

Peter Goldring
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East



Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs 1997 - 2000



Korean War Veterans

INVOLVEMENT:

Jul/26 Gave a speech at a large memorial ceremony at the Beverly Cenotaph in Edmonton.

Sept/02 Appeared at Nepean City Hall for a press conference with a Korean Veteran who spoke in support of Mr. Goldring's initiative.

Oct/01 Pilgrimage trip to Korea begins. Visited the Brampton national memorial.

Oct/02 Visited the Korean memorial in Richmond, BC.

Oct/03 Visited Japan for four days to attend remembrance services.

Oct/05 Discover that the cost of the Korean trip is \$750,000 for 82 members.

Oct/06 Article submitted to national papers on Mr. Goldring's reasons for participating in the current Korean pilgrimage.

Oct/07 Press Release – *Pilgrimage Or Junket: Criticisms Are Mistimed*

Oct/21 Korean Book from Veterans Affairs given to Reed Elly, MP

Oct/25 Letter to the Editor printed in the Edmonton Sun relating the ceremony in Korea where Edmonton native John Glockler received the remains of five United Nations soldiers.



[Use this index if your browser does not support Java.](#)

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Affairs

Veteran Affairs



[Brief Summary](#) [Detailed Summary](#)

The image shows a large, white stone war memorial with a central archway and a statue on top. Below the memorial, there are two underlined links: "Brief Summary" and "Detailed Summary".

Veterans Affairs

Report Card

(SELECTED ISSUES)

Peter Goldring

Member of Parliament
The Reform Party
Veterans Affairs Critic

Hong Kong War Veterans Enslaved by Japan

- ⌘ Has been active in raising awareness and calling for government action since he was elected. (S.O. 31-7, S.O. 31-15, S.O. 31-16, S.O. 31-18 and S.O. 31-24) After many years of stalling, Mr. Goldring's questions to the present Minister prompted action when a parliamentary committee recommended compensation in December, 1997 and again in May, 1998.
- ⌘ The Foreign Affairs Minister called for an official investigation after Mr. Goldring's press conference and repeated questioning in June 1998 revealing that there had been a government cover-up preventing compensation in 1955. By November, 1998 nothing had yet been done. (QP-4)
- ⌘ Wrote and had published a 20-minute speech that listed the 361-surviving veterans.
- ⌘ Mr. Goldring's parliamentary work was the subject of a supportive lead editorial on Canada Day in the Ottawa Citizen. Mr. Goldring has been very active in the media on this issue from coast-to-coast in newspapers, radio and live television.
- ⌘ Introduced Motion-333 calling for the House of Commons to honour the recommendations of the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee and give compensation to Hong Kong Veterans.
- ⌘ Introduced a Private Members Bill calling for compensation for the Veterans in December 1998
- ⌘ Government soon followed with compensation – avoiding an embarrassing vote.

Constituency Office – Canada War History Library

- ⌘ Friend of constituent, Mr. Edward Bell interested in veterans' issues.
- ⌘ Started a library of books relating to Canada's War History with contributions from Mr. Goldring's personal collection, but mostly from the extensive collection contributed by Mrs. Bell after her husband passed away.
- ⌘ Many pictures and our 150 war history books are now on display and available for loan from Mr. Goldring's constituency office.

War Medals - Lt-Col John McCrae (Flanders Fields)

- ⌘ Questioned the Minister in the House several times asking that the Federal Government step forward and buy the medals for public museum display before they were auctioned to a private collection.

- ε Worked to draw attention to the issue and was instrumental in making the issue a national story through press releases and statements in Question Period.
- ε Interviewed by CBC National News for his efforts to secure the medals.
- ε Stood in the House of Commons and paid tribute to Arthur Lee for his incredible contribution to Canadian War History. (S.O. 31-3, S.O. 31-4 and S.O. 31-6)
- ε Lt. Col John McCrea's war medals are now in a public museum in Guelph.

Quebec City - War Leaders Monument (May 1998)

- ε Contacted by veterans in Quebec City who stated that they felt Canada's proud war history was being slighted and asked for his assistance in preventing this.
- ε The only politician in Canada to step forward against the Separatist historical revisionists who wished to exclude former Prime Minister Mackenzie King from a WWII monument. On unveiling, Mr. Goldring was the only Federal Member in attendance and was the lead story on the national news.
- ε National media showed that Mr. Goldring had national support. Jean Chretien was forced to participate in a rare media scrum and issue a press release in support of Mr. Goldring's position.
- ε At the request of Mr. Goldring, the Defence Minister withdrew a military presence from the monument unveiling. The American Ambassador and British High Commissioner also worked with Mr. Goldring to ensure that history did not forget the efforts of Canada's contribution to the Allied war effort by both bringing particular complementary comment to Canada's war effort in their address. (S.O. 31-17)
- ε Montreal historian Jean Morrison recognized Mr. Goldring at the London, Ontario convention for his extraordinary efforts at a caucus question and answer session.
- ε The World War II leaders monument in Quebec City still excludes Canada's wartime Prime Minister, Mackenzie King.

Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion

- ε While the Opposition 'watchdog' for this Bill, consulted with the Royal Canadian Legion and was successful in having it defeated. The Bill called for recognising soldiers fighting an illegal war for communist Russia and world communism. The Government agreed and voted against this Bill too.
- ε Made a speech on the issue in the House of Commons and also argued his position in a series of editorials in the Ottawa Citizen.

Merchant Navy Veterans

- ε Has met with the Merchant Navy many times including a strategy meeting in September 1997, a protest on Parliament Hill in May of 1998
- ε Worked closely with the Minister to end the October 1998 Parliament Hill Hunger Strike. (S.O. 31-24)
- ε Has been very involved with the various Merchant Navy groups since his election and has been instrumental in advancing the issue both within the media and with the Minister.

- ε Mr. Goldring's continual barrage of the Minister on the issue has resulted in some concrete results. New legislation will be tabled in late November that will finally recognize Merchant Navy veterans as War Veterans.
- ε As part of the ceremonies to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic, Mr. Goldring visited Merchant Navy memorials in Newfoundland and England. (S.O. 31-20)
- ε Was the host of the Merchant Navy at the protest on Parliament Hill that was attended by all parties. Following the outdoor protest, the veterans were invited by Mr. Goldring to visit the Galleries to view Mr. Goldring's statement and question in the House to the Minister. The entire event was recorded and played on CPAC several times. Copies of the Member's Statement suitable for framing were given to each of the attendees after the event. (S.O. 31-16)
- ε Opened a consultation process with the Merchant Navy groups and Opposition MPs to ensure a united front when dealing with the Minister's new proposals in this Fall session.
- ε Led the Merchant Navy discussion by isolating the four main areas to be negotiated and for the first time had all Merchant Navy groups united behind an initiative.
- ε Successfully proposed and had passed a motion detailing the Government's commitment to studying compensation claims and issuing recommendations before the 1999 summer recess.

National War Museum – Holocaust Debate

- ε Was invited to sit at the Senate hearings on the role and mandate of the National War Museum.
- ε He was very supportive of the veterans' position, while also winning praise for his idea of a separate 'World Genocide Museum'.
- ε Addressed the issue several times in Question Period while being fully supported by the National Council of Veterans Associations, whose Chairman was in attendance at Question Period. (S.O. 31-9)
- ε Called for the National War Museum to be placed under the control of the Veterans Affairs Department
- ε Has had his sentiments echoed by veterans groups, other MPs, including Elsie Wayne, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party and the Senate.
- ε Has since seen much support building for a World Genocide Museum to explore the 'dark side' of humanity

Ortona – 'Price of Peace' Monument Campaign

- ε Introduced the monument idea into the original campaign when it became obvious that additional funds would facilitate such an opportunity.
- ε Worked with the artist on the conception of the original model and arranged to have the miniature version shipped to Italy for the Christmas dinner in 1998.
- ε Oversaw the formulation and implementation of the contracts and manufacturing arrangements.

Ortona – 'Moro River' Heritage Site Campaign

- ε Introduced the idea of obtaining Heritage Site status for the Moro River Cemetery after viewing it

in December 1998.

Ortona – ‘Retake Christmas’ Campaign

- ε Lead a fundraising campaign to get Canadian veterans’ to attend a Christmas 1998 Reconciliation Dinner in Ortona, Italy with their German counterparts
- ε Surpassed fundraising targets in less than a month with enough additional funding to make a full-size bronze monument go from an artist’s dream a reality.
- ε Worked with the national media to ask for private donations.

- ε Recognized nationally as the ‘spear-head’ of the campaign and received hundreds of letters of support and encouragement. (S.O. 31-28)
- ε Successful trip received international acclaim and hundreds of thank you letters were received
- ε Received ‘Reformer of the Week’ for his efforts

Pilgrimage - Battle of the Atlantic (May 1998)

- ε Accompanied a group of veterans to Newfoundland and England to commemorate the valiant efforts of Canada and Newfoundland in the Battle of the Atlantic.
- ε Wrote an article on the experience that was featured in the *Charlottetown Guardian*.
- ε Received an invitation to address the *Army, Navy and Airforce Veterans in Canada* at the Halifax convention in August.

Pilgrimage – France and Belgium (November 1997)

- ε Accompanied a group of Veterans to Newfoundland and then on to France and Belgium to participate in memorial ceremonies.

- ε Pilgrimage to France and Belgium with Veterans and others to attend a military funeral for the crew of the Halifax Bomber LW682, Remembrance Day, and national Historic Site Dedication Ceremonies, November 6-10, 1997.

- ε The visit was to participate in the official burial ceremonies in Belgium for recently discovered remains of World War II RCAF members.
- ε Vimy Ridge and Beaumont-Hamel are both established as Canadian Heritage Sites in France.

Pilgrimage – Japan and Korea (October 1998)

- ε Accompanied 40 Korean veterans on their visits to Canadian memorial sites in Brampton, Vancouver, Japan and Korea.
- ε Defended the cost and purpose of Pilgrimage trips in the face of growing criticism in the media,

but openly questioned the selection process for participants.

- ε Visited Veterans' care centres in Victoria and Vancouver.

