



# SHELDRAKE'S LOG

UBIQUE

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## In this Issue:

- A few words of introduction to Operation Husky 2018 on page 2;
- A review of the recently published Memoirs of Sir Edward Morrison also on page 2;
- A brief review of Roméo Dallaire's most recent book "Waiting for First Light" on page 4;
- A series of articles from various sources on the Mission in Mali;
  - The importance of Canada's mission to Mali on pages 3 and 4;
  - Canada's peacekeeping mission in Africa is destined to become the folly in Mali on page 5;
  - Should Canada risk soldiers' lives in its peacekeeping mission in Mali? on page 6;
  - Un engagement canadien au Mali « en deçà des attentes » on page 7;
- PASSCHENDAELE 1917, 100 ANS DÉJÀ ! on pages 8 and 9;
- Facebook Groups and Websites of interest on pages 9 and 10;
- A Request for Assistance from the Regimental Major on page 11.

This issue has a slightly different look.

I have switched from a PC (after over 30 years) and Windows (after 25 years) to an iMac.

For the past eight years I have been using Microsoft Publisher 2010 to prepare Sheldrake's Log.

The current issue was prepared using Apple Pages which I am still learning and finding challenging.

The next issue should be back to a better format, including many pictures of activities by the Montreal Gunners: 2RCA; AAM; and 3BAM.

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**Sheldrake**



## Operation Husky 2018

### Two major events are planned

#### 1. The Walk Across Sicily in the summer of 2018

In recognition of the importance of the successful landing in Sicily on July 10th, 1943, Operation Husky 2018 organizers will, conduct a ceremony on "Bark West" beach, the site of the 1st Canadian Division landing on the outskirts of Pachino and begin a 20 day walk to Adrano.

One marker will be placed for each of the days of the 28-day campaign, featuring a list of the fallen.

A daily ceremony will take place in each of 20 towns in which a wreath will be laid for the Canadians, Italians and Germans who died in the war 75 years earlier.

#### 2. The Return of the Guns Tour in the fall of 2018

An 8 day bus tour through the battlefields of Sicily and Italy marking the anniversary of the start of the Italian Campaign.

Join us... sign up to follow us: <http://www.ophusky.org>

## Morrison: The Long-Lost Memoir of Canada's Artillery Commander in the Great War

Major General Sir Edward Morrison  
Edited by Susan Raby-Dunne

Edward Morrison was a journalist who became city editor of the Hamilton Spectator. He subsequently moved to Ottawa where he joined the Ottawa Citizen.

A Reservist, he commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Battery of Ottawa before serving with distinction in the War in South Africa.

On his return home in 1901, he rejoined the Ottawa Citizen, where he became its Editor-in-chief.

He became Commanding Officer of the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade of Field Artillery in Ottawa.

In 1913, he left the Ottawa Citizen and joined the Regular Force as Director of Artillery.

His Memoires were edited by Susan Raby-Dunne.

Major (Retired) Marc George, formerly Director of the Artillery Museum in Shilo, also made a major contribution to the work to ensure its technical and historical accuracy.

The war is seen from the perspective of a journalist who was a senior commander. It is very enjoyable reading.

His assessment of most of the senior British Army officers appointed to the Canadian Corps is very frank and very unflattering. They were arrogant, in many cases incompetent, treating the Canadians as "Colonials".

He is generous in his praise of General Byng who commanded the Canadian Corps at Vimy Ridge and General Currie who succeeded him.

My only criticisms of the book are with the final editing. All of the maps are placed between Chapters 19 and 20. I was continually flipping forward or backward to these maps to follow the course of battle. They should have been placed near the beginning of the appropriate chapter. The photos were also grouped between chapters 29 and 30 instead of the appropriate in the appropriate chapter. This may have been a problem in the Kindle Edition which I purchased.

Otherwise this is a very readable book and a good addition to the history of World War I.



## The importance of Canada's mission to Mali

ROBERT FOWLER  
SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL  
PUBLISHED MARCH 29, 2018

Robert R. Fowler was the foreign policy adviser to three prime ministers, personal representative for Africa of three others, deputy minister of defence, Canada's longest-serving ambassador to the United Nations, and UN Special Envoy to Niger. He is the author of *A Season in Hell: My 130 Days in the Sahara with Al Qaeda*.

Canada sent more than 400,000 soldiers, out of a population of just eight million, to stand with our allies in the trenches of the First World War. We lost 65,000. Twenty years later, we again stood with our friends in the struggle against fascism and genocide, mobilizing 1.1 million troops from a population of 11 million. We left 44,000 buried overseas, and tens of thousands came home wounded from the Second World War. And yet, just a few years later, Canadians fought bravely for international stability under the newly-minted United Nations flag in Korea for the ideal of universally agreed-upon rules to keep peace, to provide security, to avoid another worldwide catastrophe – rules Canadians helped formulate.

