



# The Torch

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## The Meaning of Walter Allward's Vimy Memorial Figures by Dr. Laura Brandon

An analysis of sculptor Walter Allward's (1876-1955) 20 figures from the Canadian National Vimy Memorial (1936) demonstrates how he used his knowledge of contemporary, classical, and religious art and culture to explain the meaning of the First World War to Canadians. In Regeneration Hall at the Canadian War Museum, we are able to see 17 of these figures close up in the form of the plaster models that preceded the stone carvings on the monument itself. With the exception of *Hope*, the eight allegorical figures designed for the top of the monument are grouped together with the remaining figures lined up against the Hall's south wall. The figure of *Canada* and the two recumbent mourners are not part of the Museum's collection; they can be seen at the Military Communications and Electronics Museum in Kingston.

tionally carries a bowl of fruit. In Allward's version, the bowl is replaced by a fold of her dress in which poppies rest, a clear reference to the poppy campaign that first began in 1921. A fourth figure, *Justice*, leans on a massive sword, emblematic of the power of justice. Traditionally, *Justice* presides over the Silver Age, one of the Ages of the World described by Roman first-century poet Ovid in the *Metamorphoses*. In this age, humanity was supposed to have moved forward sufficiently to know right from wrong.



"Sacrifice"

### Allegorical figures



"Truth"

holds a laurel branch in her right hand to symbolize victory. The second winged figure, *Knowledge*, carries a closed book in his left hand indicating his learning.

Two of the eight allegorical figures are winged. The Greek and Roman messenger of the gods, Victory inspired *Truth*, the first winged figure. Traditionally, *Truth* is naked and unadorned save for a laurel crown. Here she

The fifth and sixth figures are *Honour* and *Hope*. At the Museum, *Hope* is the isolated sculpture at the far end of Regeneration Hall. As here, she traditionally gazes upward in hope of future glory. The seventh figure, *Peace*, lacks some of her traditional attributes – no wings or olive branch. The eighth and last allegorical figure, *Faith*, appears as she should; her characteristic gesture is to hold her hand to her breast.

### South Wall Figures

The *Spirit of Sacrifice* holds a burning torch aloft. He was clearly inspired by John McCrae's celebrated poem "In Flanders Fields;" in particular, the lines "To you from failing hands we throw/The Torch; be yours to hold it high." Next to *The Spirit of Sacrifice*, *Sacrifice* leans back against an altar-like structure. He is emblematic of Isaac, (Continued on p. 3)

The third allegorical figure, *Charity*, tradi-



Museum

Musée canadien de la guerre

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





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## President's Message - Douglas Rowland



Led by Tom Dent, Chair of the Outreach Committee, we have established a relationship with the Blyth Academy of Ottawa.

Four Friends, Bob Anglin, Marcel Lavigne, James Vaughan and Tom himself were built into the history courses for grades nine and ten as living resources. There is every indication that this collaboration between the two organizations will continue into the future. The teachers involved, Meaghan Lamothe and Trevor LaForce, have written to Tom as follows:

"The students truly enjoyed their experience of being able to interview someone who participated in some of the conflicts we discussed in class....They appreciate the Friends taking the time to come visit them and share their experiences". And,

"I've been gathering feedback from the students about the Friends visits... The interviews... were a hit with my section...The curriculum became far more real to them through their interactions with the Friends, and they still bring up things they learned during those interviews, ably connecting them to the topics we're learning about now....the lived experience of the Friends of the Canadian War Museum has become an invaluable grounding for many of our discussions".

We are actively exploring

other avenues to work with young Canadians to connect them with the Museum and to help make history come alive.

For those with an interest in military history there is a small area of Ottawa well deserving of a special visit. The area encompasses the banks of the Rideau just off Sussex Drive and adjacent to the former city hall on Green Island as well as a park on the opposite side of Sussex Drive between the National Research Council and the (now closed) Museum of Canada in the World. In this park is a monument commemorating the 800 International Air Crew with no known graves who were associated with the Commonwealth Air Training Plan and the ferrying of aircraft to Britain during WWII. The monument consists of a stylized bronze globe surmounted by the Air Force eagle, partially enclosed by curved walls on which are the names of the dead. Near it, is found a low wall faced with aluminum into which are engraved the names of Canadians who served in the international brigades during the Spanish Civil War. A separate plinth with a plaque from the Spanish Embassy commemorates those who served in the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion. A more prominent large polished granite slab set on edge and flanked by a 25-pounder is engraved with a tribute to those "Officers and men of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery who gave their lives in the service of Canada".