Radar Veterans - RCAF

- ε Met with the organisation leaders at their convention in Ottawa and invited the group to the House Gallery for a special recognition in a Member's Statement (S.O. 31-2)
- ε A full Gallery of WWII Radar Veterans arrived to hear his statement in the House of Commons that received a standing ovation from all sides of the House.
- ε Requested by the Radar Veterans Association to provide copies of statement (S.O. 31-2) to be mailed to all 1700 Radar Veterans.
- ε Guest speaker at the Radar Veterans convention in Surrey, BC in October 1998.
- ε Hundreds of thank you letters received

Remembrance Day

- ε Attended the Beverly Cenotaph on November 11, 1997 after travelling from Belgium to France, to St. John's, to Ottawa, to Toronto, to Calgary, to Edmonton in one day to do so.
- ε Made a 10-minute speech in the House of Commons in support of colleague, Jason Kenny's Private Members Bill (C-279) calling for two minutes of silence on Remembrance Day.
- ε Supportive of the Royal Canadian Legion's 'Wave of Silence'.
- ε Represented the Official Opposition at the National Remembrance Day ceremonies on Parliament Hill on November 11, 1998.
- ε Gave a three-minute tribute to House acclaim and again received 'Reformer of the Week' for his efforts

'Swift's' War Memorial Plaque

- ε While on a special plant tour in Edmonton organised by Maple Leaf's Michael McCain for Mr. Goldring, Mr. Goldring observed a WWII memorial plaque and arranged for its removal from the plant before it closed, possibly damaging the plaque in closure moving.
- ε Asked Michael McCain and received permission to work with Stan Woloyshn, MLA and Public Works Minister to ensure that the plaque is restored and donated to the Norwood Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.
- ε The plaque is currently being refurbished and will be ceremoniously turned over to the Legion.

Veterans Health - Gulf War Syndrome

- ε Many meetings with representatives and victims on a regular basis becoming a vocal opponent of Canada's handling of the situation.
- ε Has been seeking to have Gulf War Syndrome recognized since Canada is one of the few Allied

countries not to recognize the condition. He has also opposed the manner in which the issue has been 'swept under the carpet' and dismissed as the effects of stress. (S.O. 31-16)

- ε Has monitored international reporting that suggests links of Gulf War Syndrome to biological, chemical, vaccines or radioactive exposure from shell bursts.

Veterans Health - Care Facilities

- ε Perley-Rideau Health Centre requested the assistance of Mr. Goldring in its effort to have Veterans Affairs Canada intervene in a court case with the Ontario government. He has toured the health centre and appeared in court in support of the elderly veterans. Mr. Goldring has also attended Senate hearings on the issue and his press releases were covered in several papers, including the Winnipeg Free Press during the Royal Canadian Legion convention in June 1998.
- ε Supported the Perley-Rideau veterans through attendance in court on their behalf in their action against the Ontario Government in July and November 1998. Mr. Goldring was given tours of the facility in May and November 1998.
- ε St. Anne de Bellevue in Montreal has also requested Mr. Goldring's assistance as they move to provincial control. They are concerned that health care funding will be reduced and are looking to have Mr. Goldring ask for enforcement of national minimum care standards for veterans. Visited the facility in November 1998.
- ε Benny Farm is a housing facility for veterans near Montreal. The buildings do not meet modern standards and the government has offered to build better buildings and provide increased parkland. Many veterans are concerned about transferring premises and then enduring further cuts to services in the area and have asked Mr. Goldring to investigate. Mr. Goldring visited the facility in July 1998.
- ε Introduced a motion calling for National Veterans Health Care Standards that are agreed upon by the Provinces before institutions are transferred to the Provincial governments from Veterans Affairs Canada.
- ε Canada's Senate issued a Report supporting Mr. Goldring's position

Veterans' Conventions Attended - 1998

- ε Royal Canadian Legion – Biannual National Convention – Winnipeg – June
- ε Army, Navy and Airforce – Biannual National Convention – Halifax – August
- ε Royal Canadian Airforce – Annual National Convention – Surrey, BC - September

World Genocide Museum

- ε First proposed by Mr. Goldring in a February 1998 statement (S.O. 31-9) as a result of inappropriate suggestions for the expansion space utilisation of Canada's National War Museum in Ottawa.
- ε Articles concerning the issue were written by Mr. Goldring and distributed to the media and veterans associations.
- ε Press releases promoting a separate World Genocide Museum were issued in response to growing concern over the future mandate of the War Museum.

- ε Mr. Goldring flatly states that Canada's War Museum's mandate is to reflect our soldier's honourable war efforts, not to examine mankind's failures and 'darker side'

Letters of Commendation

- ε Merchant Navy (multiple)
- ε Hong Kong Veterans (multiple)
- ε Ortona Veterans (multiple)
- ε Radar Veterans (multiple)
- ε Preston Manning and Reform colleagues (multiple)



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Aboriginal Veterans

SUMMARY: Canadians of all backgrounds have fought in defence of Canada and this also includes Canada's Aboriginal people. Aboriginal Veterans fought in WWII along side non-Aboriginals, but yet they face discrimination at the hands of the federal government. When veterans returned to Canada after the wars, they were entitled to a number of benefits, but these were often denied to status Indians. One example in the *Veterans Land Act*.

The *Veterans Land Act* was designed to give returning soldiers "free" land in return for their service to Canada. Canadian law forbids status Indians from owning land and this meant that non-Aboriginal veterans were entitled to additional benefits not accessible by Aboriginal veterans.

INVOLVEMENT:

Jul/31 Press Release – *Veterans Affairs Critic Supports Saskatchewan Senator*

Aug/3 Peter discussed Aboriginal veterans with Howard Anderson

Aug/31 Began work with Joe Mercredi to get two Aboriginal veterans to Ortona

Sep/23 Met with Randolph Hope, a Merchant Navy Veterans who is engaged in a hunger strike on the Hill. He was also mentioned in a S.O.-31 today.

Sep/28 Reform Motion M-463 appears on the Order Paper calling for recognition of aboriginal contributions and also adequate funding of their groups.

Oct/14 Names of interested aboriginal veterans for the Ortona trip were submitted to their Regiments.

Oct/21 Joe Mercredi enquires about the status of Aboriginal veterans on the Ortona trip.

Nov/04 Attempting to contact representatives for Aboriginal Veterans Day

Nov/24 Advertising given to *First Nations Free Press*

Dec/02 Saskatchewan Aboriginal Veterans launch court case against the Federal Government for discrimination.

99/1/14 *Globe and Mail* reports Sam Sinclair will lose his aboriginal status

Jan 22 Letter to Aboriginal Caucus requesting a strategy meeting.

Feb/03 *Edmonton Sun* reports that Mr. Goldring will examine aboriginal genocide in his proposed World Genocide Museum

Feb/20 Louis Reil letter printed in the *Windsor Star*.

Anthrax Vaccines

(Gulf War Syndrome)

SUMMARY: Participants of the Gulf War have reported suffering from a combination of symptoms that have affected their health. It was widely suspected that a 'cocktail' of vaccines are the cause of this Gulf War Syndrome. All Canadian and American anthrax vaccine is produced and supplied by *Michigan Biologic Products Institute* in Lansing, Michigan.

The American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) closed down the production plant after quality standards were not met and warnings were ignored. It was discovered that Canadian troops were given expired, relabelled vaccines that contained mould and failed potency tests. It was also discovered that the Canadian government knowingly did this and ignored the FDA report and claimed that Canadian tests were done. Health Canada said it did not do any independent tests and warned the military that the vaccine was unlicensed, but could be administered due to compassionate reasons. The threat in the Gulf region was cited and the vaccine was administered to troops under order. Sgt. Mike Kipling refused to take the vaccine over concerns for his health and was promptly court-martialled. He has since filed for release from the military.

INVOLVEMENT: 97/10/2- Mr. Goldring and staff briefed by Louise Richard (2 hours)

Feb/11 - Press Release - *Goldring Demands Accountable Records*

Mar/98 - Began work with Kipling case after he refused to take vaccinations.

Apr/06 - Press Release - *Defence Minister Must Verify That There Is No Possible Link Between Vaccines And Gulf War Syndrome*

Sep/04 US Congress decides there is no link with nerve gas emissions.

Sep/29 Production of Papers (PP-46) appears on the Order Paper

Nov/11 Interview with Dave Taylor on Alberta's QR77

Nov/24 SCONDVA Committee questions with Cliff Chadderton on birth defects

Nov/25 Production of Papers (P-46) called.

99/1/21 Meeting with Louise Richard to discuss latest developments and the upcoming court-martial of Sgt. Mike Kipling.

Jan/22 Press Release – *English Soldiers Get Choice – Canadian. Soldiers Get Court-Martialled*

Jan/26 Press Release - *English Soldiers Get Choice – Canadian. Soldiers Get Court-Martialled (revised version)*

Jan/26 Press Release – *Anthrax Vaccine Scandal*

Jan/29 Letter to the Editor supporting Sgt. Mike Kipling sent nationally

Feb/03 Question Period – Asked the Minister why expired Anthrax was given to Canadian soldiers

Feb/03 CTV National News showed Question Period footage in the lead story.

Feb/05 Question Period – Asked the Minister why information on the expired Anthrax was kept from his Generals

Feb/12 Press Release – Health Canada Must Withdraw ‘Use At Own Risk’ Warning To End The Uncertainty

Feb/12 Sgt. Mike Kipling informs Mr. Goldring that he will file for release from the Military due to family hardship later that day.

Mar/03 Sgt Mike Kipling informs Mr. Goldring that he has had his release approved, but no indication that the court martial will be dropped.

Mar/04 Press Release – *Minister Wrecking Family After Release, "Winning Not Enough For Minister – Says Goldring"*

Mar/05 Article in *Winnipeg Sun* – *Military hurts Kipling's job chances, says MP*

Basic Service Pension

SUMMARY: Many veterans have fought for a Basic Service Pension because not all members of the Armed Forces receive a pension upon release. As recently as October 1998, this issue was discussed before the Parliamentary Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs.

The government's responded by saying that the current Veteran benefits were satisfactory and their was not the appetite in Cabinet for additional program costs of this magnitude.

Many Veterans have been misled through the encouragement of false application forms. As a result, many Veterans have sent in applications and have been devastated upon finding out that pensions they had been led to believe existed don't.

INVOLVEMENT:

Oct/98 SCONDVA Committee examines the issue, but will not release a report.

Ferry Command

SUMMARY:

INVOLVEMENT:

Mar/11 Spoke to Louis Lang of Montreal on issues surrounding the Ferry Command

Gulf War Syndrome

SUMMARY: Participants of the Gulf War have reported suffering from a combination of symptoms that have affected their health. This is a big issue in the United States and England due to the number affected (600,000). Canada has played mostly a reactionary role in relation to developments in the US. In Canada, 24 have formally claimed GWS as a their only reason for disability; 6 favourable, 4 unfavourable, and 14 cases pending. This issue received more attention in January when Canada committed the *HMCS Toronto* to the Persian Gulf, but it has just been ordered home again. Recent reports and research from the US has linked GWS to the vaccines administered to our Armed Forces. France did not administer the vaccines and have no cases of GWS. Extensive tests are being conducted in the USA and a major Defence Department survey begun last Fall was released in June and blamed stress as the cause. Other suggested causes are chemical and radioactivity all released in the oil fires and ammunitions explosions.

GWS is like Chronic Fatigue Syndrome in the sense that there is no definitive test for the affliction. The result is unwillingness by both governments and insurance companies to deal with such patients as a whole. Usually people suffering from GWS and CFS have received some sort of disability benefit, but have had to be reviewed in a case-by-case method. This has resulted in both delays and inequities in the awarding of benefits. It is also interesting to note that each day around the world, two Gulf War vets die. Mr. Goldring has also been working directly with several victims with rather complicated case studies.