Subsequently, over the next three-and-a-half decades, in pursuit of the same objectives, Canada dispatched over 125,000 soldiers and air-force personnel to more than 30 UN-mandated – and largely successful – peacekeeping operations in an effort to help manage an increasingly multifaceted and intractable world, which was growing increasingly impervious to those efforts. But those efforts saved countless lives.

Eventually, however, we in the West lost our way. Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya were expensive lessons in ignorance, naivety and hubris. Seven years of conflict in Syria has revealed the extent of the decay of our collective will to manage threats to world peace and security – the founding premise of the United Nations and the specific mandate of the Security Council.

Last week, the Government announced a modest commitment of 250 soldiers and half a dozen helicopters to the 12,000-strong United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) which seeks to assist our African friends, support our European allies and play a very small part in enhancing international order. That decision is very little, very late and far less than what was promised in August, 2016. That a decision regarding where and how to deploy those troops took 20 months beggars comprehension. Notwithstanding its tentativeness and timing, the decision makes sense and is a welcome development. But not everyone thinks so.

Some observers have warned that it will be a dangerous mission. Of course it will! Some worry that the situation in Mali is complex, with little chance of outright “victory” and no exit

strategy. All true. But do we maintain a regular force of 68,000 superbly trained service men and women, and 27,000 reservists, only to leave the difficult and dangerous undertakings to others? Do we spend \$20-billion a year on defence only to consider risk-free endeavours?

The deployment of Canadian troops to Mali is not an “invasion of Muslim lands,” but rather part of a universally mandated stability operation involving 40 countries from all parts of the world, which is seeking to protect those 100 million people who currently inhabit the nations of the Sahel (and who will number 200 million by 2050). It is very much a humanitarian undertaking.

This UN mission isn't about regime change or other myths and pipe dreams that have led us astray in the past. Canadian soldiers will not be seeking to turn Mali into Alberta, nor trying to substitute Malian values with ours. Rather, the main thrust of the MINUSMA mandate is to encourage the implementation of a treaty between the ever fractious and belligerent Touaregs and the weak and impoverished national government of Mali. However, a key, if understated, focus of the mission is also to reduce – the less squeamish French say “neutralize” – the *jihadi* threat to the most defenceless people on the planet, who inhabit a 7,000-km swath of desert and near-desert stretching across the widest part of Africa, from Somalia to Mauritania. Once reduced, perhaps Mali and the other countries of that troubled region will be able to contend with such a threat themselves.

It is true that neither this mission, nor Canada's small contribution, will offer a permanent solution to the challenges facing Mali today. But, even if there is to be no “Mission Accomplished” moment, and the *jihadi* threat to the Sahel region will not be eradicated, the mission will improve the lives of millions of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world.

Canada has long maintained a robust development program in Mali that has often reached \$100-million a year. In the Western Sahel alone, donor countries have collectively made an enormous investment of approximately US\$80-billion. If we do not act to stabilize ethnic tensions within Mali and reduce the predations of the *ihadis*, we risk the obliteration of everything we have sought to achieve over 50 years with that investment.

There is a further reason why Canadians should support the UN mission in Mali. To a significant extent, we helped break it, and we have an obligation to help fix it. Slow to understand the law of unintended consequences, we in the West, through our ill-considered intervention in Libya in 2011, caused the massive



## The importance of Canada's mission to Mali (Cont'd)

armament of the *ihadis*, and particularly Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). This gave them the wherewithal to occupy the Northern two-thirds of Mali just over a year later, and pose a continuing threat to the entire Sahel region. Five years ago, my captor, Mokhtar Belmokhtar, an AQIM leader, gave an interview to the Mauritanian news agency, ANI, in which he said, "We have been one of the main beneficiaries of the revolutions in the Arab world. ... As for our acquisition of Libyan armament, that is an absolutely natural thing."

The Islamists are focused on spreading – by the sword – their distorted understanding of the will of Allah. They hate everything we represent, everything we hold most dear – liberty, democracy, equality, free will – all things they believe are the province of Allah rather than of men.

They also hate the United Nations with a vicious passion. They have attacked UN facilities and personnel (in Baghdad, Algiers, Abuja, Mali and beyond) precisely because the UN and its various humanitarian programs and agencies are protecting, feeding, housing, healing, teaching and training the citizens of countries such as Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. In so doing, the UN offers the prospect of a way of life that is so much better than the cruel regime of servitude and repression which the *ihadis* seek to impose.