(Continued on p.3)



## The Meaning of Walter Allward's Vimy Memorial Figures (Continued)

Abraham's intended sacrifice to God. The Sacrifice of Isaac prefigures the Crucifixion, the two events together being central to post-First World War justificatory sentiments that centred on the redemptive possibilities of the enormous loss of life.

In *The Breaking of the Sword*, a man literally does this. The sword is the attribute of the Christian martyr. Just as martyrs were sacrificed for a greater good, so is the sword destroyed to achieve a similar goal. In *The Sympathy of Ca-*

*nadians for the Helpless*, the young woman kneeling on the group's right owes much to the figure of the young girl in British artist George Frederick Watt's well known painting, *Hope* (1886). Widely distributed reproductions of this painting offered comfort to the bereaved during the First World War.

A question to be asked about all the female figures is why Allward considered so many semi-naked women acceptable for a war memorial? The answer is simple. In

western art, artists traditionally use female figures to express abstract concepts like liberty, justice, or victory.

**Dr. Brandon is the Historian, Art and War at the Canadian War Museum.**

The images, *Truth* and *Sacrifice*, reproduced in this article are by Walter Allward. Their accession numbers are 19770315-011 *Truth* and 19770315-001a *Sacrifice*. They are from the Beaverbrook Collection of War Art

## President's Message (Continued)

Across Sussex Drive and to the right of the former city hall there is a path that leads to the recently dedicated memorial to the 1, 976 Canadians who fought at Hong Kong. The names of every person from the Winnipeg Grenadiers, the Royal Rifles of Canada, all supporting units and even the heroic canine mascot, Gander, are engraved on both sides of and the ends of a 6-metre long

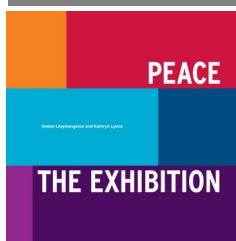
wall of polished black granite carved at the top to capture the topography of Hong Kong. Cross the bridge to the other side of the river and just off Sussex Drive on Stanley Avenue can be discovered a monument commemorating by name those CANLOAN officers who died serving in diverse British units during WWII.

Membership renewal time is upon

us. Please be generous yourself and recruit a friend.

The commemoration of WWI and some major events of WWII will be making considerable demands upon our resources.

## Souvenir Catalogue of "Peace – The Exhibition"



Canada has been shaped by people taking action to make peace possible: by acting as skilled negotiators,

providing humanitarian aid, shouldering arms or demonstrating against wars and weapons.

**Peace – The Exhibition** is the

first major exhibition to explore the many ways Canadians have acted for peace. It features more than 300 unique and important artifacts, across 12 historic episodes, and encourages visitors to add their own voices.

This souvenir catalogue captures the rich history of peace in Canada through more than 50 images and a chronological account of key historic episodes. It invites all

Canadians to better understand peace as a force for action and change in our past, and as an ongoing narrative today.

The Peace souvenir catalogue is on sale online at <http://store02.prostores.com/servlet/cyberboutique/the-1968/Peace--dsh--The-Exhibition-cln--cln-/Detail> and at the Museum boutique.



## FCWM Support to the Military History Research Centre and the Hartland Molson Library Since 1988 by Bill Smith

Support for the Library of the Military History Research Centre (MHRC) is provided by volunteer workers, by an annual military history research grant, an annual rare book conservation grant and the annual Adopt-a-Book campaign.

### Adopt-a-Book Campaign

The campaigns over the last decade and a half have resulted in over nine hundred and fifteen (915) new titles being added to the Library of the Canadian War Museum's MHRC. These annual campaigns are sponsored by the Friends of the Canadian War Museum: the object being the enable the MHRC to further a direct involvement between the individual members and the Library.

Each year the MHRC provides a list of titles and prices of the books it would like to acquire. This information is made known to the members through the Friend's Torch, normally in the spring of each year and by the Friend's E-Bulletin. Interested members may send a cheque to

the Friends along with the title of the book(s) they wish to sponsor and the Friends will notify the MHRC of the book(s) which have been sponsored. The MHRC will then purchase those books and inscribe the name of the sponsor on a book plate placed in the book.

In order to reduce the number of duplications, sponsors are requested to select a second or third choice in the event that their first choice has been purchased already by another member. Alternatively, sponsors may leave the selection to the MHRC if their first, second or third choices have been purchased already or leave their selection to the MHRC in the first place.

Friends sponsoring a title will be sent a thank you letter and an official tax receipt to the value of their remittance.