US has had Senate hearings into the issue, but nothing concrete has been resolved. The Canadian Government has avoided dealing with the issue by not recognising its existence. DND does not recognize GWS as a basis for disability claims, but will examine GWS claims under the heading of disability related pensions. **April 1996** saw the formulation of the *Gulf War Illness Advisory Committee*, but to date that has not yielded any results. National Defence has also recently established a GWS clinic at NDHQ in Ottawa. There is a little confusion as to the status of GWS in the Netherlands, but the Minister's office is looking into that currently.

INVOLVEMENT:

97/07/25 Press Release – *Were Canadians Exposed To Iraqi Nerve Gas In Gulf War?*

Meeting with Louise Richard (no longer with the association) of the Canadian association of Gulf War Veterans.

Oct/02- Mr. Goldring and staff briefed by Louise Richard (2 hours)

Feb/11 - Press Release - *Goldring Demands Accountable Records*

Mar/98 - Began work with Kipling case after he refused to take vaccinations.

Apr/06 - Press Release - *Defence Minister Must Verify That There Is No Possible Link Between Vaccines And Gulf War Syndrome*

Jul/98 Began investigating connections between depleted Uranium and related-birth defects, similar to those seen in Leukaemia cases.

Sep/04 US Congress decides there is no link with nerve gas emissions.

Sep/29 Production of Papers (PP-46) appears on the Order Paper

Nov/04 Question Period - asked the Minister when compensation was coming.

Nov/11 Interview with Dave Taylor on Alberta's QR77

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Jan/26 Press Release - *English Soldiers Get Choice – Canadian. Soldiers Get Court-Marshaled (revised version)*

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Feb/12 Press Release – Health Canada Must Withdraw 'Use At Own Risk' Warning To End The Uncertainty

Hong Kong Veterans

SUMMARY: On Christmas Day 1941, the Japanese captured 2000 Canadian soldiers in one of the most disastrous and controversial military episodes in Canadian history. The troops spent four years in Japan's slave labour camps for the Japanese war effort. Many died in these conditions of internment that were considered to be the most horrific of any country in the world. Many of these veterans still suffer today from their brutal treatment. About 1000 of these veterans and/or widows are still alive and have won approval for compensation from an all-party committee of Parliament, the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. It is recommended that each veteran or surviving widow receive \$23,940 for a total program cost of \$20,349,000. This fight for compensation began in 1986. **Compensation is not for maltreatment (covered by a dollar-a-day treaty in 1954), but rather for the uncompensated slave labour by Japan** that has assisted many of Japan's industries to this day. Minister Mifflin has refused to compensate the veterans. Mr. Goldring confirmed this when he questioned the Minister before the committee examining the Estimates. Under constant attack with a plethora of new information and very unique pressuring, the Minister is weakening.

INVOLVEMENT:*Nov/19 Question Period - Hong Kong Veterans Compensation*

Dec/12 Foreign Affairs committee releases its recommendations for compensation

Dec/12 Press Release calling for the Minister to act immediately

Jan/13 Private Member's Bill for compensation (M-333)

Jan/22 Lawyers advise that a "money bill" will not succeed and propose a motion instead

Feb/05 Press Release - *Hong Kong Veterans Have Waited Long Enough*

Feb/10 Motion M-333 appears on the Order Paper

Mar/26 Member's Statement - *Sands of Time* (S.O. 31-15)

Mar/26 Press Release - *Goldring Slams Delay In Hong Kong Compensation*

Apr/02 Press Release - *Hong Kong Veterans - Time Slipping Away*

Apr/03 Member's Statement – *Veterans' Time Slipping Away* (S.O. 31-16)

Apr/09 Press Release - *Hong Kong Veterans Ignored By The Minister*

Apr/23 Press Release - *Veterans Say 'No-Way' To A Buck-A-Day*

Apr/28 Press Release - *Mifflin Says 'No' To Hong Kong Veterans; Foreign Affairs Committee Says 'No' To Mifflin*

Apr/30 Member's Statement - *Liberal Deep Freeze* (S.O. 31-18)

May/07 Foreign Affairs committee recommendations tabled in the House of Commons

May/19 Press Release - *Akihito Should Conjure Up His Own Medal*

May/26 Press Release - *Forgotten History Leads To Misplaced Honours*

Jun/01 Press Release - *Last Chance for Hong Kong Veterans*

Jun/01 Press Release - *Canada's Hong Kong Veterans: June 2, Brings Justice, At Last?*

Jun/02 Speech (20-minutes) listing 361 surviving veterans' names (Concurrence Motion)

Jun/02 Press Conference with Bob Mills, MP and Cliff Chadderton from War Amps

Jun/02 Question Period - about the 1955 cover-up for additional compensation

Jun/02 Press Release - *Hong Kong Vets Rights Torpedoed In 1955 by the Liberal Govt.*

Jun/03 Question Period - about the 1955 cover-up for additional compensation

Jun/03 Press Release - *'55 Liberals Conceal Article 26; '98 Liberal Cover-up Continues*

Jun/04 Press Release - *Axworthy Heeds Goldring's Call For Investigation*

Jun/09 Press Release - *Will Axworthy Stop he Cover-up?*

Jun/11 Foreign Affairs committee for a second time in a session is calling for compensation

Jun/16 Press Release - *Royal Cdn. Legion asks Mifflin to 'Settle Up Now' on HKV claims*

Jul/1st Editorial in the Ottawa Citizen quoting Mr. Goldring's speech

Aug/13 Speech – Army, Navy and Airforce Convention in Halifax mentioning HKV.

Aug/24 Robert Linden's Campaign Pay issue to be incorporated.

Sep/21 Production of Papers (P-33) appears on the Order Paper

Oct/07 Press Release – *Goldring Speaks About Hong Kong Veterans While Visiting Their Graves In Japan*

Oct/23 Letter sent to Minister Axworthy requesting an update on his investigation.

Oct/28 Supply Day Motion brought forward to caucus.

Oct/30 Member's Statement – Calling for compensation. (S.O.31-24)

Oct/30 Question Period – asked Minister Axworthy about compensation investigation started in June and was told that the matter is still under review.

Nov/02 Interview with Mark Cooper of the *Edmonton Sun*

Nov/03 Question Period – Mifflin responded that compensation will be coming after the government has studied it further. Rumours building that compensation will be announced on Remembrance Day.

Nov/10 Press Release – *Canada's Shame Must End – Says Goldring.*

Nov/11 Interview with John Collison on Winnipeg's 1290 AM

Nov/11 Interview with CKNW in Vancouver for the WIC chain of radio stations.

Nov/12 Press Release – *Hong Kong Settlement ‘Stonewalled’ By Mifflin*

Nov/13 Interview with Andrew McIntosh of the National Post

Nov/13 Interview with Lowell Green on Ottawa’s CFRA.

Nov/17 SCONDVA Committee Hearings into Pacific Campaign Pay.

Nov/25 Production of Papers (P-33) called

Nov/26 Japan rejects POW claims for compensation for English and Dutch Veterans.

Dec/02 Compensation Bill appears on the Notice Paper

Dec/03 Bill Introduction of the proposed Hong Kong Compensation Package

Dec/03 Press Release – *Goldring says ‘Enough is Enough’ and introduces Bill to settle Claim*

Dec/11 Press Release - *"Right path, Slow Time"*

Jan/13 Letter from Minister Axworthy explaining the governments reasons for compensating

Jan/18 Op-ed Letter – *Send The Bill To Tokyo*

Veterans Housing - Benny Farm

SUMMARY: Just outside Montreal, Quebec, there are a number of buildings owned by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and are used primarily to house World War II veterans. It is reported that these buildings have a number of structural problems and do not meet modern requirements for accessibility and do not meet modern fire code regulations.

The CMHC has concluded that renovations to the complex would be more expensive than just demolishing the existing buildings and replacing them with elevator-serviced tall buildings. Although this would provide the veterans with newer, better-equipped housing, most were reported to be very adamant that they keep their current low-rise buildings and don't like the idea of living on the 20th floor as opposed to the current three storey buildings.

The City is reluctant to fight for the veterans, because they feel the new plan would better house more veterans and provide more parkland too.

On June 16th, 1998, Mr. Goldring's office received a letter from Alfonso Gagliano notifying us of the changes to Benny Farm.

In August, Mr. Goldring visited Benny Farm in response to conflicting media reports regarding the Veterans' feelings towards the proposed project. His visit, welcomed by residents, was able to ascertain that the Veterans were very much in favour of new buildings, but a questionable architect's report was delaying the process.

INVOLVEMENT: Mr. Goldring has been in contact with several of the veterans living in the Benny Farm Complex and these veterans have been very appreciative of his concern. They're in on-going contact between Mr. Goldring and these veterans to ensure that the standard of living and the availability of services is not adversely affected during these changes.

Jul/28 Initiated a tour of Benny Farm for mid-August.

Jul/30 Discussed visit with Marlene Jennings, MP office

Aug/14 Mr. Goldring toured Benny Farm and spoke to veterans and Marlene Jennings about the facilities.

Aug/26 Press Release—*The "Friends of Benny Farm": With Friends Like These...*

Aug/30 Benny Farm residents acknowledge receiving Mr. Goldring's report on his visit to Benny Farm.

Aug/31 John Mackay resigns

Sept/02 Spoke to Marlene Jennings, MP and summarised the issues surrounding Benny Farm. Marlene Jennings forwarded a letter from a Bloc MP expressing his displeasure at Mr. Goldring's summary. (Mr. Goldring supports the construction of new buildings and the demolition of the old facilities.)

Internet Photo Library

SUMMARY: This is an ambitious project that was the brainchild of the American Photography Museum in San Diego, California. This project involves getting the biographical information of soldiers who have died in war, along with their photographs and a photograph of their gravesite. Once this information has been received, the soldier is placed on an Internet site that is accessible from anywhere in the world. The aim of this project is to put together the world's largest and most comprehensive veteran's memorial. Unlike many memorials today, relatives can visit this one at any time from anywhere in the world. Many surviving family members can not afford to visit Europe and other places to visit dead family members. This project will overcome that barrier.

The volunteer group in Canada is currently putting the finishing touches on a European pilgrimage that will allow them to visit thousands of Canadian graves to photograph our veterans left overseas. They have raised all their money privately after being denied substantial funding from either Veterans Affairs or Heritage Canada. They have had their flights donated by various airlines and Sony Canada has donated equipment.

It is expected that sometime this Fall the Canadian site will be up and running. To date, there is no existing web site posted. The web site is expected to launch with almost 10,000 names with additions coming weekly. Veterans will be informed of developments through various veteran magazines and newsletters.

Mr. Goldring's office was first notified about this project in March 1998 and has been assisting the organisers by directing them to likely donors and will facilitate in any logistical problems.

