

# THE / LE BULLETIN



## From the Vice-President

Have you ever considered donating to the Organization of Military Museums of Canada?

Each year members receive a membership form to complete, ensuring their active participation in the organization and at the annual course. At the bottom of that form we provide the option to make a donation.

Historically and unfortunately, the response has been poor. Many years the total on the donation line in the annual financials is less than \$100.00.

We realize of course that many organizations are cash strapped, and the majority of our members are volunteers and pensioners, but I'd like ask all of you to consider making a donation in support of the OMMC. Every donation, no matter what size, is valued. Funds will be used for the continued operation and growth of the OMMC.

Anne

## Du vice-présidente

Avez-vous déjà envisagé de faire un don à l'Organisation des musées militaires du Canada?

Chaque année, les membres reçoivent un formulaire d'adhésion à remplir, garantissant leur participation active à l'organisation et au cours annuel. Au bas de ce formulaire, nous offrons la possibilité de faire un don.

Historiquement et malheureusement, la réponse a été médiocre. De nombreuses années, le total de la ligne de don dans les états financiers annuels est inférieur à 100,00 \$.

Nous savons bien sûr que de nombreuses organisations sont à court d'argent et que la majorité de nos membres sont des bénévoles et des retraités, mais j'aimerais vous demander à tous d'envisager de faire un don pour soutenir l'OMMC. Chaque don, quelle que soit sa taille, est valorisé. Les fonds seront utilisés pour le fonctionnement et la croissance continue de l'OMMC.

Anne

## The Crerar Caravan

By Andrew Oakden, RCA Museum



In 1989, Colonel Walton, the CFB Shilo Base Commander, said the Crerar Caravan was “one of the most important Canadian military artifacts from the Second World War.” The caravan was the field living quarters of General Crerar, the First Canadian Commander of the Canadian Army during WWII.

General H. D. G. Crerar, PC, CH, CB, DSO, CD (1888 – 1965) was an outstanding military general who commanded the Canadian Forces during WWII. On 20 March 1944, “Uncle Harry,” as his staff called him, assumed command of the First Canadian Army. He was the first Canadian to achieve the rank of General while at the front.

General Crerar’s contribution to the war effort was immense. The battles that he led had a significant impact on the Allied war effort. He is one of the most decorated and revered military leaders in Canadian history. After fighting in two world wars and 35 years of military service, he retired from the military in 1946.

From his caravan, General Crerar conducted meetings with distinguished guests such as King George VI, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and General Montgomery. In September 1945, after the war was over, the Canadian military shipped the caravan to Canada. General Crerar planned for the vehicle to tour Canada to promote the military and then go to a major museum. Instead, the military processed the trailer for disposal. Note the photo of the caravan from 1945.

In 1980, Dr. Bill Gregg acquired the caravan from an auto-wrecking yard in Ontario. In 1986, Gregg donated the caravan to the RCA Museum, who then had the caravan refurbished. It was in bad shape with parts of the roof missing. In WWII, they placed the caravan on a Diamond T, six-wheeled, 4-ton chassis with a hard-topped cab. In the 1980s, during the restoration process, they used the same model of Diamond T chassis, but with the wrong cab. They used a soft-topped cab, instead of a hard-topped version. The RCA Museum now has a hard-topped cab to replace the soft-topped one. We plan to switch cabs when time and resources permit.

The caravan has its place in history – it is notable and worth remembering. Regarding the caravan, Colonel Walton wrote: “it’s the memories of what happened inside, the ghosts of the past that make it so important.” It provides us with memories of General Crerar, and it helps us to make sense of the Allied victory during WWII. It reflects on many of Canada’s proudest moments and is an integral part of Canadian history and heritage.



Crerar Caravan owned by the RCA Museum, Shilo. Current state (above) and in 1945 (below).



## Valour Canada Updates

By Aaron Curtis, Valour Canada



**CONNECTING  
CANADIANS  
TO THEIR MILITARY  
HERITAGE**

Valour Canada's spring has been unlike any other. We, like most everyone, were caught off guard and have had to change many of our planned events. We continue to operate and are trying to stay agile as the future unfolds.

### Youth Education Program for Museums: Tentative Autumn Schedule

Valour Canada's Character of Canadian Military History (CCMH) program is currently on hold for the summer months. Looking ahead to the autumn and assuming that Canada is back to some semblance of normal by then, we intend to be available for free presentations to students, cadets, guides/scouts, etc., in the following locations: Southern Ontario/Golden Horseshoe: 30 September – 6 October, Ottawa River/Eastern Ontario: 7 – 10 October; Nova Scotia: October 19 – 21; Alberta: October 25 – 31; British Columbia: November 22 – 28. Please contact us if you'd like to discuss this opportunity: [aaron.curtis@valourcanada.ca](mailto:aaron.curtis@valourcanada.ca)



Credit: Library and Archives Canada

Credit: Canada DND, LAC PA-1033609.

### Valour Canada History & Heritage Scholarship

Commencing in 2020, Valour Canada will be annually presenting an award to eligible post-secondary aspiring Canadian high school students. The aim of Valour Canada's History and Heritage Scholarship (VCHHS) is to support Canadian students in their college or university pursuits in an engaging, thought-provoking, and memorable manner. The student who creates the best essay and video response to the provided question will be awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to be put towards their post-secondary education. The runner-up will receive a \$750 scholarship. Visit our [VCHHS page](#) to view this year's essay question and to read more about the scholarship contest.