These campaigns have amounted to more than \$25,050 in Adopt-a-Book purchases since 1998.

### Military History Research Grant

In addition to the Adopt-a-Book campaign the Friends' Board of Directors annually authorizes an expenditure of up to \$2000 for additional titles that will also be suitably inscribed as sponsored by the FCWM and other required Library necessities. To date the FCWM has provided \$17,700 to the MHRC which has resulted in the additional purchase of three hundred and forty-four (344) titles for the Library.

### Rare Book Conservation

Further to the above, and since 2012, the Friends' Board of Directors are also authorizing an expenditure of up to \$2000 for the repair and preservation of the rare titles that are held by the MHRC Library. To date the Friends have provided \$4000 to the MHRC for this important conservation task.

## Adopt-a-Book 2013 – Final Report by Bill Smith

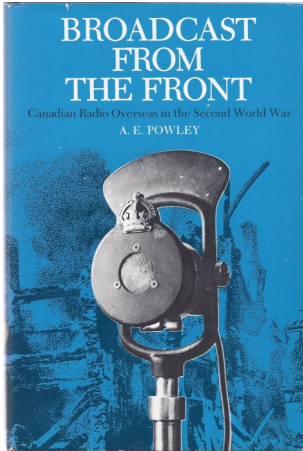
The 2013 Campaign was again a crowning success and achieved a total of all forty-nine titles being adopted this year. Friends, you have done it again, and once more you have earned a Bravo Zulu for your wonderful effort. Well Done Friends.

All forty-nine (49) were adopted by twenty-eight (28) Friends. They are: **Clifford Arthur, Pat Barnhouse, Pamela Brunt, Larry Capstick, John Clarry, Ross Connors, René Danis, Gordon Foster, John Grainger, Charles Gruchy, Judith Harper, Jarrott Holtzhauer, Donald Hook, Mari-**

**lyn Joseph, John Klenavic, Liliane Lafleur, John McLuckie, Terence Moore, Michael Parry, Patrick Rafferty, William Reed, Paul Roggeveen, Douglas Rowland, William Smith, Victor Simpson, Roy Thomas, Richard Thorman and Rollande Vézina.**



## Broadcast from the Front: Canadian Radio Overseas in the Second World War by A.E. Powley : Reviewed by John Anderson



This is a remarkable book that unfortunately failed to make much of an impact when it was first published in 1975. And now that we are starting to better appreciate and recall our military history, it is long out of print.

As the preface points out, this is a story from the remote antiquity of broadcasting, when state-of-the-art was a record of three-minutes duration cut on a spring-wound machine, and when the recording and transmission of the sound of an artillery barrage or a falling bomb was considered a wonder.

But the heart of this book is the transcriptions of "broadcasts from the front" by some of the legends of Canadian broadcasting. They

describe, for example, the courage and stoicism of Londoners during "The Blitz"; the tragedy of Dieppe; the optimism of the Canadian landings in Sicily, followed by the horrors of the battle for Ortona (described as "a mini-Stalingrad"); the D-Day landings, followed by the desperate battles in Normandy; being in London waiting helplessly for V-1 and V-2 strikes; the horrors of the battles in the Scheldt Estuary; the liberation of The Netherlands, and then the advance into northwest Germany and the sickening discovery of German concentration camps.

The climax of this book is the last chapter, fittingly entitled "The Last Day". While the news of the German surrender gave rise to wild celebrations on "civvy street", the prevailing sentiment in the front-line combat units, reflected in the CBC reporting, was only overwhelming relief, coupled with sorrow and remembrance for comrades who had not lived to see the end.

The episode recorded in the last paragraph of the book is, I think, particularly significant. Shortly after VE-Day, Matthew Halton quoted from John McCrae's "In Flan-

ders Fields" and then enjoined Canadians to "take up the torch" not only in remembrance of "Flanders Fields" but also in remembrance of the equally appalling and life-changing battles of World War II, in Italy, Normandy, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

I am too young to have first-hand memories of World War II, but the eye-witness accounts in this book bring an immediacy and freshness to many of the incidents that we now recall only from history. And I would like to think that reading this book might help us, as Matthew Halton put it, "Remember these names, Canada, because they are written on your heart."

It is fitting, I think, to bring this review forward in time for Remembrance Day. I commend this book to you.