To date, Mr. Goldring is the only Member of Parliament to take an interest in this project.

INVOLVEMENT:

Jul/07 Update letter from Steve Douglas to inform us that the grant application will be heard before the end of the month.

Aug/17 Email to Steve Douglas concerning the August target dates and the site launch.

Sep/24 Contacted to see if photos of the Ortona Cemetery could be obtained.

Oct/05 Placed Steve Douglas in contact with the Ortona Organizing Committee.

Oct/07 Received information that there will not be provisions made for Mr. Douglas' inclusion in the Ortona trip due to logistical restrictions.

99/3/8 Informed that the first Maple Leaf Legacy Project newsletter will be coming out soon.

M-261 - Lt. Col. William Barker

SUMMARY: Lt. Col. William Barker is still the most decorated soldier ever to fight for the Commonwealth. He is Canadian, but has not received much recognition here in Canada. Not only did he have a highly decorated military career, but he continued to make great contributions after leaving the military.

He was the Acting Director of the RCAF when it was founded in 1924 and he was also the first President of the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team. He flew the first international airmail flight and also developed air tactics that laid the groundwork for those used in the Great Wars. Barker's squadron's never lost a flyer in WWI, making Barker popular company.

While still Mayor of Dauphin, Manitoba Inky Mark, MP started a campaign to have the local airport renamed after William "Billy" Barker. This took place on May 13, 1998 and included a dedication ceremony attended by the Royal Canadian Air Forces 'Snowbirds' Air Team. There is still an effort to have a bronze statue of Barker erected on the site.

During this time, Peter Goldring recognising the great contributions of William Barker made a speech in the House of Commons.

Mackenzie-King and the Quebec City War Monument

SUMMARY: Historians with strong political leanings and their own sense of history decided to erect a war monument in Quebec City. With the assistance of the Quebec City Capital it was decided that the war monument would only commemorate the war efforts and contributions of the United Kingdom and the United States. The monument was designed to have the busts of Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt, but intentionally excludes Canada's wartime leader, Prime Minister Mackenzie King.

Mr. Goldring exposed the revisionist events taking place in Quebec City and was successful in promoting a pro-Canada support for Canada's war veterans and having the Canadian military excluded from the event. Mr. Goldring, after discussions with the United States Ambassador and British High Commissioner was pleased that both diplomats acknowledged the fine contributions of Mackenzie King in lengthy excerpts of their speeches. Canada's WWII contributions and those of Canada's veterans were suitably eulogised.

Mr. Goldring was successful in raising the profile of this event to the extent that the Prime Minister released a rare statement to the media and engaged in an unusual Prime Minister media scrum. Canadians from across the country applauded the efforts of Mr. Goldring in direct letters and also letters to local newspapers. Several Liberal Members of Parliament also rose to express concurrence.

INVOLVEMENT:

Apr/9 Mr. Goldring is contacted by veterans in Quebec City looking for assistance in their efforts to preserve Canada's war history

Apr/16 Press Release - *Quebec City "Burns" History*

Apr/17 Press Release - *'Mr. So-And-So From Edmonton' Speaks for Veterans*

Apr/24 Press Release - *Canada's War History 'Rewritten' in Quebec City*

Apr/25 Media Advisory - *Reform MP visits Quebec City to demand history not be 'rewritten'*

Apr/26 Mr. Goldring visits Quebec City to draw attention to the issue and is interviewed live on Montreal talk radio, sparking a federalist protest in support of the veterans

Apr/27 Most Canadian daily newspapers carry stories on the efforts of Mr. Goldring.

Apr/28 Press Release - *UK And US Diplomats To Attend Quebec City Unveiling Of Churchill And Roosevelt Statues; PM Mackenzie King Not Included; Prime Minister Not Invited*

May/05 Press Release - *'Quotes from the grave'*

May/05 Press Release - *Goldring Adopts Statement of Pierre Roy*

May/06 Press Release - *'Return to Sender' Says Goldring*

May/08 War Monument with busts of Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt unveiled by Lucien Bouchard in

Quebec City

May/08 Press Release - *Chretien Comments On Mackenzie King: Too Little, Too Late*

May/15 Press Release - *Goldring Comments On Bloc Historical Revisionists: Bloc MP Godin: Mackenzie King is an 'ice sweeper'; Bloc MP Marceau: Veteran supporters are 'foolish'*

Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion

SUMMARY: The Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion or "Mac-Paps" is the collective designation for approximately 1,300 Canadian volunteers who served with the International Brigades (formed by the Comintern or Communist International to support the Republican Government against General Franco's Nationals) in the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939).

In 1936, the Nationals, lead by General Franco, wanted to overthrow Spain's Republican democratically elected government and soon had the support of Hitler and Mussolini. The International Brigades responded to Spain and the Republican Government's call for help against the Fascists; the Russian-led Communist International or Comintern was instrumental in organising international support.

The Mac-Paps were formed on July 1, 1937, with headquarters at Albacete, Spain, and distinguished themselves in four major campaigns. In September 1938, the soldiers of the International Brigades were withdrawn from the front lines as a first step to their repatriation. Fearful casualties were suffered. More than a quarter of the Canadians had been killed or were presumed dead. Most of the survivors had received or were recovering from wounds.

Some enlisted and fought in the Canadian Armed Forces during the Second World War, some were considered politically unreliable and were rejected.

Some forty Canadian veterans of the Spanish civil war are still alive today.

- ε The war did not involve vital Canadian interests.
- ε Canada did not participate in the struggle and through revisions to the Foreign Enlistment Act, 1937, gave legal force to Canada's policy of non-intervention.
- ε Those who served on either side did so in defiance of Canadian law and at their own risk.
- ε Notwithstanding their individual sacrifices and heroism, the Canadian veterans of the International Brigades have received little or no recognition since the 1930's.
- ε Since they are not veterans of a recognized "Canadian" war they have never been entitled to any veterans benefits.

- ε The Reform Party supports the rule of law.
- ε The Reform Party supports those veterans who fought in officially recognized wars.

The Royal Canadian Legion does not support the granting of veterans status to those who fought in the Spanish Civil War. The Legion supports the rule of law and does not view it as appropriate to advocate a position, which would in effect legitimize that which was illegal at the time. They believe that this could set an untenable precedent. Mr. Goldring adds that while Canada allows Freedom of Thought and Association, these rights are not protected by statute internationally and Canadians exercise these rights at their own peril or else we risk becoming a nation of Government sanctioned 'freedom guerrillas'.

It is for these reasons that Mr. Goldring recommended that the Reform Party opposed M-75 and it was defeated on May 25, 1998 in the House of Commons with a 171-66 margin.

Merchant Navy Veterans

SUMMARY: Merchant Navy groups torpedoed Jack Fraser's Bill in the last Parliament. Merchant Navy groups met in August 1997 and stated that they wanted to proceed on their own directly with the Minister. After five months they returned to Mr. Goldring for assistance. Pressuring since has caused an amending Bill to be announced by government. Amending the Merchant Navy Veteran and Civilian War-related Benefits Act and the War Veterans Allowance Act to recognize members of the Merchant Navy as legitimate and full-status war veterans. Corrective Legislation is expected in December 1998, but it will not address compensation issues.

MNV were denied veterans benefits by the government after the war on the grounds that doing so would encourage them to leave their careers on the sea for office jobs. 87% of MN POW have been denied benefits compared to 1% of "regular" were POW veterans. Merchant Navy Veterans were denied access to services provided to other veterans like rehabilitation, university, business loans, housing, health care, land grants, insurance, and civil service job preference until 1992, but have not been compensated for missed benefits for 50 years. The MNV have also been asking for recognition at the Remembrance Day Ceremonies with the laying of a Wreath (because they are not a part of the Armed Forces). The Merchant Navy Veterans also want compensation for years of lost equality with war veterans from the War until now.

Monies were allocated in 1992 and of the \$100M allocated \$88M remains and Veterans Affairs can not account for the spending of the \$12M. 2500 MNV remain of the 12000 that served. Approximately 12 die a month and only 2100 are expected to be alive in 2000.

INVOLVEMENT: **Aug/26/97 - Meeting** in Ottawa with MNV Coalition and they turned down an offer of assistance and indicated that they wanted to work alone with the Minister.

Jan/06 Meeting Merchant Navy Coalition for Equality (MNCE) stated that there was no progress on the issues and requested our assistance.

Mar/30 Question during *Question Period* where the Minister denies any claims.

Mar/31 Press Release - *Mifflin Disagrees with Merchant Navy Veterans*

Apr/03 Statement - *Canadian Armed Forces (S.O. 31-16)*

Apr/08 Press Release - *Minister Mifflin Dismisses Merchant Navy Veterans' Concerns as 'Opportunism'* and interview with Sun papers.

Apr/23 Press Release - *1992 Merchant Navy Benefits Don't Correct 50 Years Of Neglect* **Apr/24 Statement** - *Canadian War Heroes (S.O. 31-17)*

May/4 Press Release - *Reform MP to host the Merchant Navy*

May/5 Speech at the Merchant Navy protest on Parliament Hill before hosting

the veterans in the public galleries at Question Period. Events covered by CPAC.

May/5 Statement - *Merchant Navy Veterans (S.O. 31-20)*

May/10 Attending ***Battle of the Atlantic*** ceremonies in Newfoundland and England

Jun/02 Letter sent to Elsie Wayne asking for her to combine efforts against the government.

Jun/15 Press Release - *Winnipeg Legion Convention: Long-Outstanding Issues For Minister Mifflin*

Jun/17 Bill requested that Legislative Branch drafted to include compensation and recounts for Merchant Navy WWII veterans Legislation.

Jun/23 Press Release - *"The Honourable Member knows that is not true"* (Senate Bill S-19)

Jul/02 Letter on Mifflin's intentions forwarded by P. Goldring to all Merchant Navy groups and Opposition MPs for a consensus opinion.

Aug/7 Responses to the consultations have been received.

Aug/17 Speech to the Army, Navy and Airforce Convention.

Aug/17 CARP News reports the Royal Canadian Legion may go to court over the definition of the Merchant Navy in federal legislation.

Aug/17 Speech in Halifax to the Army, Navy and Airforce Convention as guess speaker.

Sep/23 Member's Statement – *The Merchant Navy* (S.O. 31-23). Press Release.

Sep/24 Meeting with hunger strikers to discuss the government's inaction.

Sep/29 Interview with Paul Cowan of the *Edmonton Sun* concerning a local veteran.

Sep/30 Statement – *Merchant Navy Hunger Strike*

Oct/01 Press Release – *Mifflin's Comment Are Thoughtless*

Oct/05 Notice that Gordon Olmstead, Chair of the MN POW Assoc. resigned due to illness. Organized a live interview with CFRA and the hunger strikers on the Hill.

Oct/07 Press Release – Check in the book for title.