### Veterans' Voices: An Online Exhibition

The Juno Beach Centre, Je Me Souviens, and Valour Canada are proud to present Veterans' Voices/Voix de Veterans, a digital exhibit that recognizes the Canadian efforts on D-Day and during the Second World War. The exhibit traces the journey of 12 Canadian veterans from the Royal Canadian Navy, the army, and the Royal Canadian Air Force, who liberated Normandy and France from Nazi oppression during the summer of 1944.

### Royal Roads' Documentary Video Re-launch

Over the past few years Royal Roads University has created over 30 Canadian war history and heritage documentaries. In addition to being an extensive educational resource, the friendly faces and expertise of multiple OMMC members can be found throughout. Over the course of 2020, these videos are relaunching on [Valour Canada's YouTube page](#). Please become a channel subscriber and receive notifications when a new video is posted.

To help us continue educating young Canadians about Canada's military history, please consider becoming a member or making a donation. Connect with us at: [contact@valourcanada.ca](mailto:contact@valourcanada.ca).

## Pilotless Planes in the Second World War

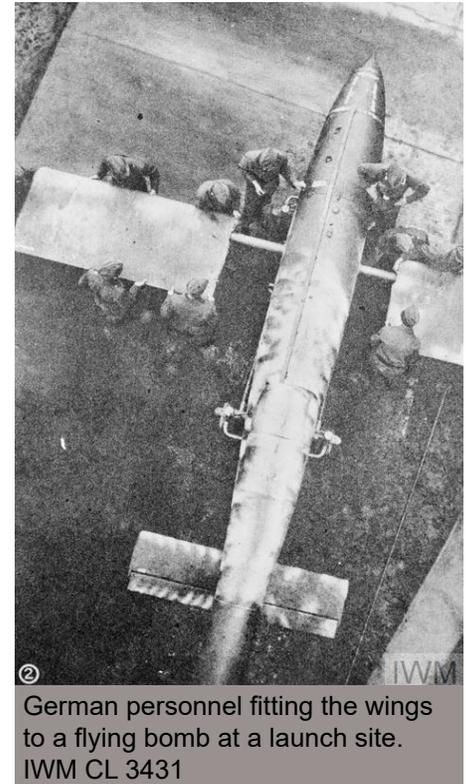
By Bethany Aitchison, Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence

The Second World War saw a great deal of technological development and innovation. German engineering technology was racing forwards, and they would be the first nation to see an operational jet aircraft. But another project near the end of the war, dubbed Vergeltungswaffe (or 'Vengeance Weapon') 1, caused destruction and terror on the homefront.

Known as the V-1, the buzz bomb, or the doodlebug, these pulse jet-propelled machines were launched from sites in mainland Europe, with most of the sites pointed at London. They were unguided, but could stay on the same heading throughout their flight, and were designed for their engines to cut out, and then ultimately to fall, at a predetermined distance from launch, causing a large explosion at the crash site.

This changed the mindset towards air defence. Previously, air defence had been aerial combat with manned machines, but the V-1 didn't have a pilot, and had no reason or capability to return home. New tactics involving ground anti-aircraft crews and pilots going up against the quick low-flying bomb needed to be developed. This form of air defence against an unmanned and uncontrolled but very powerful weapon set the tone for Cold War missile development and missile defence.

The Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence has an engine pod from a V-1 flying bomb that was received from the Canadian War Museum many years ago, as well as a piece of a V-1 that detonated in London. That small piece of twisted metal was picked up off the streets of London by a Canadian with the Directorate of Engineering Development, researching explosives and detonation for National Defence Headquarters. Interestingly for our OMMC membership, this gentleman was the father of the late Ross McKenzie, of the RMC Museum in Kingston. This piece was one of a small collection of Second World War items that Ross donated to us a number of years ago that were parts of aerial explosive objects that his father had researched.



German personnel fitting the wings to a flying bomb at a launch site. IWM CL 3431

These two pieces are complemented by a sound box that plays a recording from the Imperial War Museum of a V-1 flying bomb in flight, with the subsequent eerie silence as the engine cut out, and then the inevitable sound of its explosion. Audiences that hear these sounds have a better understanding of the terror that this weapon caused, and the ultimate need for improvements and innovation in air defence.

**Show your pride!  
Montrez votre fierté!**

# **THE SUPPLY DEPOT!**



**The online store for OMMC shirts and giftwear. All products are printed on-demand and will be shipped directly to you!**

**A wide variety of clothing and household items to choose from, with all proceeds going back to OMMC!**

***La boutique en ligne pour les vêtements et les produits promotionnels de l'OMMC est accessible. Tous les produits sont imprimés sur demande et seront expédiés directement à vous!***

***Une grande variété de vêtements et de produits sont disponibles et tous le revenus retourneront à l'OMMC!***

**[www.cafepress.ca/TheSupplyDepot](http://www.cafepress.ca/TheSupplyDepot)**



Military personnel form up outside Résidence des Florales de Lasalle during a departure ceremony, as part of Operation LASER, in Montreal, Quebec, on 3 June 2020.

Des militaires affectés à la Résidence des Florales de Lasalle se rassemblent en formation lors de la cérémonie de départ, dans le cadre de l'opération LASER, à Montréal, au Québec, le 3 juin 2020.

Photo: Avv Zamir Muminiar, Imagery, 2nd Cdn Div, St Jean/Montreal

## The Organization of Military Museums of Canada

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