

2008

## Table of Contents

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### Recommended Citation

"Table of Contents." Canadian Military History 17, 3 (2008)

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# CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY

Volume 17, Number 3

Summer 2008

## Articles

5



**Spirited Imperialism:** The Formation and Command of the First Canadian Expeditionary Force in South Africa

Daniel P. Gosselin

21



**For King, not Tsar:** Identifying Ukrainians in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1914-1918

Peter Broznitsky

31



**Toward a Transnational History of World War I**

Michael S. Neiberg

## Canadian War Museum

38



**Canada and the First World War:** A Canadian War Museum Internet Exhibition

Tim Cook and Kathryn Lyons

43



**“The POW Will Safely Return!”:** Second World War Allied and German Propaganda Leaflets

Amber Lloydlangston and Tracy Lo

## Features

57



**From Alberta to Avion:** Private Herbert Peterson, 49th Battalion, CEF

Ken Reynolds

69



**From the Rhine to the Baltic:** The Final Operations of The 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, Part 1 – 24 March to 2 April 1945

R.F. Anderson

### Other Matters

From the Editor-in-Chief .....	3
Electronic Resources by Ken Reynolds.....	82

# CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY

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Agreement No.40025158; Publication mail registration no.08978

*Canadian Military History* is published four times a year in the winter, spring, summer and autumn by the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University.

Editor-in-Chief Roger Sarty  
Managing Editor Mike Bechthold  
Book Review Supplement Editor Jonathan F. Vance  
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Editorial Board: David Bashow, Serge Bernier, Laura Brandon, Patrick Brennan, Isabel Campbell, Tim Cook, Terry Copp, Serge Durlinger, Michel Fortmann, Andrew Godefroy, John Grodzinski, David Hall, Steve Harris, Geoffrey Hayes, Jack Hyatt, Whitney Lackenbauer, Mark Milner, Elinor Sloan, Jonathan Vance, Randy Wakelam, Lee Windsor.

Printed in Canada by EGRAPHICSGROUP, Kitchener, Ontario

ISSN 1195-8472

## Subscription Information

### Canada:

One year \$40.00  
(4 issues)  
Two years \$64.00  
(8 issues)

### International:

One year US\$38.00  
(4 issues)  
Two years US\$60.00  
(8 issues)

### Visa & Mastercard accepted.

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## Canadian War Museum

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The Canadian War Museum, the national military history museum, is a living memorial to those men and women who served in Canada's armed forces. It is also a centre for research and dissemination of information and expertise on all aspects of the country's military past from pre-contact era to the present. It preserves the artifacts of Canadian military experience, interprets them for present and future generations, and advances the professional study of Canadian military history, including the effects of war and conflict on the nation and all its citizens.

## The Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies

The purpose of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS) is to foster research, teaching, and public discussion of military and strategic issues of national and international significance. The Centre is intentionally multi-disciplinary; it has strong commitments in military history, with emphasis on the Canadian experience, and in strategic and operational studies, with emphasis on disarmament. LCMSDS supports both basic and applied research as well as teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels. In addition, the extensive program of LCMSDS workshops, conferences, public lectures, and publications encourages informed discussion of international security and of Canada's national interests in military and strategic issues – past, present and future.

The Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies was founded in 1991 as a Research Centre affiliated with Wilfrid Laurier University. Its primary support has come from the Department of National Defence and from Wilfrid Laurier University. The Director of the Centre is Professor Terry Copp, Professor Emeritus, Wilfrid Laurier University.

**Canada**

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program toward our mailing costs.

## From the Editor-in-Chief

Michael Neiberg held the hundred or so participants in this year's Laurier military history colloquium, held at the University of Waterloo, spellbound with his keynote address on transnational approaches to the study of the First World War. This was an impressive feat. He spoke at the end of a long day of sessions and after a splendid supper at which, to use Mackenzie King's circumlocution, many of us had "dined rather too well." When the prolonged fusillade of questions had barely died down, Mike Bechthold had the great presence of mind to immediately collar our honoured guest and figuratively grab the text from his hands. We are delighted to publish Michael's piece here.

Canada, as Michael graciously and knowledgeably highlighted, is among the most international and "allied" of the major industrial states. We became a nation in the 19th century under the protection of the British Empire, a military alliance in everything but name, and our armed forces have always served overseas as integral parts of larger British and, more recently, United Nations and North Atlantic Treaty Organization formations. Major-General Daniel Gosselin investigates the origins of the Canadian style of expeditionary forces in our first "national" overseas contingent, during the South African War (1899-1902). The article underscores the paradoxical fact that it was a British general, a British politician, and a British colonial administrator who persuaded a very reluctant Canadian government to send a substantial and cohesive national force, led by

The editors of *Canadian Military History* wish to thank the following people and organizations for their contributions to this issue:

Maggie Arbour-Doucette, Mark Humphries, Kellen Kurschinski, Lianne Leddy, Vanessa McMackin, John Parry, Kate Rose, Susan Ross, Matt Symes, Andrew Thomson, Jane Whalen.