Oct/08 Press Release – *"Special Rules, If You Want It Heard in the House," Says Goldring*

Oct/09 Press Release – *Goldring Calls For End To Hunger-Strike*. This call was acknowledged later the same day after personal conversations with the Minister resulted in a willingness to consult veterans' associations on the new legislation.

Oct/21 Press Release – *Goldring Asks Why Merchant Navy Consultations Are Behind Closed Doors*

Oct/23 Merchant Navy negotiators send briefs on the consultations to date and advice that the issue of compensation has not been raised yet.

Oct/27 Meeting with Bill Riddell, President of the Merchant Navy Association to discuss the Merchant Navy consultations.

Oct/30 Statement – calling for compensation (S.O.31-24)

Nov/02 Motion – M-503 appears on the Order Paper calling for compensation negotiations

Nov/05 Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs opened hearings into the Merchant Navy

where Mr. Goldring narrowed the Merchant Navy's concerns to four.

Nov/11 Press Release – *Merchant Navy Says 50 Years Is Long Enough*

Nov/11 Interview with John Collison on Winnipeg's 1290 AM

Nov/11 Interview CKNW in Vancouver for the WIC chain of radio stations.

Nov/11 Interview with Dave Taylor on Alberta's QR77

Nov/19 Interview with Lowell Green on Ottawa's CFRA to discuss the return of the hunger-strikers to Parliament Hill.

Nov/23 Member's Statement – calling for the Minister to address this issue (S.O.31-26)

Nov/24 Press Release – Merchant Navy Veterans Agree There Are Four Issues.

Nov/25 Speech given to protesters on Parliament Hill

Nov/25 Member's Statement – calling for the shameful denial to end (S.O.31-27)

Nov/25 Interview with Lowell Green on Ottawa's CFRA to announce the end of the hunger-strikers on Parliament Hill.

Nov/26 Press Release – *Goldring Offers Solution To 'Retroactive' Deadlock*

Nov/26 Radio Broadcast from Mr. Goldring's Ottawa Office by Howard Galganov

Nov/30 Letter to the Editor in the *Halifax Daily News*

Dec/01 Motion (M-529) appears on the Notice Paper calling for a Parliamentary Debate.

99/2/03 Press Release – *Merchant Navy Veterans Demonstrate Nationally Against Bill C-61,*

Goldring Tells Minister – "You Still Don't Have It Right"

Feb/04 Article in the *Edmonton Sun* indicating that the Minister "offered false hope"

Feb/04 Interview with Dave Arnold on Calgary's QR77.

Feb/11 Press Release – *Years Of Denied Equality Not Resolved In Bill C-61*

Feb/12 Press Release – *Goldring Calls For Special Committee To Examine Merchant Navy Compensation.*

Feb/12 Speech (40 minutes) on 2nd reading of Bill C-61

Feb/15 Letter to the Editor telling Veterans Affairs to fairly deal with compensation claims.

Feb/15 Committee Motion requesting a SCNDVA study of the compensation issue.

Feb/18 Motion in Committee ensuring that Parliament will examine the Merchant Navy

issue before the summer recess and report to Parliament with recommendations.

Feb/18 Bill C-61 passes in the SCONDVA Committee

Feb/18 Concurrence Motion filed on the SCONDVA C-61 Report

Feb/19 Article in *Edmonton Sun* declares *MP Wins Battle For Merchant Navy Veterans*

Feb/20 Letter to the Editor (*Charlottetown Guardian*) *Merchant Navy Deserves Respect*

Feb/20 Letter to the Editor (*Halifax Daily News*) *Recognize Merchant Navy*

Feb/24 Letter to the Editor (*Halifax Daily News*) *Progress on Merchant Navy Vets*

Mar/11 Press Release – *Merchant Navy Focuses On Last Outstanding Concern*

Mar/12 Details of yesterday's speech documented in the *Ottawa Citizen* and *Edmonton Sun*

Mar/15 Letter to the Editor of all Sun papers containing a review of the 'Sail or Jail' video.

Mar/18 Compensation Hearings begin as a result of Goldring's motion.

Mar/18 Press Release – Merchant Navy Asked To Come Up With Exact Amount For

Compensation.

Mar/19 Reports in the *Ottawa Sun*, *Edmonton Sun*, *London Free Press*, *Windsor Star* and *CP Wire Outlets* carried Goldring's comments.

Mar/19 Member's Statement – reflecting on Bill C-61 and compensation issues (S.O.31-29)

Mar/24 Report in the *Ottawa Sun* with comments on yesterday's hearings.

Ortona Veterans

SUMMARY: Between December 20-28, 1943, one of the fiercest battles of WWII took place in Ortona, Italy. Although the Canadians won the battle, over 1400 Canadians died in the bloody street fighting. On December 24th, during the worst part of the battle, Canadians gathered in an Ortona Church for dinner. Now, in 1998 these veterans wish to return to the same church in Ortona for a reconciliation dinner with their former foes. The Veterans Affairs Department has rejected their request for \$100,000 of financial assistance. Mr. Goldring, disappointed by this decision, spearheaded a public appeal. With the assistance of various media, businesses and private citizens, we will be sending our veterans to Ortona this Christmas.

INVOLVEMENT:

Aug/4 Press Release – *Canada's Ortona Veterans Want Closure*

Aug/10 Article - *Edmonton Journal* responds by Bill Gilmour's major Ortona story

Aug/11 Mr. Goldring works with David Gamble on story

Aug/12 Press Release – *Liberal "Grinch" Steals "Christmas" from "Ortona" Veterans.*

Aug/12 Visit to Edmund Griffiths at home in Ottawa.

Aug/13 Media Advisory – *Veterans Affairs Critic In Halifax.* Story in all Sun Papers calling for Canadians to support a fundraising campaign through Goldring's Ottawa office.

Aug/15 Article by Earl McRae on Ortona vets calling for donations

Aug/17 Speech - Mr. Goldring highlights Ortona issue at the Army, Navy, and Airforce Association Convention in Halifax with the Minister present.

Aug/17 Talkshow guest on Toronto's CFRB-AM with Paul and Carol Motts.

Aug/17 Letter to the Defence Minister requesting space on a regular military flight.

Aug/18 Interview – in-studio on Halifax's CJCH-AM with Brian Philips.

Aug/19 Talkshow guest from Halifax on Ottawa's CFRA-AM with Lowell Green

Aug/20 Talkshow guest from Halifax on Vancouver's CFMI-FM with Sterling Fox.

Aug/20 Open Letter to all Senators and MPs asking for contributions.

Aug/21 Met with Edmund Griffiths to discuss the trip logistics and dates.

Aug/23 Media Advisory – *Veterans Affairs Critic In Barrie*

Aug/24 Press Conference (Barrie, Ontario) with Wally Moran of *Seniors Plus Magazine* to launch fundraising appeal with local Legion officials. Local TV, radio and print attended and Ottawa's CJOH-TV also ran the story.

Aug/25 Interview –Edmonton's CHED-AM with Jerry.

Aug/25 Story in Saskatchewan carried by CKCK-TV in Regina.

Aug/26 Article in Kingston's *Whig-Standard* outlining the Ortona dinner as the dream of Kingston's former Anglican Archbishop and the involvement of CFB Kingston.

Press Release – *Goldring Calls On Citizens To Support Canada's 'Ortona' Veterans' "Christmas In Italy"*

Aug/27 Earl McRae, standing in for Lowell Green hosted another radio show on CFRA in Ottawa on the Ortona situation, highlighting local efforts.

Aug/28 Media Advisory – *National Campaign Launch*.

Press Release – *Final Advance On Ortona Begins Monday, August 31 and "The Name Game"*.

Interview and photo shoot for the *Edmonton Journal* and city resolution drafted.

Aug/29 Article - *Montreal Gazette* reported on Mr. Goldring's offer to buy the rights to the Bloc name in order that it be auctioned off to raise funds.

Aug/30 Central Canada Exhibition donates \$1000 after posting notices supplied by Mr. Goldring. *Ottawa Sun* announces plan for \$10 for every new subscription.

Aug/31 Press Conference announcing "National Kick-off" at the Prince of Wales Armoury in Edmonton with Ortona Veterans from the Loyal Edmonton Regiment. Articles in the *Ottawa Sun*, *Edmonton Journal*, *Charlottetown Guardian* and *CP Wire Services*.

Sep/02 Press Conference at Nepean City Hall to announce the municipal initiative. Talkshow guest on Ottawa's CRFA with Lowell Green.

Sep/03 Press Release – *Civil Service Co-op 'Supports' Veterans*. \$5000 received from the Ottawa CS Co-op. Interview - CBC Radio concerning the donation from CS-Coop.

Sep/05 Editorial Cartoon in the *Ottawa Citizen* relating Ortona and DND Sex Change

Sep/08 Press Release - *\$40,000 For Soldiers Sex Change, \$0 For Ortona Veterans Says Goldring*. After a long weekend of national publicity and an article by Peter Worthington, over 200 letters were received and \$7000 was received in the mail. In Quicksan – finally

Sep/11 Press Release – *Goldring Calls On Citizens To Support Canada's Ortona Veterans' 'Christmas In Italy'*. \$6,300 received.

Sep/14 \$1235 from DND HQ staff and a 7 year-old's birthday money.

Sep/15 Talkshow guest on Ottawa's CFRA with Lowell Green. Anonymous donor will pay for all the aeroplane tickets.

Sep/16 Article - first in the national *Southam* chain by Norm Ovenden. In Quicksan. CJOH-TV in Ottawa filmed staff opening envelopes with donations.

Sep/17 Canadian Press story by John Ward and monument designs viewed for the first time.

Sep/18 Press Release – *Ortona Campaign Marches on – Victory At Hand*. \$26,000 cheque picked up from the anonymous donor. Article – *Canada's War Veterans 'Retake' Ortona At Christmas This Year*.

Sep/21 First volunteers come to the office

Sep/22 Three volunteers spend the day photocopying cheques and doing data entry.

Sep/23 Article in the *Windsor Star*

Sep/25 Media Advisory regarding upcoming Golf Tournament. Donor offers \$20,000 for accommodations. Campaign reaches \$100,000 mark. Met with Griffiths.

Sep/27 Edgewood Golf Course generates \$15,000. Monument flyer debuts.

Sep/28 Press Release – *Canada's Ortona Veterans Now Go International*

Algonquin College students make presentations on fundraising and awareness ideas

Sep/29 Interview with Cameron Maxwell of the *Calgary Sun*. Volunteers continue to assist.

Oct/01 News from the City of Ortona that they will cover the costs of the meals and also reports that the Italian media carried the International Press Release.

Oct/04 Article - *Ottawa Sun* by Earl McRae questions the Korean pilgrimage group size.

Oct/05 Interview with Steve Madley at CFRA about the Korean pilgrimage participants.

Oct/06 Article submitted to national papers on Mr. Goldring's reasons for participating in the current Korean pilgrimage, the current Merchant Navy hunger strike and the Ortona Veterans.

Oct/07 Article - Earl McRae reports on the lack of MP and Senator feedback to Hector LeMay's bumper sticker project.

