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: Canada Museum: The Second World War in Flanders

CANADA MUSEUM

The Second World War in Flanders

The "Canada Museum" in Adagem, Belgium is one of the most memorable tributes to the Canadian role in the liberation of Europe that could be imagined. The museum presents the story of World War II as it was lived in Flanders. The exhibits allow the visitor to understand the pain of defeat, the misery of occupation and the joy of liberation. The role of the Canadian troops is represented by photos, documents and life size panoramas of the battle for the Leopold Canal. There is an extensive collection of uniforms, badges, posters and artifacts from private collections. The curator Alex Martens has carefully researched all aspects of the story and the visitor will obtain a comprehensive view of the history of the area and the story of the liberation.

A magnificent new building houses the museum and the cafeteria and there are plans for further expansion of exhibits. The entire project was conceived by Alex Martens and Gilbert Van Landschoot. Mr. Van Landschoot, a prominent businessman built the museum with his own money as a thanks-offering to the people of Canada. His father, a member of the Belgian resistance was saved from a Gestapo roundup in September 1944 by the timely arrival of troops of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division. The Canada Museum is his attempt to honour all those who endured the war and especially those who sacrificed their lives in the liberation of Belgium.

The museum is exceptional in every way. Mr. Van Landschoot is a timber merchant and he has used large oak beams and wood panelling to compliment the stone work and stained glass panels. This museum should be on every Canadian's priority list when visiting Europe. For information contact the museum at Fax 050/71 71 32 or write Canada Museum, Heulendonk 21, 9991 Adegem-Maldegem. *Canadian Military History* also has a limited supply of brochures available. Please send a SASE with your request.



Top: An example of one of the diorama display cases in the Canada Museum. Shown is the Support Company from the Canadian Scottish Regiment operating in support of the 7th Brigade crossing of the Leopold Canal, 6 October 1944.

Above: Alex Martens (second from left) and Gilbert Van Landschoot [right] along with some of the staff of the Canada Museum.