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From the Editor-in-Chief

ROGER SARTY

Canada's production of munitions and other industrial and food supplies during the two world wars was at least as important as the country's military effort, but the literature is notably thin. Kathryn Rose, of Memorial University of Newfoundland, helps to explain why this is the case for the Second World War by recounting the rushed and half-hearted efforts to capture the history of the massive and successful Department of Munitions and Supply as the last parts of that wartime organization were being dismantled in the late 1940s. Pierrick Labbé, who teaches at the Edmunston campus of the Université de Moncton, pieced together the incomplete government records with other archives to explore ammunition production during the Second World War in his PHD thesis (University of Ottawa), and discovered how important were precedents from the very large Canadian effort in 1914–1918. The key to that earlier success was the small but vitally important centre of expertise in the Dominion Arsenal at Quebec City, whose creation the government authorized in 1879. Here Pierrick examines the origins of the decision to create the arsenal, and its development from the time production of ammunition began in the early 1880s up to the outbreak of war in 1914.

Like most historians, I suspect, I always assumed enlistment for service in foreign wars became an issue in Canada only during the Spanish Civil War of 1936–1939. Here, Tyler Wentzell explores new territory, the application in pre-Confederation and early post-Confederation Canada of Britain's Foreign Enlistment Act. Tyler is an infantry officer who recently completed his law studies at the University of Toronto. Curtis Mainville, another soldier-scholar, provides a close analysis of the heroism of Lieutenant Allen Otty of Gagetown, New Brunswick, at the battle of Passchendaele, and

places Otty's service in the context of his family's and community's engagement in the war effort of 1914-1918.

One of the interests I had hoped to pursue when I moved from the government to Wilfrid Laurier in 2004 was the development of military history scholarship in Canada in the 1940s-1960s when the canonical works I knew as a student in the 1970s appeared. This historiography was the subject of extremely stimulating conversation with colleagues (in fact, dear friends) at the Directorate of History and at the Canadian War Museum. There was, however, never time for more research than the bare bones needed for current projects. University life has featured no fewer distractions, but the Laurier Centre has provided opportunities to get on with the project. It seemed fitting to offer a substantial piece to the journal, and Terry and Mike welcomed the idea. In fact the article brings together progress reports presented at various of the annual Military History Colloquia.

Mike arranged for us to be able to reprint a closely linked piece by Richard Glover, one of the "pioneers" in academic military scholarship in Canada, who also played a major role in the development of the Canadian War Museum and what is now the Canadian Museum of History (formerly the Canadian Museum of Civilization). The article, "War and Civilian Historians," originally appeared in *The Journal of the History of Ideas* (18, no.1 [January 1957], 84-100), and is reproduced through the kind permission of the University of Pennsylvania Press.

In the Canadian War Museum section, Amber Lloydlangston has produced a biographical piece that marks the passing of Molly Lamb Bobak, the only woman to become an official war artist in the war art programme of 1939-1946. Molly Lamb Bobak left a wonderful written record of her wartime experiences, which Amber has mined to produce a compelling portrait of a person who had to overcome numerous obstacles and disappointments and yet was endlessly cheerful and optimistic. Less exuberant, but no less impressive for their positive spirit and balance, are the comments on commanders of the wartime Army by Lieutenant-General W.A.B. Anderson who was a staff officer in senior headquarters overseas. This is another of the transcriptions made by Jack Granatstein of interviews for his 1993 book *The Generals*.

This issue marks a milestone. It is the last to be assembled by Mike Bechthold, the founding managing editor, who has taken his formidable skills to the Wilfrid Laurier University Press. Mike has

produced more than seventy-five issues of the journal (over 3.5 million words) since publication began in the fall of 1992.

I have seen Mike's work from many perspectives over much of that time – as a supremely helpful editor for my own pieces, as an assuring mentor for students and young colleagues who nervously submitted pieces to the journal, as a publishing partner when I was at the war museum, and, for the past eight years, as the one-man band who makes everything happen from peer review through selection of contents, photographic research, and, of course, masterful graphics and layout. Terry, when I came to the journal in 2006, made it clear I could count on unusual commitment, talent, and willing collaboration. In fact, as I've hinted on many occasions in this column, Mike has consistently exceeded even this star billing. Mike, you are already sorely missed.

In the fall we will be producing a special edition as nos. 3 and 4 of the current volume: the papers from the international historical conference held by the Navy and the Canadian War Museum in 2010 to celebrate the centennial of the founding of the Royal Canadian Navy. There is extensive coverage of historical developments and more recent maritime security issues for Canada, the United States, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and other nations whose navies' origins can be traced to the influence of Britain's Royal Navy in the 18th to 20th centuries. It was an exciting conference and we are delighted at the opportunity to present this important collection.

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