. Pinsky, in memory of his friend Sqr. Leader Sydney Shulemson, DSO, DFC
- MGen. Robert Ringma, in memory of Thain W. MacDowell, V.C., D.S.O.
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- Col. Ben Shapiro, on behalf of the 30 Fd. Regiment, RCA, Ottawa
- Mrs. Janet Shirley, in memory of LCdr R.J. Shirley, deceased Nov. 2, 2008
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- Col. Arthur H.C. Smith, in memory of LCol David Bianco
- Mrs. Winifred J. Stokes, in memory of Jean Alison Withers
- Mr. André Tellier, in memory of Lt André H. Tellier, 17th Duke of York Royal Canadian Hussars
- Maj. F. Roy Thomas, in memory of Sgt Roy Thomas RCAF 1942
- Ms. Ruth Thompson, in memory of Able Seaman Alfred Stanley Dunk
- Mrs. Diana Tremain, in memory of Edward W. H. Tremain, RMC #3935
- LCdr. Sid R. Wallace, on behalf of the Royal Canadian Navy
- Mr. Lawrence A. Weldon, in memory of his late wife, Beatrice
- Gen. (Ret'd) Ramsey M. Withers, in memory of Alison Withers
- Mr. Michael T. Wolfe, in memory of Barney Danson and in memory of David Anido

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PORTRAIT WALL DONATIONS (as of 20 January 2012)

Our deepest appreciation goes to all who have supported our project to provide funds to the Museum for the Portrait Wall refurbishment project.

Phase one of the project was to design a new hanging sys-

tem to make future change-overs easier. Phase two is the selection of new artwork and its conservation, and this is underway. Phase three is the new barrier system, and it has been designed. The project should be completed by end March this year.

Again many thanks,



Bill Leach
President

The Royal Canadian Legion -
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