These fanatics were very clear to me about what they hoped to achieve: Somalia-like chaos across much of the African continent. If they are successful, it will further exacerbate the current massive illegal immigration pressures on Europe. Such pressures already are destabilizing the economies and polities of some of our closest friends and most important allies. Helping to alleviate that pressure is surely a worthy goal.

Canadians depend a great deal on the health and efficacy of a universally accepted, rules-based international system for our own peace, prosperity and security. Surely, then, we should be doing what we can to buttress that beleaguered concept – not least in light of the fact that some of our powerful friends seek to tear it asunder in favour of unilateral, me-first doctrines.

Canadians should be bending every effort to help better order the world around us, striving to resolve complex and seemingly intractable international disputes and conflicts, and helping to protect their victims.

Those who criticize Canada's decision to send troops to Mali under UN auspices seem to believe that we should only have friends who are never in need, allies who never require our assistance, and a world order to which we need not contribute.

Who needs that kind of Canada?

## Waiting for First Light My Ongoing Battle with PTSD

Roméo Dallaire  
Random House Canada  
2016

Roméo Dallaire presents a very frank discussion of his struggle with PTSD. This book provides insights that will allow others to support for those veterans struggling with PTSD.

Chapter 3 presents the reasons why he resigned as Senator. The Veterans Charter which his Senate Committee presented for approval was watered down by Conservative government beyond recognition.

Chapter 6 presents his plea for support for veterans suffering from PTSD

To read an excellent review in MacLean's magazine, go to:

<https://www.macleans.ca/culture/books/inside-romeo-dallaires-brutally-revealing-new-memoir/>



## Canada's peacekeeping mission in Africa is destined to become the folly in Mali

David Krayden · for CBC News · Posted: Mar 21, 2018

*Whether we send 250 or 2,500 personnel, we'll be sending them into quicksand*

Canada's upcoming contribution to a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali — announced by the Trudeau government on Monday — is destined to become the folly in Mali. It is exactly where Canada and the Canadian military does not need to be.

First of all, the Canadian military has been unequivocal in issuing warnings of deploying to African nations that are in the midst of civil war, rife with Islamic extremism and replete with child soldiers — and all three conditions exist in Mali. It's become one of the deadlier UN missions in history as a result.

A military briefing note on potential peacekeeping missions to Africa, published before the Mali announcement this week, warned that "child soldiers ... are likely to be encountered on an increasing basis," which can lead to severe psychological trauma for deployed personnel. The document noted that combat encounters between Canadian soldiers and Mali children could become a public affairs nightmare if the engagement "is not well-handled and communicated effectively." In fact, the authors continue, "there is a strong potential for significant negative impact on the mission."

No kidding. Any of us who remember Somalia can attest to that. In that case, the Canadian Airborne Regiment became embroiled in a very dirty war where it could not discern friend from foe, nor the kids from the adults who often came around to loot the camp supplies. It ended with a tortured and beaten-to-death Somali teen, a disbanded regiment and larger questions about the overall purpose of Canadian "peacekeeping" missions.

In the same briefing note mentioned above, the military warned about sending less than the most combat-capable troops to any African peacekeeping mission, suggesting that "a force consisting of only lightly armed and equipped personnel may be much more vulnerable to attacks from child soldier units."

"Consideration should be given to the provision of heavier weapons," it added.

So what is the Liberal government planning to send to Mali? Lightly armed helicopters and troops that are described as "support" and not combat-ready — exactly contrary to the advice offered by the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). And of course, the Trudeau government wants our UN contingent deployed with a marked female presence, even though — despite years of emphasis on getting more women in uniform

— women comprise less than three per cent of CAF combat arms today.

Part of the rationale behind the mission is obvious: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is desperate for a seat on the UN Security Council, a UN body that is remarkable for its uselessness and characterized by its dominance by tinpot dictatorships. But Trudeau has promised the pursuit of the UN Security Council seat as part and parcel of the idea that "Canada is back."

But back exactly where is the question. If he means back in the 1970s, that would be entirely accurate and in keeping with the prime minister's perception of peacekeeping as a wonderful Pearsonian invention that seeks to remedy strife in the world with UN blue helmets and civil conversation. That kind of peacekeeping was both real and efficacious for the Cold War realities of Cyprus and the Middle East. But that is not the world we live in today.

Peacekeeping is an anachronism, and it is quite appropriate that the equally anachronistic UN keeps describing its overseas missions in that way. Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Canada has largely been committed to peacemaking operations through the more robust delivery services of NATO, which did an effective job of ending civil war in the former Yugoslavia where the UN had failed.