(I was able to obtain a copy of this book through the Friends of the Canadian War Museum (FCWM). A few additional copies are still available from the FCWM's Used Military Book Room. If you would like to have a copy, you can contact them at [books-fcwm-amcg@magma.ca](mailto:books-fcwm-amcg@magma.ca))

## FCWM Virtual Museum by Mike Braham

Readers of the Torch will be aware of the Virtual Museum (Member Treasures) that has been created for the FCWM Web Site to display personal items of military memorabilia that might be of interest to others. This

note is to advise of a small change of the title from Member Treasures to **Personal Treasures**. This is to broaden the field of possible contributors beyond the FCWM membership to anyone who might have something

they wish to share. Your attention is drawn to the growing collection and you are invited to submit your own artifacts to [fcwm-amcg@magma.ca](mailto:fcwm-amcg@magma.ca) Attention: Mike Braham.



## Christmas in Ortona by Howard Mansfield

In 2003 the Friends issued a Commemorative supplement to honour those Canadians who fought in the bitter battles of the Adriatic campaign, and that supplement is available on the Friends' website. Now, seventy years after the Battle of Ortona, we recall the somewhat miraculous Christmas dinner held in a battered church in the south-east part of Ortona during a brief respite in the fighting just after the town was taken.

The battle for Ortona, a small town on the Adriatic coast of Italy, was fought from 20 - 28 December 1943 between a battalion of elite German paratroopers from the German 1st Parachute Division and soldiers of 2 Brigade of 1st Cdn Infantry Division. The initial attack on the town was made on December 20 by the Loyal Edmonton Regiment with elements of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada under command. After six days of intense combat, 3 Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, joined the battle together with tanks from the Three Rivers Regiment (*Régiment de Trois-Rivières*).

Hitler had ordered the Germans to "fight for every last house and tree" and the battle was a brutal fight for every single building on every street and block in the town. The Germans had blocked

off the side streets forcing the Canadians onto the only street wide enough for tanks. Buildings had been blown up, land mines and booby traps placed in the rubble and snipers and machine gunners were positioned at strategic locations throughout the town. The Canadians used a technique called "mouseholing" with great success. Plastic explosives were placed against the interior wall of a house and soldiers would blast a hole through the wall clearing the enemy one room at a time. They then advanced through the adjoining buildings without ever setting foot in the streets resulting in one of the earliest clear victories of the war for the Canadian army.

As the fighting continued on 25 December, 1943, it was Christmas in Ortona and in a bombed-out church at *Santa Maria di Constantinopoli* the Seaforths' regimental quartermaster arranged a first class Christmas dinner with white table cloths, soup, pork and Christmas pudding. Each man also received a bottle of beer, fruits, nuts, candies and cigarettes. In order to maintain their aggressive advance, individual companies ate dinner in rotation, each enjoying the festive celebration and then returning to the front to relieve the next. A corporal played "Silent Night" on the organ and for a few moments there was a

semblance of normality as the soldiers were able to sing these words amongst the raging war. For many, it would be their last meal.

This Christmas dinner set the foundation for an annual tradition that still is maintained to this day. Every December, the Seaforths commemorate the battle of Ortona by staging a dinner much the same as the World War 2 original. The menu is identical and the dinner allows past and serving members of the Seaforths an opportunity to remember and celebrate the accomplishments of their Regiment in one of the most arduous and costly battles of the Second World War.



**Christmas Dinner in Ortona—  
Photo by Terry Rowe, Library and  
Archives Canada/PA-152839**



## Canadian Militaria Preservation Society Museum

The museum displays the private collection of Sharon and Allan Kerr. It is open free to the public Monday to Saturday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. It is located at 10769 99 Street, Edmonton, AB T5H 4H6 – 780-424-5281 – [srhakerr@telus.net](mailto:srhakerr@telus.net)

The 4,000 square foot museum displays militaria during the period 1812 to 1962 including firearms, swords and campaign medals. One of the main features is its collection of home front posters with over 500 First and Second World War posters on display. Equally important, the museum houses over 200 original uniforms, dating from 1880 to 1980.

Additionally, the museum has over 20 topic-specific displays that expand on the information provided by various artifacts. Tailored to engage everyone in learning about Canada's history, the displays cover both mili-

tary and civilian efforts during wartime. Younger visitors will gravitate to the Children in War Time display. This very rare collection examines the marketing efforts directed at children during war, from games to clothing, to garner their support, understanding and sacrifice on both the home front and abroad. For the ladies, the Canadian Women's Army Corps exhibit is an excellent representation of the beginning of a long road to empowerment and equality forged by brave, industrious women who found a renewed sense of purpose as they helped Canada with the war effort.