Oct/15 Speech before the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce announcing the Loyal Edmonton Regiment's delegates. Interview on Edmonton Radio.

Oct/15 Interview on Edmonton Radio.

Oct/20 Article - Earl McRae thanks Mr. Goldring and his staff personally and tells of Emery Worldwide's offer to ship the bronze monument to Italy

Oct/23 John Gardam leaves for advance trip to Ortona.

Oct/27 John Saracino phones the City of Ortona with Mr. Goldring's office to finalise hotel details.

Oct/31 Ortona indicates their desire to have the monument erected next to the old church.

Nov/04 Preston Manning's office indicates their desire to see an Ortona article represent the Official Opposition for Veterans Week publication.

Nov/05 Media Advisory to notify of the cheque presentation from Hector Le May for the \$10,000 he raised with his bumper-sticker fundraiser.

Nov/05 Book Development-*Christmas in Ortona* – meeting with Roy Remple at SCNDVA

Nov/11 Interview with Radio-Canada's Manon Globensky

Nov/11 Meeting with Algonquin College students to host them on Parliament Hill for the signing of the Ortona Banner.

Nov/17 Articles printed in *The Compass* (Trinity and Conception Bay, NF) and *The Advertiser* (Kentville, NS)

Nov/17 Interview with the Toronto Star's Rosemary DiManio who is planning on covering the event from Italy

Nov/17 Meeting at Mr. Goldring's office with Ted Griffiths and John Gardam to discuss the trip plans.

Nov/28 Article by Earl McRae announcing Mr. Goldring's plans for a coffee-table book

Dec/01 Book Development-*Christmas in Ortona* – meeting with Roy Remple at SCNDVA

Dec/02 Media Advisory – *Goldring Welcomes 'Road to Ortona' Author*

Dec/04 Press Release – *Christmas In Ortona 1943-1998*

Dec/08 Press Release from the Perley-Rideau Veterans' Health Centre announcing the send-off dinner.

Dec/10 City of Edmonton confirms \$1000 donation.

Dec/17 City of Ortona announces the site for a memorial to be erected in Ortona

Dec/18 Article in *Edmonton Journal* quotes members of Loyal Edmonton contingent.

Dec/23 Editorial in the *Edmonton Sun* by Neil Waugh – "Shame on the Feds".

Dec/26 Media Advisory – *Canada's Ortona Veterans Return To Toronto December 28.*

1/09/99 Letters to the Editor in the *Toronto Star* expressing support for the trip and military history lessons in schools.

Feb/05 Member's Statement – *CBC Snubs Ortona Donors.* (S.O. 31-28)

Feb/18 Meeting with Minister Mifflin discussing the Ortona project and follow-up issues.

Feb/20 Peter Worthington's column printed nationally credits Goldring for Ortona success

Mar/20 Wax model ready for final stage.

Legion Magazine

SUMMARY: *Legion Magazine* has been published since 1924 and has a membership of approximately 500,000 veterans. Postage costs for *Legion Magazine* are subsidised through Heritage Canada in order to maintain a low subscription fee for veterans. Proposed changes will result in the magazine cost rising from 8.5 cents per copy to 50 cents per copy.

According to Duane Daly of the Royal Canadian Legion, the loss of this postal subsidy will result in the demise of the magazine. In order to comply with previous regulatory changes, the magazine went from 10 copies per year at \$5.35/yr to 5 copies per year.

Sheila Copps and Heritage Canada have extended the subsidy for one more year and they have yet to inform the Royal Canadian Legion if they conform to the new standards. Heritage Canada is expected to notify *Legion Magazine* by the end of October.

It is worth noting that *Legion Magazine* meets Canadian content rules and is classified as a heritage magazine.

Further problems may arise when Heritage Canada attempts to get involved with the billing structure. Currently the magazine subscription is part of the annual legion dues, but to be eligible for the subsidy, it is being proposed that billing must be separate from annual dues.

INVOLVEMENT:

Aug/6 In a lengthy conversation with Duane Daily of the Royal Canadian Legion concerning the issues surrounding the *Legion Magazine* it was decided that they would keep our office informed of developments. The Royal Canadian Legion noted that Mr. Goldring's interest was appreciated, but they wished to remain politically neutral and felt that this limited the amount of co-operative work that was possible.

Oct/15 Spoke to Mr. Daily and he informed me that as of yesterday, the full price of postage will be charged to the Royal Canadian Legion, but Heritage Canada will deposit an amount equivalent to the subsidy into their account on October 31. We will be informed if that arrangement does not work out.

Oct/22 Issue of *Legion Magazine* comes up in Question Period through a question of Inky Mark, MP. Sheila Copps, MP incorrectly stated that defeat of C-55 would result in the end of *Legion Magazine*.

C-279 - Two Minutes of Silence

SUMMARY: This is a Bill that was proposed by Jason Kenny, MP and has the full support of Mr. Goldring and the Royal Canadian Legion. Mr. Goldring spoke to this Bill on March 12, 1998.

This bill would promote the observance of two minutes of silence on Remembrance Day. It is designed to formalise a custom that is on the wane in Canada. It would invite the people of Canada to observe two minutes of silence on Remembrance Day in their places of work, in schools, and in other defined ways.

This legislation calls on Canadians to recognize the importance of the long-standing tradition of observing moments of silence for our war dead.

Similar legislation, Bill 112 (Morley Kells), received Royal Assent in the Ontario Legislature on October 10, 1998.

Mr. Goldring is proud to support the initiative of one of his colleagues and is confident that other parties will also support this bill later when it is reintroduced.

INVOLVEMENT:

Mar/12 Mr. Goldring gave a 10 minute speech in support of C-279

Sept. Jason Kenny will be sending a brochure to all Royal Canadian Legion Branches requesting support for his Bill.

National War Museum

SUMMARY: The National War Museum is currently under control of the Canadian Museum of Civilisation Corporation and has recently announced a grand renovation plan. The renovation was both needed and welcome, but one aspect had drawn a lot of controversy. The expansion will add four floors with the entire second floor being proposed as an exposition on the Jewish Holocaust of WWII.

This issue was resolved in March 1998 when the CMC announced that the Holocaust Museum will go under a separate roof and the NWM to be dedicated solely to Canada's war history. Barney Danson, a veteran was also named to the museum board to "broaden the scope of opinion."

In last May, the Senate committee that was studying the NWM made a series of recommendations. Most of these recommendations mirrored those made earlier by Mr. Goldring. They included moving the museum under Veterans Affairs, keeping "war" in the museum name, gathering more veterans for the Board of Directors and restricting the war museum directly to Canadian war history.

This has been an issue that has allowed for both the Veterans Affairs Critic and the Canadian Heritage Critic, Jim Abbott and the Senate to work together.

INVOLVEMENT:

Dec/97 saw veterans groups take an official stand against the planned

Feb/02 in response to growing interest, talking points were issued via email

Feb/03 Press Release - *Reform Veterans Affairs Critic Honoured By Invitation To Sit As Observer At Senate Hearings*

Feb/06 Member's Statement - *Faces of War* (S.O. 31-9)

Feb/06 Press Release - *Goldring Comments On National War Museum*

Feb/11 Press Release - *Reform Urges Copps and Mifflin To Respect Canadian Military History*

Feb/18 Press Release - *Veterans Claim Victory With Museum Announcement*

Feb/98 Mr. Goldring attended Senate Committee hearings for one week

Mar/02 Press Release announcing involvement in the Hearings as an observer

Mar/98 All groups involved showed satisfaction at the results and Mr. Goldring introduced a motion to have the museum moved to the control of Veterans Affairs.

Apr/02 Mr. Goldring calls on Mifflin and Copps to get the VA to take over the NWM on the same day that Copps testifies to the Senate sub-committee

May/20 Senate committee released it's report calling for the War Museum to be run separately under the Veterans Affairs Department and more veteran involvement in decision making.

Aug/11 Re-introduced the idea of a World Genocide Museum

Sep/24 Mr. Goldring was approached through the War Museum by a donor who wants to contribute \$20,000 to the Ortona campaign.

Nov/16 Letter from the Legion President seeking support for the new War Museum.

Veterans' Field of Honour

Pointe Claire, QC

SUMMARY: The Field of Honour is in Pointe Claire, Quebec and is the only exclusively Canadian Military Cemetery (16,300 buried there). Plain markers forever unite privates, captains and generals of all denominations.

Veterans can arrange to purchase a plot here. The late Arthur H.D. Hair, a veteran and a hospital orderly, who was appalled to learn that no veterans' association provided this service, founded it in 1909. Since 1922, the Fund's activities have been nation-wide and administered under the Dominion charter. Since 1930, it has operated its own cemetery - *The Field of Honour*.

Funded entirely on its own until 1921, the Fund has since received annual grants from the Department of Veterans Affairs to augment these donations. The 97-98 estimates for Veterans Affairs list the Last Post Fund as a \$16.2M expense.

The Last Post Fund legislation was last amended under the Veterans Affairs Act on September 26, 1995 to ensure that the Fund was paying for those in need. The criteria was redefined to make sure that only those in need received funding.

RECENT EVENTS:

Jan/16-The site at Pointe Claire has just been expanded by 2.5 hectares.

Mar/23-Question asked to Minister Mifflin relating Merchant Navy policies and Last Post Fund policies.

Apr/06 - A "Late Show" speech in the House of Commons by Mr. Goldring once again stressed the points made in Question Period.

May '98 - Veterans Affairs Estimates were examined to ensure that veterans will be able to continue their involvement with the Last Post Fund.

Aug/98 – Letter to Steve Douglas concerning the transfer of these gravesites to the Internet via electronic images.

Veterans' Health Care

Perley-Rideau Health Centre

SUMMARY: Recently announced cuts to the funding of the Perley-Rideau Veterans Hospital in Ottawa have raised concerns about the quality of health care available at veterans' hospitals in Canada. The Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs was invited to tour the Ottawa Facility.

The committee was very impressed with the level and quality of care currently being provided to veterans but was concerned about a 50% funding cut that was announced early in the year and will be implemented over the next five years. While Sunnybrook Health Centre in Toronto will get \$230/day/patient, Perley-Rideau will drop from \$187/patient/per day to \$94 by the year 2003.

Veterans' health care frequency is suffering in October 1998 with only 10% of funding cuts in place. The number of patient-hours is below Veterans Affairs requirements and funding cuts will make the gap worse. Perley-Rideau has the lowest per patient funding levels, but yet one of the best levels of care. They strongly believe that good management should be continued, not cut.