But UN peacekeeping in Africa has a much different legacy. The mission in Somalia was visceral and devastating for the Canadian Armed Forces. In Rwanda, Canadian Lieut.-Gen. Romeo Dallaire oversaw a catastrophic peacekeeping operation that stood by helplessly while a genocide of 800,000 people occurred. Canada's experience in the Congo was dubbed "the bungle in the jungle" by many observers.

These experiences shouldn't be laid at the feet of the CAF, who (aside from a few glaring exceptions) provide that unique mixture of bravery, expertise, experience and civility that is so right for any peacekeeping operation — if they are actually deployed to one, that is, and not in the midst of the chaos of civil war and ethnic cleansing.

Instead of playing gender politics and demonstrating his sycophantic love of the UN, Trudeau should be ensuring that we have a military that is capable of fulfilling its basic obligations to NATO and NORAD.

Ultimately though, the folly in Mali is not just emblematic of a failed defense policy. After dithering over where to send Canadian troops to plant the peacekeeping flag, Trudeau has chosen a most inhospitable plot of land that is replete with Islamic terrorism, child soldiers, torrid temperatures and a raging civil war. Whether he sends 250 personnel or 2,500 personnel, he is sending them into quicksand.





## Should Canada risk soldiers' lives in its peacekeeping mission in Mali?

CBC Radio • March 20

Produced by The Current's Kristin Nelson and Karin Marley

While critics warn that Canada's move to send troops to the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali puts Canadian lives at risk, others argue it's time re-engage in the world of modern peacekeeping.

Canada will commit as many as [250 troops to join UN peacekeeping efforts in Mali](#) this summer, along with up to six helicopters.

The year-long deployment to the troubled West African country was officially announced Monday by Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan and Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland. CBC News first reported on it Friday.

The conflict in Mali erupted in Jan. 2012, when rebel groups in the north waged an insurgency against the Malian government. French troops helped the government regain control in 2013, and UN peacekeepers arrived in April of that year.

Over five years of violence have made it one of the UN's deadliest missions, with 162 fatalities to date.

Despite this, retired Lt.-Gen Roméo Dallaire said it's "high time" that Canada returns to peacekeeping.

Dallaire led the UN's peacekeeping mission in Rwanda during the country's genocide, in which more than 800,000 people were killed in a mere 100 days.

Canada's commitment of military hardware to Mali is a very good way to re-enter the fray of the modern era of peacekeeping, he said.

"Peacekeeping has changed from the historic framework that it used to be," he said. "I use the term conflict resolution."

"We're into assisting nations [to] resolve a conflict that is in their territory."

### Peacekeeping versus peacemaking

Martin Woods, who served as a Canadian peacekeeper in the former Yugoslavia in 1993, has concerns that what is happening in Mali is not peacekeeping, but rather peacemaking.

In the former, the UN is setting itself up between two sides who have agreed to stop fighting, he said. The latter comes with a much higher level of risk.

"We're sending armed-escort helicopters there," the Afghanistan War veteran said. "We're not sending armed-escort helicopters to drop teddy bears. Obviously, they're there for a reason."

"Putting that level of armament on our helicopters is because there is a real danger."

He wants to see a debate in parliament.

"That way it's on the record of exactly what the government's expectations are of our personnel, and also puts in the public forum a commitment — by the government to the public — of what it is that we're actually going to do."

"Any time we're going to risk our personnel's lives, we should make sure the public is well aware of exactly what risks are being put on the table".

James Bezan, the Conservative defence critic, responded to the announcement Monday with a similar call for a debate and vote in the House of Commons.

"Mali is a war zone," he said on Monday. "This is a combat mission, and there is no peace to keep."

Former senior policy advisor Jocelyn Coulon said Justin Trudeau is taking "a modest step" toward fulfilling his 2016 promise to spend \$450 million and deploy 600 Canadian troops to UN missions in Africa.

Canada is ready to play a greater role in operations, and the Canadian public backs that decision, argued Coulon, who now works as a researcher at the University of Montreal.

"I don't think there's a lot of reluctance from Canadian people, perhaps from some politicians," he said.

He previously advised former minister of foreign affairs Stéphane Dion about peace operations in 2016 and 2017.

Dallaire agreed that returning to the field is in line with Canadians expectations.

"One must also remember there isn't a conflict in the world that will not knock on our door," he said.