Brockville Museum; Canadian Forces Joint Imagery Centre; Canadian War Museum; Directorate of History & Heritage, Department of National Defence; Security and Defence Forum, Department of National Defence; Library and Archives Canada; Macdonald Stewart Art Centre; Wilfrid Laurier University.

Canadian officers of sufficiently senior rank to effectively represent Canadian interests to the British high command. Canada would apply this same model to underscore national policy during both world wars, and in subsequent overseas operations, right up to the present deployment in Afghanistan.

Among the greatest challenges in military history scholarship during at least the past 30 years has been the attempt to seek out the identities and backgrounds of the too often nameless enlisted personnel of past conflicts. In the most recent past issue of this journal Jonathan Vance described the enormous difficulties he is confronting in attempting to discover the provinces of origin of members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force of the First World War. In the present issue Ken Reynolds of the Directorate of History and Heritage gives a first-person report of his participation in a fascinating alliance of historical and forensic research to identify the remains of two unknown Canadian soldiers uncovered by construction work in northern France in 2003. In an intriguing coincidence Ken's piece touches on a common thread with work by Peter Broznitsky, also published here, on the challenges of identifying the many soldiers of Ukrainian origin who served in the CEF. As it happens, the appearance of this new research on the human face of the Canadian forces in the First World War coincides with the launching of an important Canadian War Museum internet exhibition, "Canada and the First World War," described here by Tim Cook, the project historian, and Kathryn Lyons, the interpretive planner (the museum specialist who channels the enthusiasms of the researchers into presentations people other than keeners will find accessible and interesting).

The internet exhibition continues efforts initiated by Jack Granatstein during his tenure as director of the CWM in 1998-2000 to bring greater research efforts to bear on the museum's superb collections, and make the results of that research widely available. Amber Lloydlangston and Tracey Lo of the museum present in this

continued on next page...



*Errata:* The above image appeared in "He was my best subaltern": The life and death of Lieutenant Herrick S. Duggan" by Nic Clarke, *Canadian Military History*, Spring 2008. Due to a production error, the image was printed too dark to make out the detail.

Original caption: This plaque still hangs in St. Albans School in Brockville, Ontario to honour the school teachers and alumni who died during the First World War. The names of both Duggan brothers can be found here.

Photo courtesy of Bonnie Burke & Amy Whitehorne at the Brockville Museum.

### Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

...continued from previous page

issue another contribution, their study of Allied and German propaganda leaflets of the Second World War held by the Canadian War Museum. These were distributed by drops from aircraft, or the detonation of special artillery shells in the enemy's lines with the intention of persuading soldiers to surrender. The present study sheds light on a little known aspect of the stress of combat.

R.F. "Andy" Anderson, a veteran of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion's operations in Northwest Europe in 1944-45 kept a daily diary during the war. Excerpts from this diary have been published in a number of books, most recently in *Boys of the Clouds: An Oral History of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, 1942-45* (Trafford, 2005). Anderson's account is well worth republishing in whole as it is a starkly evocative account of war at the level of a



Dear sir,

What a joy it was to receive the Spring 2008 Edition of *Canadian Military History*. As per usual I read it from cover to cover. This is a quick note to say that it was good to see that Ken Reynolds highlighted the "Canadian Virtual War Memorial" which is an indispensable research tool. I would like to point out that the memorial database is live and constantly changing, especially the photograph collections associated with each of the entries. Images of individuals, grave sites or documents pertaining to the person can be e-mailed to Veterans Affairs Canada and usually within 48 hours the information is added to the site. Even through my casual research I have managed to contribute additional images and information to over 80 individuals and I have even been contacted by two families thanking me for my effort.

Thanks again for a wonderful magazine,

W.E. Storey,  
Nepean, Ontario

rifle platoon. The first part of the diary, covering operations from the battalion's drop across the Rhine on 24 March through 2 April 1945 is reprinted here in full, in its original style. The second part of the diary, covering the period from 3 April 1945 through the end of the war, will appear in a future issue. The introductory comments and reflections, drafted in the 1970s, have been edited in length and style for the sake of clarity.

Roger Sarty  
Editor-in-Chief, August 2008