INVOLVEMENT:

Apr/22 Tour of the Perley-Rideau Veterans Hospital with the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs

Jun/10 Senate Hearings into the health and care of veterans

Jun/10 Press Release - *When Will Mifflin 'Show Up' for Veterans?*

Jun/11 Press Release - *Mifflin Fails The Grade*

Jun/15 Press Release - *Winnipeg Legion Convention: Long-Outstanding Issues For Minister Mifflin*

Jul/20 Press Release - *Goldring In Court Supporting Veterans Against Ontario Government*

Jul/21 Court Appearance on behalf of Perley-Rideau Veterans Health Centre

Jul/28 Letter to the Editor (national release) on the state of veterans' health care

Aug/14 Tour of Benny Farm and spoke to veterans and Marlene Jennings about the facilities.

Aug/18 Tour of Camphill Veterans Hospital in Halifax.

Aug/26 Press Release—*The "Friends of Benny Farm": With Friends Like These...*

Sep/29 Private Members Motion 464 calls for National Health Care Standards

Sep/29 Press Release - *Private Members Motion 464 calls for national health care standards for veterans.*

Oct/02 Tour of the George Darby Veterans Home in Vancouver.

Oct/03 Tour of the Veterans Home in Victoria.

Oct/15 Press Release – *Goldring Again Calls for National Standards for Veterans' Health Care.*

Oct/27 Letter to the Editor printed in the Ottawa Citizen

Oct/30 Member's Statement calling for the Minister to intervene. (S.O.31-24)

Oct/30 Tour of Perley-Rideau Veterans Hospital in Ottawa

Nov/02 Tour of St. Anne de Bellevue (Montreal) to make a facility comparison.

Nov/03 Open Letter to Minister Mifflin about care levels falling.

Nov/03 Question Period – Asked Minister Mifflin to ensure care levels don't fall.

Nov/06 Tour of Mewburn Pavilion in Edmonton

Nov/10 Media Advisory - *Goldring In Court Supporting Veterans Against Ontario Government*

99/2/16 Ontario court rules against the hospital staffing cuts forced by funding cuts.

Nov/10 Court Appearance on behalf of Perley-Rideau Veterans Health Centre

Nov/11 Interview with Dave Taylor on Alberta's QR77

99/3/2 Press Release – *Senate Report Supports Goldring's Veterans Health Care Initiative*

Mar/12 Announcement - Perley-Rideau will appeal the Ontario court decision

World Genocide Museum

SUMMARY: During the controversy over the proposed extension to the National War Museum, it was proposed that a Holocaust Gallery be provided. It was finally decided to be inappropriate to feature civilisation's failure (genocide), within a museum dedicated to Canada's proud war efforts.

Tens of millions of humans have died in the name of genocide this century alone. This crime remains a horrible part of civilisation to this day. Some, but not all genocide includes the Ukrainian famine, the Holocaust, Cambodia and Rwanda.

Mr. Goldring has advocated the construction of a 'World Genocide Museum' that would recognise the horrific loss of human life in all parts of the world and has received support from many groups across Canada.

A modular museum could be constructed to have wings and galleries of various sizes to accommodate displays for all the world's major genocides, including the Holocaust.

It is hoped that a world-class Genocide Museum would achieve international acclaim and be a highlight on the lists of 'must visit' places in our capital for our students and for foreign dignitaries to be reminded of the unconscionable nature of genocide.

INVOLVEMENT: **Feb/98** Mr. Goldring raises the idea while attending the Senate hearings into the proposed expansion at the National War Museum

Feb/06 Member's Statement – *Two Faces Of War* (S.O.31-9)

Feb/06 Press Release - *Goldring Comments On National War Museum*

Feb/11 Press Release - *Reform Urges Cops and Mifflin To Respect Canadian Military History*

Feb/18 Press Release - *Veterans Claim Victory With Museum Announcement*

Mar/02 Press Release announcing involvement in the Hearings as an observer

Aug/11 Press Release – *Goldring Calls For World Genocide Museum*

Nov/16 Letter from the Legion President seeking support for the new War Museum.

99/1/26 Letter to the Editor-*A World Genocide Museum In Canada* -sent nationally.

Feb/03 *Edmonton Sun* expresses support for Mr. Goldring's idea and indicates the support of the Ukrainian and Aboriginal communities.

Mar/02 Replied to letters confirming support from Ukrainian and Belrusan groups

Mar/04 Replied to letter confirming support from Pan African Movement of Canada

WWII Pacific ‘Campaign Pay’

SUMMARY: In World War II some theatres of fighting were deemed extraordinarily dangerous and the Pacific region was one such area. Prior to official hostilities in the region, there were 330 Canadian soldiers posted throughout the area at radar stations to monitor local activities. This division was with the Canadian Army.

Once official hostilities began, many more Canadians were sent to the region. They included all branches of the Armed Forces. These new troops were eligible for ‘Campaign Pay’ which began as soon as they entered the theatre and terminated as soon as they left. The original Canadian Wireless Group did not receive this additional pay (30 cents per day) even though it was recommended in internal documents, but Canadian Dental Corps personnel did.

Today, this group is seeking the campaign pay with interest for all. So far, appeals through conventional channels have resulted in nothing.

Mr. Goldring has been invited to speak at the Radar Veterans Annual National Convention in Surrey, British Columbia in September 1998. Last year’s event was also attended by Mr. Goldring when it was held in Ottawa.

INVOLVEMENT:

Jun/26 Met with Robert Linden in Ottawa to discuss the issue based on the research he has done through the National Archives.

Jul/98 Invited to attend the Radar Veterans Annual National Convention in Surrey, BC in September.

Jul/98 Organized the mailing of Mr. Goldring’s S.O. 31 to the RCAF Radar Veterans.

Aug/13 Letter and Certificates with S.O. 31 mailed to 1700 Radar Veterans

Aug/24 NCVA letter on Pacific Campaign Pay sent to Robert Linden.

Sep/01 Meeting with Robert Linden to get new numbers based on the Pay Equity decision formula to used for the redress.

Oct/08 Full documentation sent to House Leader’s Office for procedural advice.

Nov/16 Met with Robert Linden to discuss the upcoming Committee hearings.

Nov/17 SCONDVA Committee Hearings with Robert Linden as the witness.

Nov/17 Letter to Robert Linden encouraging that a Veterans bring the Redress of Grievance forward to the Minister rather than the Committee.

Nov/30 Robert Linen called to inform Mr. Goldring that two veterans will be launching a grievance to the Minister on December 15.

Nov/30 Letter to Robert Linden to confirm the results of the Committee.

Feb/99 Redress delivered to the Minister.

Veterans Affairs



Mr. Goldring raised \$200,000 to send veterans to Ortona, Italy for a retake of their Christmas dinner of 1943. The project was turned down by Veterans Affairs which lacked the vision of the occasion. Even National Defence refused to FLY the veterans. In a national campaign, Mr. Goldring raised the necessary funds for the trip and a permanent monument. 35,000 Canadians, young and old, contributed and made Christmas in Ortona happen. The 'Price of Peace' was created by Robert Surette and was installed in Ortona, Italy.



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86,153



October, 2000

Louis Riel Fought The Fathers of Confederation

I wish to comment on Liberal Senator Thelma Chalifoux's initiative to have Louis Riel declared a Father of Confederation and to have his conviction for treason overturned, through introducing legislation in the Senate. Senator Chalifoux believes that the "unhanging" of Riel is no different from past government apologies for the residential school system failings and the treatment of Japanese-Canadians during World War II. I disagree.

In a Canadian court of law, Louis Riel was tried and convicted of treason and was sentenced to hang. The sentence was in keeping with the severity of the crime as it was regarded at that time, Riel was defended by the best and brightest legal minds of the day, but to no avail. Persons who had experienced the stench of death in their nostrils and who had lived with the daily terror created by Riel judged him to be guilty of treason, and then witnessed his execution.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canada's Loyal Opposition Party leader, who was opposed to Riel's execution, was opposed to the severity of the sentence, which is not the same as objecting to the conviction for the crime. The crime was regarded with the utmost gravity by all politicians of the day. Sir John A Macdonald, Canada's Prime Minister, refused to interfere with the sentence imposed by the judge, which was then carried out.

The entire sordid affair of Riel--an affair of political intrigue, insurrection, death, rebellion and the terrorization of western communities--was brought to an end by French-speaking and English-speaking soldiers, loyal to the Government of Canada. These loyal soldiers ended a rebellion that threatened our nation's unity. For the second time in twenty years, Riel used violent insurrection and death to challenge British and Canadian authority and unity. Louis Riel was not a Father of Confederation. He fought the Fathers of Confederation, and many Canadians died.

While Riel was motivated, in the opinion of himself and his followers, by good intentions resulting in many actions that benefited the Métis, we can say the same about many other social leaders of the time. However, in the case of Louis Riel, his actions resulted in the deaths of over eighty people, with many more wounded. It is through this important fact that the analogies made by Senator Chalifoux begin to quickly break down. When the Canadian government determined to right the wrongs

done to Japanese-Canadians interned during World War II, Japanese-Canadians had killed no one. When the government attempts to right the wrongs associated with abuse in the residential school system, it is not dealing with a situation where over eighty students have been killed--though many may have been psychologically wounded.

I appreciate the deep respect for Louis Riel by his followers and supporters. I also appreciate that the reality of Riel's history has been distorted by a mythology which is fed by political correctness. Such a politically correct "feeding" was exemplified by the Governor General of Canada, speaking with reverent atonement at a memorial honouring Canadian soldiers who sacrificed their lives so that the Northwest Rebellion could be put down and Louis Riel brought to justice. She was not there to honour the memory of those soldiers who defended Canada against Riel. The Governor General succeeded in demeaning the memory of all Canadian soldiers of the Northwest Rebellion, who completed their task as ordered by the Government of Canada. These soldiers, now long gone, have only their distant relatives and proud regiments to attest to the veracity and honour of their actions.

The soldiers who fought Riel were awarded medals by the government for their service in defending Canada. The first war medal issued by Canada was ribboned in a striped pattern of "red-white-red"--the colours of Canada's flag of today--and was

garlanded with maple leaves around the word "Canada". The medal's ribbon bore a clasp for either the Red River Campaign or the Fenian Raids. The second war medal issued by Canada was specifically for service during the Northwest Rebellion. Both medals awarded demonstrate Canada's gratitude for the bravery of those who fought to bring Riel's rebellions to an end.

The soldiers who defended Canada against the tyranny of Riel were honoured for their sacrifices and wore their medals with pride. Their efforts are cherished in the memory of their descendants and should not be dishonoured today, through excising and rewriting the facts of history. So many politicians of today appear to know little of and care less for the bravery, determination and resolution of those who fought against Riel and saved our country from disintegration, so long ago.

If Riel is exonerated by historical revisionists in today's Canadian political world, who will apologise to the descendants of Canada's veterans of the Red River Campaign and the Northwest Rebellion? Who will explain to them that their forbears, who sacrificed so much, are now to be dis"honoured" by a current political generation that rewrites history, making them the villains and the villain a national hero? One person who should attempt an explanation is our Governor General. When she appeared with Métis representatives and an RCMP honour guard at a war memorial in Ottawa, who was she honouring--and who was she dishonouring--that day?