## Un engagement canadien au Mali « en deçà des attentes », selon Jocelyn Coulon

Publié le mardi 20 mars 2018

**L'annonce, par le gouvernement Trudeau, de l'envoi de troupes en mission de paix auprès des forces de l'ONU déployées au Mali représente, aux yeux de Jocelyn Coulon, un certain désengagement d'Ottawa face aux enjeux politiques du conflit dans ce pays d'Afrique.**

En entrevue au *Téléjournal*, M. Coulon, ancien conseiller en relations internationales auprès de l'ex-ministre des Affaires étrangères Stéphane Dion, et depuis redevenu chercheur au Centre d'études en relations internationales de l'Université de Montréal (CERIUM), a répondu aux questions de Céline Galipeau.

**Cette annonce, on l'attendait depuis longtemps. Est-elle à la hauteur des attentes?**

Non, elle n'est pas à la hauteur des attentes, puisqu'en août 2016, le gouvernement avait dévoilé sa politique d'opérations de la paix – elle était très ambitieuse – et durant tout l'automne et une partie de l'hiver 2016, nous avons travaillé sur plusieurs scénarios de déploiement en Afrique, dont le Mali.

Je pourrais dire que le scénario Mali était prêt dès décembre 2016.

**Alors, pourquoi attendre?**

Il y a certainement toutes sortes de raisons. Comme vous savez, le ministre Dion a été congédié le 10 janvier [2017] et les conseillers politiques ont aussi pris la porte. Je n'étais donc plus dans le secret des dieux, mais j'estime que le premier ministre a hésité... Peut-être face à l'ampleur de la mission, à son coût, et au fait qu'il ne veut pas s'engager politiquement et diplomatiquement dans la résolution d'un conflit.

D'ailleurs, l'annonce de [lundi] matin est essentiellement technique et militaire. On déploie des Canadiens, c'est-à-dire jusqu'en septembre 2019, quelques semaines avant les élections générales d'octobre, et on ne s'occupe pas des aspects politiques et diplomatiques, alors que cela a toujours été notre tradition lorsque nous étions impliqués dans les opérations [de maintien de la paix].

**Donc, d'après vous, le Canada aurait pu faire plus? Certains avaient évoqué que le Canada prenne la tête de cette mission au Mali.**

Non seulement on en avait parlé, mais un général canadien avait été reçu en « audition » par les Nations unies, et l'ONU était prête à le nommer. Sauf que le gouvernement a tergiversé, le premier ministre a reculé, et nous nous sommes retrouvés en 2017, à attendre la conférence de Vancouver, de novembre dernier, où a été présentée une annonce en demi-teinte.

Aujourd'hui, vous avez le résultat de ces tergiversations.

**Évidemment, on affirme que « c'est ce dont avaient besoin les Nations unies »...**

Cela ne fonctionne pas tout à fait comme cela. On a fait comprendre à l'ONU que nous avons des moyens disponibles limités, et les Nations unies nous ont envoyé une demande en disant : « C'est bizarre, c'est exactement ce que je veux. »

C'est la diplomatie qui joue, ici.

**La contribution du Canada sera-t-elle utile au Mali?**

C'est utile, parce que nous remplaçons les Allemands. Mais faisons-nous une différence? Le premier ministre a toujours parlé d'un retour du Canada sur la scène internationale pour faire la différence.

Or, là, nous ne la faisons pas. Nous remplaçons les Allemands, et seulement pour un an, alors qu'il faudrait être là pour plusieurs années.

**Tout le monde sait que les missions de paix, ça prend du temps.**

L'ONU est à Chypre depuis 1964, et le conflit n'est toujours pas réglé. Cela ne veut pas dire que nous allons rester 50 ans au Mali, cela fait 4 ans que la mission est là.

**Est-ce que cela pourrait être lié à la possible obtention d'un siège au Conseil de sécurité?**

Cela pourrait être le cas, mais si l'on se retire en septembre 2019, le vote a lieu en juin 2020, et tous les pays auront oublié que le Canada s'est déployé au Mali.



## PASSCHENDAELE 1917, 100 ANS DÉJÀ !

Marie Josée Bourgeois 8 novembre 2017  
 La Grande Guerre, 14-18 : Biographies et témoignages

NDLR : Version augmentée d'un article paru dans Infolettre, vol. 2, no. 7, 1er novembre 2017, une publication de la Société historique Louis-Joseph-Papineau (Montebello, QC ) MJB/06/11/17

Le 11 novembre de chaque année, les champs des deux côtés de la Porte de Ménin se couvrent de coquelicots en papier pour commémorer le sacrifice des nombreux soldats britanniques et d'autres pays du Commonwealth morts au champ d'honneur dans la Flandre, en Belgique, lors de la troisième bataille d'Ypres qui eut lieu entre le 31 juillet et le 10 novembre 1917, aussi appelée la bataille de Passchendaele.

