

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

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THE GUINEA PIG CLUB

By Howard Mansfield

On the 20th day of July, 1941, a group of severely burned airmen formed the Guinea Pig Club. Seventy years later, a gripping picture of one of these disfigured young men undergoing plastic surgery, on display in Gallery 3 of the War Museum, reminds us why.



Canadian war artist Fight Lieutenant Charles Goldhamer completed several such drawings at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, Sussex, a special burn unit which treated Allied servicemen (chiefly airmen) with the most advanced reconstructive surgery of the day.

The burned and disfigured airmen of that war were treated, both medically and spiritually, by exceptional plastic surgeons. One of these was an extraordinary Canadian, Wing Commander, later Group Captain, A. Ross Tilley, OBE, CM, MD, FACS, FRCS. From Dunkirk onwards, the growing numbers of severely burned fliers were gathered in a Nissen hut, known as Ward III, at the back of the hospital. In 1942 Ross Tilley managed to persuade the Canadian government to allocate £20,000 for a new fifty-bed wing to be built for the treatment of Allied airmen. The Royal Canadian Engi-

neers constructed the building and Wing Commander Tilley, became the first (and only) commanding officer of the wing, with a staff of over fifty Canadians.

Highly innovative techniques were developed and in some cases entire faces had to be rebuilt by elaborate tissue transfers from various parts of the body. Many of these treatments were still in the experimental stage and these courageous young men regarding themselves as guinea pigs, went on to form themselves into the Guinea Pig Club. The number of guinea pigs rose to 649 of whom 170 were Canadian and His Royal Highness, Prince Philip became, and remains, the President of the Guinea Pig Club.



W/C Tilley (1943)

The reconstruction of these airmen's spirit was as important as rebuilding their bodies and Dr. Tilley took firm measures to re-introduce them into society; and discouraging (cont'd on p.3)



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*Ce Bulletin est aussi disponible en-
Français*

**President's Message
Bill Leach**



In preparation for writing this message, I re-read my message

from the August edition. If I may say, it was rather depressing as to our ability to move forward! I think you will find this message more upbeat.

I should complete the picture of "departures" before I talk about a more positive outlook. Subsequent to our June AGM, Chris Hughes, who had chaired our Communications Committee resigned to take on some new responsibilities with an organization that he had been with before taking on his committee position with us.

Shortly thereafter, our Immediate Past President, Angus Brown, informed me that he had suffered a deterioration in his personal health; Angus has now resigned from our Board of Directors and withdrawn from Executive Committee work.

About this same time, Mark O'Neill left the Canadian War Museum to become the President and CEO of the Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation. Mr Jim Witham is now the Acting Director General of the Canadian War Museum.

Now for the "Friends" positive message. At least one of our current Directors is considering

the Secretary position. Behind the scenes, Mike Bedford continued to beaver away. Mike has found and has engaged Mr Carl Broughton to be our new Volunteer Coordinator. Together they have worked wonders. We are now interviewing other individuals for both the Secretary and Communications Chair positions. These individuals may fit into other "Friends" work, if the two positions in question do not work out. In the meantime, Muge Lynch, our very new Treasurer at my last writing, has dug in and she is now fully engaged.

In my monthly meetings with Jim Witham, I have been encouraged by some of the activities that would offer great opportunities for a long-term partnering between the War Museum and ourselves, and most important, a renewed focus, unlike anything we have had since we raised funds to create this wonderful new facility. Just today, there has been a major announcement about War of 1812 commemoration activities

I am hoping that we will hear, at our next Board meeting on 26 October, some exciting news that will give us something to really sink our teeth into. If it unfolds as I hope it will, my article in the next edition should really be a "grabber".

Till next time ... Bill



The Guinea Pig Club (Continued from Page 1)

all self-pity.

In self-mocking humour, they elected as secretary one who could not use his hands to take notes; and as treasurer one who was in a wheel chair – and therefore not able to run off with the funds!

A severely diminished group of Canadian Guinea Pigs is still with us. They include Dr. Lionel “Hank” Hastings who, after a crash in 1944 in which he suffered thirty-two facial fractures, three spinal fractures and broken arms and legs, was treated by Dr Tilley and his team and later resumed flying duties in Canada prior to VJ-Day.