Videos on eight of the displays have been produced in cooperation with Hype TV and the TV program Battle Scars: eight more are in production and will be included in the 2013 programs. These are available free on You Tube. The following are links to

one of them and to information on the museum.

Loose Lips Sink Ships - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvhiWSfQXBA>

CMPS Museum - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96ocjY1mMPU>

An earlier project on Canada's home front in the Second World War was undertaken with the Alberta Government and the Royal Alberta Museum. The site contains articles and over 3,000 images of items in our collection. High Definition images are available of all items on request.

<http://www.albertasource.ca/homefront/gallery/searchimages.php>

## The Army. Navy, Air Force Veterans in Canada (ANAVETS) by Deanna Fimrite



ANAVETS is Canada's oldest Veterans organisation - we trace our history back to 1840 when a charter was given by Queen Victoria to create a Unit in Montreal and a special Act of Parliament federally incorporated our Association in 1917. ANAVETS is comprised of a Dominion Command located in Ottawa, seven Provincial Commands and 67 Units in 8 provinces, as well as one Unit in the United States.

The Dominion headquarters advocates for Veterans and their families with the Government of Canada. We also coordinate the association nationwide to enable it to effectively influence improvement to the services and benefits available to Veterans and their dependents. We unite ex-service personnel and those who are committed to serving Veterans through good fellowship, mutual improvement, and service to our communities.

Our Units across Canada provide meeting places for the benefit of Veterans, providing camaraderie, social and sporting events and services. Units also raise awareness on military history and Veteran's issues as well as supporting local hospitals,

cadet corps and other charitable endeavors by donating monies raised by their activities.

When our military members are injured while on duty, we believe that Canada and Canadians have an obligation to ensure that they are taken care of. ANAVETS believes they deserve the best resources and benefits to help them and their families recover from their injuries and to ensure that their quality of life is not diminished.

For more information on our Association or how to become a member, visit our website at [www.anavets.ca](http://www.anavets.ca)

**Deanna Fimrite is Dominion Secretary - Treasurer of ANAVETS**

The objectives of the Association are based on three pillars of service, Advocacy, Community and Camaraderie.



## Donations: The FCWM thank all of the following who generously donated to the Friends between 1 Jul. — 30 Sep. Jun 2013

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## In-Memoriam and Special Donations (1 Jul.- 30 Sep. 2013)

The Royal Canadian Legion  
Branch 638 (ON) in memory of  
their late comrade and founding  
member LCol Edgar Herbert  
Hollyer, MC, CD (RCAF, RCR,  
Cdn Gds, CIntC)  
Mr. Stanley C. Britton  
LCol. Donald B. Carrington in  
memory of LCol. J.D.I. Jones,  
CD, RCAF/Logistics Branch  
Ms. Mai-yu Chan in memory of  
Mr. Hunter Dunn (VIII Princess  
Louise's, N.B. Hussars)  
Mr. Michael R. Curry in memory of  
Elizabeth A. Curry and Phillip C.  
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Maj. (ret'd) Thomas Dent in  
memory of Mrs. Helen Rapp-  
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Mr. Stewart Elder in memory of  
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Capt. (Ret'd) Ken Goodbody

Mr. Gordon Foster in memory of  
Helen Rapp, CWAC, RCCS  
Mr. & Mrs. Joan & Joan Gazeley  
in memory of Mr. Hunter Dunn  
Capt. (Ret'd) J.A.S. Haley in  
memory of Mrs. Helen Rapp-  
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memory of Helewn Rapp,  
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Maj. Harold G. Needham in  
memory of LCol. Edgar Herbert  
Hollyer

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Gen. (Ret'd) Ramsey M. Withers  
in memory of Capt. (Ret'd) Ken  
Goodbody  
Gen. (Ret'd) Ramsey M. Withers  
in memory of Mrs. Helen Rapp-  
Bowen  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Angus Wyatt in  
memory of Mr. Hunter Dunn  
Ms. Joan Yanofsky in memory of  
Mr. Hunter Dunn

## Some Recent Events involving the FCWM at the CWM

- 6 Nov: Screening of Korean War Documentary "18 Heroes".
- 9 Nov: Singer and flautist Gertrude Letourneau and Garry Elliot, guitarist, presented "Coming Home", a musical tribute to Korean War veterans.
- 10 Nov: Visit by this year's Silver Mother. She met the winners of the Royal Canadian Legion's Poster and Literary Contest and senior cadet awards.
- 10 Nov: a series of five films that recounted some of the experiences of Canadian men and women during the war in Afghanistan.
- 11 Nov: DG CWM and President FCWM participated in the National Remembrance Service.