Tous les soirs à 20 heures, les clairons des pompiers belges postés sous l'arche monumental de la Porte de Menin jouent *The Last Post/La Dernière sonnerie*, une pièce musicale symbolisant l'adieu aux soldats morts, une berceuse funèbre pour le repos de leur âme. Requiescant in Pace aux 54 896 militaires inscrits. Deux minutes d'émotion assurée au Mémorial.

« Nous sommes morts / Nous qui songions la veille encor' / À nos parents, à nos amis, / C'est nous qui reposons ici / Au champ d'honneur. » Cette strophe est tirée du poème *In Flanders Fields/Au champ d'honneur*, écrit un matin de printemps par le lieutenant-colonel John McCrae (1872-1918), médecin ontarien, poète à ses heures, qui y laissa la vie.

C'est d'ailleurs à la Porte de Ménin qu'on trouve gravé sur la plaque no. 10 le nom du Major Talbot Mercer Papineau, avocat et petit-fils de Louis-Joseph Amédée Papineau, lui-même fils de l'hon. Louis-Joseph Papineau, homme politique, avocat et propriétaire de la Seigneurie de la Petite-Nation, un immense domaine de lacs et de rivières entre Montréal et Ottawa en Outaouais dont héritera, en 1903, la famille de Talbot. Talbot est le fils de Louis-Joseph IV (1856-1904) et de son épouse, Caroline Rogers Papineau (1859-1952), originaire de Philadelphie aux États-Unis. Il est le frère de Louis l'aîné, de Westcott et de Philippe, tous nés à Montebello entre 1881 et 1887.

Talbot Papineau

Comme ses trois frères, Talbot naît au manoir familial de Montebello. Il est tout près de minuit en ce dimanche de Pâques 1883 lorsqu'arrive ce gros bébé de plus de huit livres, aux cheveux et aux yeux noirs. Le jeudi 28 juin, il est baptisé du nom de son grand-père maternel, Talbot Mercer Rogers Papineau, dans la religion presbytérienne de ses parents, en présence de ses grands-parents, aïeuls et bisaïeuls, un rassemblement familial comme le seigneur Amédée Papineau aimait en organiser pour les grandes occasions. L'heureux grand-père paternel a fait sonner la cloche au campanile pour

l'annoncer à la ronde. « Trop bon et trop sage pour lâcher un cri, il reçoit l'onde avec le sourire », écrit-il dans son journal. Plus tard, le 25 mars 1887, il y notera: « Fête de Talbot, qui a aujourd'hui 4 ans. Comme ses frères, tous trois de bons enfants, pleins de santé, qui promettent de vivre et de faire de braves hommes. Dieu le veuille ! »

Son vœu sera exaucé ! Brave homme et courageux soldat, Talbot le sera ce matin du 30 octobre à Passchendaele en Belgique, non loin du hameau de Gravenstafel, en direction de Duck Lodge, le premier objectif de cette bataille. Vingt mille soldats sont sur place, attendant le signal de l'attaque. Le soir précédent, à qui pouvait-il bien penser ? À une femme, à ses amis, à sa famille ? Sûrement à tous ceux-là, mais c'est à sa mère, Caroline Rogers Papineau, qu'il a écrit une courte lettre, sa dernière :

Le 29 octobre 1917

Très chère mère,

Je peux encore vous écrire [...] avant de sortir de la tranchée. Nous avons eu de la chance jusqu'à présent et tout va pour le mieux. Je me suis même rasé ce matin dans un peu d'eau sale. J'ai été ravi de recevoir deux lettres et une boîte de bonbons de vous la nuit dernière. Une nuit froide et bruyante, je peux vous l'assurer, la terre vibrait sourdement. Il y a si peu à dire quand... Si seulement je savais ce qui va arriver, je souhaiterais vous en dire tellement. Mais ces lettres feraient de bien piètres derniers mots. Puissiez-vous comprendre tout l'amour du monde avec lequel elles sont écrites ! Vous m'avez donné le courage et la force d'aller très gaiement et joyeusement au combat pour la bonne bataille. Mon affection à tous et un gros câlin pour vous, brave mère. (Traduction libre)

Talbot Papineau

Avant de sortir de la tranchée, un pied sur l'échelle et l'autre prêt à franchir un barrage de feu, Talbot s'est tourné vers le major Hugh Niven en disant : « You know Hughie, this is suicide » (Vous savez, Hughie, c'est un véritable suicide) puis il s'est élancé. Après quelques secondes, il est frappé par un obus dans la poitrine, un coup mortel, sans pitié. Il est 5 h 50, il avait 34 ans. Le camarade de tranchée qui le suivait perd lui aussi la vie. Il s'appelait Rider Lancelot Haggard, un capitaine au nom de chevalier légendaire de 10 ans son cadet.