Dr Tilley died in Toronto in 1988 and is remembered with reverence and great affection by his few remaining guinea pigs and colleagues.

Canadians received special-mention in the last verse of the Guinea Pig Anthem:

*We've had some mad Australians
Some French, some Czechs,
some Poles,
We've even had some Yankees,
God bless their precious souls.
While as for the Canadians
Ah, that's a different thing
They couldn't stand our accent
And built a separate wing.*

A member of the Friends, **Dr Leith G. Douglas, CD, MD, FRCSC, FACS**, a retired Surgeon Lieutenant RCNR, was a post-war colleague of Dr Tilley, and for years the medical liaison officer for the Canadian Guinea Pigs.

While attending a ceremony at the East Grinstead Hospital in 2006 he presented the new Friends membership pin to Dame Vera Lynn. Dame Vera, who is now 94, is our first Honorary Life Member and was delighted with the presentation.

We have learned of the death of Dr Douglas in Toronto on 15 September, 2011 and send our condolences to his wife Lorna and family.

Upcoming Exhibition at the Canadian War Museum

Peace: The Exhibition explores the events and issues that have propelled Canadians to act for peace. It is a unique look at how Canadians have acted for peace. Artefacts, multimedia and stories combine to weave the

long, rich and diverse history of peace in Canada. From the Great Law of Peace of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy to the range of Canada's responses to Afghanistan, the exhibition will explore the many, often dif-

fering views Canadians have held on peace, and encourage visitors to contribute their own thoughts and opinions. The exhibition will run from 22 December 2011 to 9 April, 2012 and will be on display in the LCol John McRae Gallery.

Please remember to keep your co-ordinates up-to-date.

Please make sure the office has your current mailing address, phone number and email address, so we can keep you in the loop.



Volunteer Snapshots

The bedrock of the FCWM organisation is its volunteers. They perform a wide variety of duties in support of the Friends' activities that include interpretation in the Galleries; research on behalf of the Museum; membership on committees; management of the Friends' office; and, the refurbishment of artefacts .

In recognition of those who selflessly perform these tasks, the Torch will provide brief snapshots of one or two volunteers in each edition, starting with the one below.

Maj (Ret'd) Don Allen, Volunteer Interpreter

Don's military experience first began in the Militia in Oshawa with a two year stint in the Ontario (Tank) Regiment as a Trooper.

In 1970 he was accepted into the Royal Military of Canada at Kingston and graduated in 1974 with a BA in military history. After graduation, he joined The 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's) in Petawawa, Ontario.

During the 1976 Olympics he led a Quick Reaction Assault

Troop and after his Regimental tour did two years as a new Captain in Regina as a recruiting officer.

He returned to the Regiment in 1979 as the Battle Captain of the newly equipped Cougar Squadron. Early in this tour he was sent to Gagetown for the Advanced Gunnery Course which prepared him for his next duty as the Canadian Exchange Officer to the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars in the UK and Germany. He notes that it was a great fun particularly as the unit was equipped with the Chieftain main battle tank – a slow but powerful beast.

Upon his return to Canada in 1984 he went to Land Staff College in Kingston then off to St Hubert, Quebec to work in the Armoured Doctrine field and was promoted to major. In 1987, after a four month attachment to the Field Firing Centre in Suffield he was posted to Lahr Germany as a Leopard tank Squadron Commander.

In 1989 he was then sent as a staff officer to National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa.

He became an nuclear, biological chemical defence staff officer after a four month course in Borden, and was appointed as Commandant of the NBC School in the summer of 1991.

After three years at the School he returned to NDHQ in Ottawa and spent his last 11 years on the Joint Headquarters Training Staff as the Partnership for Peace training coordinator for the CF.



(That's Don in the centre)

In September 2005 he retired after 35 years in the Army and in December became a volunteer interpreter at the Canadian War Museum. He enjoys being in the LeBreton Gallery surrounded by "all his steel girls" and exchanging experiences with the many visitors to the Gallery.



