

2010

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From the Editor-in-Chief

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The articles and features in the present issue cover subjects from the time of the American Revolution to the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, treat naval, air, and ground forces, and probe the wider cultural dimensions of armed conflict. Much as the Laurier Centre is committed to this chronological breadth and diversity of subjects, credit for the achievement must go to the wide interests of our established and new contributors.

Timothy Sayle, a Canadian PhD candidate at Temple University in Philadelphia, has produced a revisionist account of Canada's decision not to participate in the US led invasion of Iraq in 2003. The piece traces the diplomatic action in Ottawa, New York, Washington and London on the basis of interviews with several of the key participants, and the recently published memoirs of others. Of particular interest is material on the assessment by Canadian intelligence of privileged information from the US on Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction.

Rob Fisher, a previous contributor to this journal, started his career at the Directorate of History where he carried out the bulk of the research and analysis on convoy operations in 1942 for the new official history of the navy. Important results of his work appeared in *CMH* ("Tactics, Training, Technology: The RCN's Summer of Success, July-September 1942," Vol.6, no.2 (Autumn 1997), pp.7-20), and feature prominently in *No Higher Purpose: The Official Operational History of the Royal Canadian Navy in the Second World War, 1939-1943, Vol. II, Part 1* (Vanwell Publications and the Department of National Defence, 2003). With the deep cuts at the directorate in 1996, he won a position

at the National Archives, as it then was. He has always cultivated a wide range of interests, including family history, both as a professional pursuit in archival science and to investigate his own ancestry. Here he combines these interests with his training in military history to tell the story of one of his forebears who fought with the loyalist forces in the American Revolution, an aspect of that conflict not well developed in the literature.

Geoffrey Jackson, a PhD candidate in Military and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary, joins in the debate about the purpose and usefulness of trench raids during the First World War with a study of the extensive raiding program the 4th Canadian Division carried out before the assault on Lens and Hill 70 in the summer of 1917. Readers may recall Geoffrey's article on the Canadian Corps's attack on Lens that appeared in Vol.17, no.1 (Winter 2008).

Caitlin McWilliams, a graduate student at Wilfrid Laurier, has been working on the cultural aspects of the Canadian air effort during the Second World War. The article presented here grew from a presentation on aircraft nose art in No.6 (RCAF) Group, Bomber Command, that was well received at Carleton University, and then at the military history colloquium at Laurier last May.

Regular contributor J.L. Granatstein has kindly allowed publication of his brief in support of Lieutenant (N) Andrew S. Liebmann's case against the Crown for discrimination on religious grounds. Lieutenant Liebmann's appointment to the staff of the commander of the Canadian contingent in the Persian Gulf War was cancelled because he was Jewish. In the brief Jack sets the case in the context of other instances of discrimination in the history of the Canadian forces. (We have treated the brief as an historical document, and

not converted capitalization and other such details to the journal's style.)

Suzanne Evans of the Canadian War Museum continues her work on the rehabilitation of injured veterans of the First World War with an investigation into a pioneering series of films produced by the Department of Soldiers Civil Re-establishment in 1918. Suzanne sets her research in the context of the history of Canadian film, and also the use of film by the Canadian, British and German governments as a medium for public information. The Canadian War Museum section includes an obituary on Donald Kenneth Anderson, the Royal Canadian Air Force official war artist. The piece updates a substantial, previously unpublished, biographical study of Anderson by Hugh Halliday, former curator of war art at the museum, a prominent historian of aviation and, more recently, honours and awards in the Canadian forces, well known to readers of the journal.

This issue also includes the third and final instalment of a series of documents I selected to support the Ontario government's creation of a memorial plaque placed at the grave of Admiral Sir Charles Kingsmill, the first professional head of the Canadian navy. The present document is something of a sustained diatribe Kingsmill dispatched to the British Admiralty in November 1917. Here is a string of complaints about the contradictory advice Canada had received about the U-boat threat to the east coast and Newfoundland, and the meagre assistance provided despite the fact Canada had devoted the major share of its war effort to the raising of land forces on the assurance the Royal Navy could provide maritime protection.

Roger Sarty
November 2010

Unveiling of Historical Plaque in Honour of Admiral Sir Charles Kingsmill, Portland, Ontario, 15 May 2010

Canadian Forces Support Unit (Ottawa) Photo Section (CFSU (O)) SU2010-0533-01



CFSU (O) SU2010-0533-03



CFSU (O) SU2010-0533-24



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Clockwise from top left:

Admiral Kingsmill's gravestone in the cemetery of Emmanuel Anglican Church; the honour guard from Naval League Cadet Corps Vice-Admiral Kingsmill and Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps Falkland, both of Ottawa; the unveiling of the plaque while Vice-Admiral Dean McFadden, chief of the maritime staff looks on from the left; the history contingent (from left): Richard Gimblett, command historian of the Canadian Navy, Michael Whitby, navy team leader Directorate of History and Heritage, NDHQ, W.A.B. Douglas, former Director General History, NDHQ, Diana Kingsmill Flynn, the admiral's grand-daughter, Roger Sarty, Michael Kingsmill, the admiral's grandson; Guests from the Portland area, who shared their memories of the Kingsmill family at the admiral's beloved summer home, and the naval community in eastern Ontario.

Call for Papers

22nd Military History Colloquium

University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

5-7 May 2011

Hosted by:

Departments of History, St. Jerome's University and the University of Waterloo and
The Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University

We invite proposals for papers to be presented at the 22nd Military History Colloquium, to be held at the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario on 5-7 May 2011.

The primary focus will be on all periods of Canadian military history - pre-1914, First and Second World Wars, the Korean War and post-1945 developments including peacekeeping and Afghanistan. Proposals for papers advancing new and innovative perspectives and approaches will receive first consideration. Proposals are welcome from all scholars, but graduate students and recent Ph.Ds are especially encouraged to submit.

Please submit a 1-page proposal to
(email is preferred method):

Geoff Hayes

University of Waterloo,
Waterloo, ON

Phone: 519-888-4567 x.35138;

Fax: 519-746-2658

Email: cmhistory2011@gmail.com

www.canadianmilitaryhistory.com

The deadline for proposals is
28 February 2011.



Topics of special interest for 2010:

95th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme | 70th Anniversary of Hong Kong | 50th Anniversary of the Berlin Wall
<https://scholars.wlu.ca/cmh/vol19/iss4/1>

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