Le corps de Talbot est submergé dans une mer de boue et n'est retrouvé que trois semaines plus tard par son compagnon d'armes des premiers jours, le lieutenant-colonel Charles James Townsend Stewart (1874-1918), surnommé Charlie, qu'il avait connu pendant l'entraînement du Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) à Ottawa, en août 1914. Charlie a reconnu son cadavre, ou plutôt ce qu'il en restait, à la façon particulière qu'avait Talbot d'attacher





## PASSCHENDAELE 1917, 100 ANS DÉJÀ ! (Suite)

ses molletières (puttees) et par le contenu des poches de son pantalon. Il a planté une croix sur sa tombe de fortune. Elle a fini par disparaître, oubliée dans le tumulte de la fin des combats.

Personne n'a raconté à la mère de Talbot ces tristes détails afin de ne pas aggraver sa peine. On lui a plutôt dit qu'on n'avait jamais retrouvé le corps de son fils, comme ce fut le cas pour tous ceux inscrits à la Porte de Menin. L'a-t-elle cru ? Espérons-le. Caroline a eu beaucoup de difficulté à surmonter son chagrin, elle qui avait tant de foi en son cher Talbot, qui croyait au talent de son fils et qui nourrissait tellement d'ambition pour lui. « Rien ne pourra me consoler de la perte de mon garçon qui fut la joie et le réconfort de ma vie », a répondu Caroline le 25 novembre 1917 à la lettre de condoléances d'un haut gradé militaire. Elle est décédée en 1952, à 93 ans, animée d'une tristesse qui s'est éternisée !

Caroline Rogers Papineau est enterrée sous une humble pierre tombale marquée « C.R.P. 1952 », dans le minuscule cimetière attenant à la chapelle funéraire familiale sur le sentier du Manoir-Papineau, avec les descendants de son fils aîné Louis-Joseph V qu'on appelait Louis, le dernier à avoir été inhumé dans la chapelle, en 1971. Près de Caroline, trois pierres tombales sont alignées : son petit-fils aîné, Louis-Joseph VI né en 1912 (« L.J.P. JAN. 7, 1987 »), son épouse Elizabeth Mary (« E.M.P.

27TH NOVEMBER, 1976 »), et leur fils et son arrière-petit-fils, Louis-Joseph Kenneth, né en 1944, décédé en 2016 et inhumé sur place en juin 2017.

Que reste-t-il de Talbot Mercer Rogers Papineau à Montebello ? Dans la chapelle funéraire, une plaque commémorative évoque sa mémoire tout comme celle de plusieurs membres de cette illustre famille dont certains sont inhumés dans la crypte. Un monument aux anciens combattants des deux grandes guerres s'élève près de la gare touristique, sans aucune mention des défunts. Nous ne savons malheureusement pas qui ils sont. Cependant, ce monument porte un nom depuis 1948 : Mémorial Talbot-Mercer-Papineau. Ainsi posté à l'entrée, le brave Talbot garde symboliquement le sentier menant au manoir familial, à la chapelle funéraire et au cimetière de la famille Papineau.

Le 11 novembre rappelle la signature de l'Armistice de 1918 qui a mis fin à la Première Guerre mondiale et se veut un hommage au sacrifice des soldats morts pour la patrie. Le 11 novembre, c'est aussi le jour du Souvenir. Et pour paraphraser Amédée Papineau : « Dieu le veuille ! »

<http://www.lequebecetlesguerres.org/passchendaele-1917-100-ans-deja/>

## Facebook Groups and Websites of interest

### Two Facebook Groups of interest by Michel Litalien

Michel Litalien joined the Directorate of History and Heritage in 1998 as the manager of the War Diary Team and subsequently led the Honours and Awards section (DHH 4). Since 2003 he has been the manager of the Canadian Forces Museums and Historical Collections section (DHH 5). He obtained his BA in history from l'Université de Montréal and holds a Master's degree in history from the University of Ottawa. He has been a member of the Canadian Forces since 1982 and currently holds the rank of Major. A logistician by military training, he has served within various service battalions and support units. He has a great interest in the military history of the Medical Service, as well as support services and the military forces of French Canada in general. He is the author of five publications as well as numerous articles, and has also written for the "Canadian Biographical Dictionary."