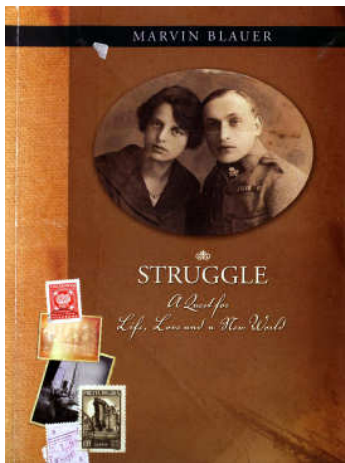
11 NOVEMBER 2011 – LEST WE FORGET





Struggle: A Quest For Life, Love and a New World by Marvin Blauer, PhD

The following is a synopsis of a book recently published by Dr. Blauer.



On a starlit night in August 1914 a young couple - Munya, a fifteen-year-old apprentice tailor from the small Eastern Galician village of Uscie Zielone and Eva, eighteen months older and daughter of the leader of the Jewish Kehilla in the city of Tarnow, Western Galicia - lie together for the last time on a river bank staring at the stars above. He talks of his life in Uscie, of leaving the mother that raised him, the familiar surroundings of the village and his excitement, of his imminent voyage to America, and she, of her joy of awaiting what the world will offer a pretty young woman with a job of her own and a spirit of adventure.

In the morning, both awake to a world in turmoil - a world that would change and change them incredibly. By chance and circumstance, Munya leaves Tar-

now seeking refuge until the war ends and Eva remains, awaiting arrival of the invading Russian army.

Ten months later, with the war showing no sign of ending, Munya finds a temporary but exciting life in Vienna and Eva, having survived enemy occupation, joins him. They experience the special cachet of that unique city - made all the more special by the precariousness that surrounds it.

In six months their magic Viennese life comes crashing down. Munya, now orphaned and barely seventeen, is drafted and sent to some of the bloodiest battlefields of that bloodiest of wars. Eva returns home where women struggle to maintain some semblance of sanity and normalcy in a grey, ominous world relentlessly squeezed by a war that will not end. Each survive times, (he as a machine gunner, she as a smuggler), that only the young can handle- motivated by an adolescent love now blossomed into the central, sustaining focus of their lives.

The Armistice of 1918 entangles Munya and thousands of comrades in the high stakes battles being waged in Versailles and leaves only the slimmest hopes for Eva. The couple continue their struggle, its objective now directly focused on Canada, for two years. As a new, unstable Europe gradually takes shape,

the dreams of Munya and Eva flicker on in the darkness, sustained by sheer desperation.

Seven-and-a-half years after the young country bumpkin turned up in Tarnow, Munya, now wounded, sick and a deserter completes his trip across Europe and, exhausted, wins a final battle to gain entry to the Canadian paradise. And eventually, inevitably, an uncharacteristically apprehensive Eva makes a choice - leaving a family and a world that will soon disappear forever, and sails to join him - two people sharing a remarkable love and facing a new life in a new world.

Dr Marvin Blauer

Dr. Blauer was born and raised in Montréal. He is a former university teacher with a PhD in Political Science and a cabinet-level public servant in both provincial and federal levels.

He is currently Principal of Marvin Blauer Consulting, providing research and consulting services to governments and NGO's in a variety of policy areas including social development programming, education, immigration and Aboriginal affairs, etc.

He is on the Board of Directors of the FCWM and is a Volunteer Interpreter in the CWM Galleries.



The Veterans: Discovering Our Military Past Through The Eyes Of Those Who Were There – Premiere Gala at the Canadian War Museum 4 November 2011

By Col (Ret'd) Andrew Nellestyn



Col (Ret'd) Andrew Nellestyn

The premiere showing of the documentary series **The Veterans** at the Canadian War Museum on November 4, 2011 was a resounding success. The event constituted one of the many CWM 2011 Remembrance Day programs.

The documentary illustrates the impact of Canada's participation in foreign conflicts and crises on Canada, Canadians and the military and covers the period from WWI up to and including Afghanistan. The effects of the changing nature of war are also examined.

The Veterans consists of 52 episodes each of 40 minutes in length. This project was three years in the making, was a volunteer, not-for-profit undertaking and contains interviews with and location filming of veterans, serving men and women of the CF in Canada and around the world, the Canadian defence and security industry, DFAIT, CIDA, CSC, RCMP, CWM, police forces, NGOs, the military colleges, military historians and a host of other Canadians.

The documentary is a gift to the Canadian people and is of particular relevance to young Canadians, tomorrow's leaders, as it emphasizes civics, citizenship, nation building and leadership. This is a unique, historical account of Canada's military and the impact and contributions made by our gallant veterans and service personnel. It is a tribute to them and the manifold sacrifices for which they are commemorated.

The documentary can be viewed at www.pwu.ca by clicking on the logo **The Veterans**.

The production team consisted of Daniel R. Rodrigue (producer and director), Colonel (Ret'd) Andrew Nellestyn (Co-producer) and Don Mackinnon (President Power Workers Union of Ontario and principal sponsor).

The event participants – the CF String Ensemble, the RMC of Canada Precision Drill Team, the Royal Canadian Legion, Navy/Army/Air Force/Saint John Ambulance cadets, piper of The Highland Mist Pipe Band and the vocalists (Kevin Rivette and Andrea Nellestyn) - added much to the enjoyment of the event as did the CWM staff.

The entire documentary including the original footage will be available in the CWM's archives and military history research department.

Recruit A Friend

The success of the Friends of the Canadian War Museum relies entirely upon its membership. Each of you is encouraged to invite a friend, colleague or relative to join us and to participate in our efforts to support the Canadian War Museum.





New Friends

Welcome to the new Friends who joined between 1 Jul. and 30 Sep. 2011

Mr. Philip J. Anido
Mr. Wayne Douglas

Ms. Marlyne Feeney
Dr. Alexander Herd

FCWM Group Friends

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|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANAF Veterans in Canada - Dominion Command, Ottawa • Brainify Educational Technologies Corp, Vancouver • Canada Veterans Hall of Valour, Ottawa • Canadian Association of Veterans of U.N. Peacekeeping (Ottawa Chapter), Ottawa • Canadian Intelligence & Military Police Association, Tillsonburg • Korea Veterans Association of Canada (National Capital Unit), Orleans • NATO Veterans Organization of Canada, Stittsville | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Military Colleges Club (Ottawa Branch) c/o Army Officer's Mess, Ottawa • The Black Watch Assn - Pacific Coast Branch, North Vancouver • The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 002 (SK), Prince Albert • The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 006 (ON), Owen Sound • The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 031 (NS), Dartmouth • The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 055 (SK), Grenfell • The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 068 (QC), | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Lambert • The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 (SK), Nipawin • The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 208 (ON), Wiarton • The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 238 (ON), Fenelon Falls • The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 264 (SK), Star City • The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 580 (ON), Cobourg • The Royal Canadian Legion, BC/Yukon Command, Victoria • Western Front Association - Pacific Coast Branch, Ladner |
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FCWM Corporate Friends

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 July 1 to September 30, 2011. With your financial help the Friends continue to support the Museum through programs of acquisition, research, conservation and restoration of artifacts, and special events, as well as publication of this Newsletter.

In-Memoriam and Special Donations

- Mr. Larry M. Capstick in memory of Mr. Roy Grant, WW II Veteran and Past President, Br. 238, R.C.L.
- Dr. J. L. Granatstein in honour of Rachel Poirier on her departure from the Canadian War Museum after 20 years good and faithful service
- Dr. J. L. Grantstein in memory of Dr. David Anido
- Mrs. Elizabeth Gross in memory of her late husband, Dr. Gordon A. Gross, 6th Group, RCAF Bomber Command, 1943-45
- Col. George L. Logan in memory of Milfred McInenly who died in Ottawa on July 18, 2011
- Ms. Marilyn J. Minnes in celebration of the recent wedding anniversary of Mel and Carol Dillon
- Mr. Mark Gordon in memory of Dr. David George Hadcock Anido
- Ms. Beverly Walsh in memory of Laura Sashaw

Donations

Mrs. Lorna E. Bethell
 Capt. Steven M. Byrd
 Mr. and Mrs. Fred de Jong
 Ms. Honor de Pencier
 Miss Nola A. Ferguson

Dr. J. L. Granatstein
 Mr. Mike Newell
 Mr. D. Townend
 Mr. and Mrs. Blake Watson
 Mr. John B. Wilkes

Vehicle Demonstrations

This is a scene from one of the very successful vehicle demonstration days held at the Canadian War Museum during the summer. These demonstrations of vintage military vehicles included the active support and participation of FCWM volunteers in the refurbishment process and during the displays themselves as drivers and as technical interpreters for the many visitors who turned up to see the vehicles in motion.