Michel Litalien a rejoint la Direction de l'histoire et du patrimoine en 1998 en tant que manager de l'équipe de Journal de guerre et a par la suite entraîné la section des décorations et de la DHP (4). Depuis 2003, il a été le manager des Forces canadiennes Musées et collections historiques (DHP 5). Il a obtenu son baccalauréat en histoire de l'Université de Montréal et détient une maîtrise en histoire de l'Université d'Ottawa. Il a été membre des Forces canadiennes depuis 1982 et détient actuellement le grade de major. Un logisticien de formation militaire, il a servi dans divers bataillons des services et des unités de soutien. Il s'intéresse beaucoup à l'histoire militaire du Service médical, ainsi que des services de soutien et les forces militaires du Canada français en général. Il est l'auteur de cinq publications ainsi que de nombreux articles, et a également écrit pour le "Dictionnaire biographique du Canada."



## Facebook Groups and Websites of interest (Cont'd)

The first of Michel L'Italien's Facebook groups is:

### ***La Seconde Guerre mondiale et le Canada français.***

This Facebook group presents World War II from a French-Canadian perspective. The most recent series of contributions from members of the group concern Léo Major, a member of the Régiment de la Chaudière, who single-handedly liberated the town of Zwolle in Holland. A recent article from the New York Times, republished on Facebook by a member of the group, describes Québec's one-eyed "Rambo" hero.

The second Facebook group:

### ***La Milice canadienne-française, 1855-1964***

These two dates are significant.

The Militia Act of 1855, an act of Canadian legislation, permitted the formation of an Active Militia. The 5,000 volunteers were armed, equipped and paid 5 shillings a day for 10 days of training a year (20 days for those in the artillery). Captains were paid 10 shillings 6 pence a day.

This was the beginning of the Militia or Primary Reserve and provided continuity. Units such as the 7th Field Battery in Montreal and 1st Field Battery in Ottawa trace their history from this date.

The second date, 1964 relates to the Suttie Commission, the commonly used name for what was officially known as "The Commission on the Reorganization of the Canadian Army Militia." The report of this commission led to a drastic reduction of the militia. The Montreal gunner units were reduced from two field regiments, a medium regiment and a locating battery to one field regiment with two batteries.

A third Facebook group of interest is:

### ***Canadians in the Italian Campaign in World War II***

This site contains many photos of the liberation of Sicily and Italy from the archives in Ottawa. A number of contributors are Italians writing in Italian. They view the Canadians as liberators of Italy from the Germans. (No mention is made of Mussolini). Several contributions show Sicilians maintaining the markers placed by the marchers of Operation Husky 2013.

## A Website of Interest

Le Québec et les guerres mondiales : <http://www.lequebecetlesguerres.org>

It was on this website that I discovered the article about PASSCHENDAELE. The website contains many other articles that may be of interest to our readers.



## Request for Assistance from the Regimental Major

Gentlemen

I am reaching out to you because much like fashion and styles things that were once old are now new.

At the conclusion of the Cold War and the focus on Peace Keeping which was then followed by Afghanistan and the war on terror many lessons and practices common when we were facing a peer (some would argue a superior enemy) have been lost or forgotten.

We got some young folks that are having to relearn some of the lessons the old guard had down pat and I am wondering if you want to share them with me.

So I am reaching out to some of you that may have a few tricks up your sleeve who may be willing to share them with me and I will then pass onto units and hopefully have these as lessons learned and not the lessons relearned. The “big hand, small map” concepts are covered in the various manuals but what is missing is the details that were developed over the years to make those things happen efficiently.

Some of the equipment and tactics of both potential combatants have changed but some of the principles remain the same.

Big things I am wondering about are all dealing with survivability:

Communications – things like radio silence, visual signals, working through degraded comms, encryption of grids,

prowords, nicknames, POGO points, ways to reduce transmissions.

Command and Control – operating on prescribed timings as opposed to the now popular “I will call when ready”

Passive AD and AAAD – track plans, keeping dust down, light discipline, AD sentries on a Gun position, AAAD employment, cam of posns

NBCD/CIBRN – operating in TOPP HIGH for extended periods, NBC Sentries

Surviving Counter Battery – digging in, shoot and scoot, dispersed gun posns, adjusting gun separate from the Bty

Defensive positions – tips on dealing with wire obstacles, PPFs, sighting of MG and anti-armour weapons, digging in general (hardly done now days due to UXO and environmental concerns), trench reinforcement (when I was RSS I had a wise RSS WO who told of an ingenious way to fold the corrugated iron)

Respectfully

Major Trevor Michelsen

Regimental Major

The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

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