In our own daily lives, as we bask in the calming glow of an evening sunset, we pause and reflect on the day just past. The events of that day can be altered by no one. Why should it be any different for Louis Riel? Certainly, Louis Riel remains a notable contributor to Canadian history. We must nonetheless be true to our history and not distort the facts. Revisionism will deprive our future of the truth.

(945 words)





August 2000

Tour of Duty

Speech for Army, Navy and Air Force Convention Regina, August 6-9, 2000

Good afternoon to all veterans. Past President Akmal Khan, Vice President Bob Cassels, Admiral Larry Murray, my parliamentary colleague Bob Wood, all veterans, ladies and gentlemen. I thank my friend President Bert Prichard for his invitation. I also wish to use this occasion to acknowledge our late mutual friend Chuck Murphy of the Royal Canadian Legion, who lived to see the Unknown Soldier return to Canada, and then himself to pass away. I want to express my gratitude, great appreciation and very high regard that I have for all of you, for the good work your organization does.

The Army, Navy and Air Force, "ANA Vets", organization is over 150 years old and has been in existence since 1840, before Confederation. The past century has been the most violent in history with the South African War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, which is still a war on hold, the Gulf War and many regional conflicts. Near the end of the previous century, the French and English speaking Canadians fought together for the first time in the Fenian Raids, the Red River Campaign against foreign invasion and internal insurrection.

These soldiers were recognized with a General Service Medal. For Canada's first veterans, the medal had a ribbon, very appropriately coloured; red, white and red as is Canada's flag of today. Clasps on the medal's ribbon indicated "Fenian Raid 1866", "Fenian Raid 1870" or "Red River 1870". The medal itself was garlanded with maple leaves. Undoubtedly, some of the early ANA veterans or "AN" veterans were proud recipients.

To encourage remembrance of this and all of Canada's war history, I propose a series of postal stamps with a dedicated purpose. Stamps to recognize individual efforts like those of our Victoria Cross winners, Unit efforts, major battles, major memorials, and major conflicts – a *Canada at War* series. The purchase of these stamps could create an important, revenue source for the long-term repair and maintenance of our memorials abroad and also would raise awareness of Canada's war history. They include the Vimy Ridge, France and Kapyon, Korea Memorials, which I have seen, among others that are sadly in need of repair.

It has been very much an honour and a humbling experience to have been so very much involved with veterans' issues over the past three years. The successes have been many, due to so many working together. In 1998, history was made with the Ortona Christmas Dinner, which touched so many internationally. Our Hong Kong veterans' slave labour compensation claim and our Merchant Navy veterans' grievances were finally settled, after so very many years. Tough issues were finally put to bed. I have also called for national health care standards for veterans. Simply put, extraordinary people need and deserve extraordinary care.

Today, I announce my departure from the Veterans Affairs Critic role. It's time to move on. I want you to know that this really is not my choice at all, since there is still much work to be done. It's like I'm still in the military. I have just received my marching orders and, like any good soldier, I obey my superior commander without reservation. I may grumble a little bit in private, but I will soldier on. As I move on, I will take with me the memories of the great friendships and wonderful experiences that I have encountered during this tour of duty as Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs. I take with me a duty to inform others of my experiences.

I now better understand Vimy Ridge and its tunnels having seen them. I now better understand the Normandy landing having walked on Normandy's shores. I now better understand the Unknown Soldier's presence at Canada's war memorial having stood and heard the message in his silence. I now better understand the glory and sorrow that is war having looked carefully and respectfully into the eyes of a Canadian war veteran. And after all this, I can still not "fully" understand the true terror of those times. Only those that have been there will ever know all.

The picture in my mind of my experiences over the past three years is a picture painted with colours brought to life by the voices and the recollected experiences of so very many veterans; veterans who took the time to share a small corner of their lives with me. I thank you very much for the last three years, which I will never forget; God bless you for according me the honour of serving.

One such experience so very memorable amongst many, many other experiences happened earlier this year. I was in the reviewing stand in Appeldoorn, Holland, during the massive, two-hour parade to commemorate the 55th anniversary of Holland's liberation. Thousands of Dutch citizens, many with tears, greeted the Canadian veterans, as they marched by. The Dutch have not forgotten, and will never forget. As the soldiers proudly marched by, a chorus suddenly broke out all around us, among the 200,000 citizen spectators: "Old soldiers never die. They simply fade away." They fade away to our memory with the highest honour and respect. The memory will remain with us always.

Thank you for three years that I will never forget. Good luck with your convention. Keep up the good community work and keep veterans and their spouses' well being the highest priority. See you in Edmonton in 2002.

(917 words)





2000 June

The 56th Anniversary of D-Day

Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament, Edmonton East and Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs is currently in Normandy for the 56th Anniversary of D-Day and gives his reflections of the event.

Fifty-six years ago, dawn broke on the beaches of Normandy, with the silhouette of war painted across the horizon. One thousand Allied ships were poised for action. D-Day had arrived. These tranquil shores would soon bear witness to the largest combined wartime invasion in history. An invasion force of Allied might would strike at the heart of Nazi tyranny. The scourge of Europe was about to be dealt a blow that would lead to Nazi defeat and to Europe's freedom.

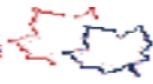
In the invasion's first hour, over 100,000 stormed ashore, taking their place in history's role of honour. Many did not reach shore, their last moments slipping beneath the channel's sea, victims of horrific shore fire. Here were men of good will, fathers and sons, driven from peaceful pasts to take up arms. Here they fought for their God, King, country and world peace, their strengths, courage and convictions being tested to the extreme. Canadian soldiers with their Allied friends--the British, Polish and American--carried the day. Victory for the free world was soon to be at hand.

War is not won in one day alone; the march to total victory carried on. Canada's role in the D-Day invasion was large, for a country of 11,000,000 souls. On D-Day, over 30,000 Canadians were fighting for Normandy's shores. 109 Canadian vessels, crewed by 10,000 sailors. 15,000 Canadian soldiers waded towards shore, while our Air Force bombed and strafed the enemy throughout the day. The "Road to Falaise" had begun. By journey's end, 5,000 would lie dead in Normandy's graves--reminders for all time of Canada's supreme sacrifice to free France. The long road to Falaise would be paved with the lives and blood of Canada's young soldiers. By war's end, over one million men and women would serve in our country's army, navy, air force and merchant marine services. By war's end, 45,000 would never return home.

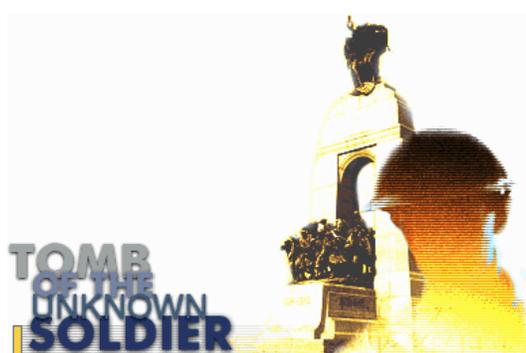
It is fitting that those who survived the D-Day invasion return with the Canadian youth of today, to bear witness to the glory and sorrow of the sacrifices made by Canada's youth fifty-five years ago. Youth who will never grow old, and who lie forever in graves far away from home. History unfolds at the feet of Canadian youth in Normandy, this year. History unfolds also for veterans, who stormed ashore so long ago.

All on this D-Day pilgrimage will hopefully take the knowledge learned at Normandy and impart it to many others, so that none will forget. The price of the peace in Canada today has been the high cost of lives lost in the wars of the past. Let us not forget.

(440 words)



MAIL



May 24, 2000

Two Soldiers: One Known to Family and Friends; One Known Only Unto God

by
Peter Goldring
Member of Parliament, Edmonton East
Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs

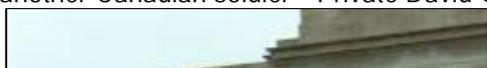
In France and in Canada during the week of May 22, the world will witness historic events surrounding the stories of two Canadian soldiers who died in the First World War. One is known to family and friends; the other is known only to God.

The Unknown Soldier will be carried home from the shadow of Vimy Ridge to rest forever on Canadian soil. Not to the town he left so long ago, for we know not where he lives. Not to his family's home, for we know not who his family is. But home he will soon come to rest in an honourable place and to receive the deserving respect of all as we, the public, remember the war, think of his soul and ponder the supreme 'Price of Peace' that his death reflects. These actions show us that the Unknown Soldier represents all Canadians. In falling at Vimy, the Unknown Soldier fell in a crucial battle—a Canadian victory that the entire world would see. Many would say that Canada took birth that day. Born into the world of nations with respect, by the blood of our young, through their determination and skill. Their spirit lives on to this day.

There were over 60,000 Canadian soldiers killed in the First World War alone. In the last century, approximately 110,000 Canadians lost their lives and are buried in 75 countries around the world. At present, more than 27,000 of our war dead—nearly 25% of all Canadians who lost their lives in fighting for our freedoms—have no known grave, being buried at sea or lost on land. In the Vimy region alone, more than 1,600 graves hold the remains of Canadian soldiers who could not be identified, representing almost half of the approximately 3,700 Canadians who died during the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

This is why it is so important to honour those whose names are unknown in death, and also why it is so important to acknowledge our war dead whose names are known. The events in France include honouring both an unknown and a recently identified Canadian soldier from the First World War, both of whom made the supreme sacrifice for our freedoms. At the Vimy Memorial on May 25th, the remains of an unknown Canadian soldier from the First World War will be received by Canadian veterans and brought home. One day earlier, on May 24th, all will honour another Canadian soldier—Private David Carlson—who sacrificed his life at the Battle of the Somme. His remains

were only recently discovered by tourists in France, and were able to be



identified by his name tags. Private Carlson was one of 25,000 Canadians who lost their lives in the Battle of the Somme, a battle which claimed nearly 40% of the 67,000 Canadians killed in the First World War. In attendance will be descendants of Private David Carlson and his late twin brother, Frank. The twins and their families are from the Edmonton area. The twins both volunteered to fight for Canada's freedoms; only one returned alive. Eighty years later, there will finally be closure in the life of David Carlson, who was only 19 when he fell, fighting for Canada.

What makes the ceremonies of next week particularly historic is that Canada will be in a unique position to honour its war dead, both known—through the burial of Private David Carlson--and unknown—through the burial of the Unknown Soldier. One who will bear particular witness to this historic occasion will be Paul Metivier, of Nepean, Ontario. Mr. Metivier, who is 99, fought during the First World War, having volunteered at the age of 16. He has been chosen to represent the more than 660,000 Canadians who fought during that war. Mr. Metivier will also be present to honour his son, Roland, a wireless air-gunner with the Royal Canadian Air Force, who was shot down in 1942. Roland Metivier's body was never identified; he is one of the 27,000 Canadians who sacrificed their lives for our freedoms, whose graves are unmarked.

Where there was once emptiness and heartache, now there is hopefully closure. The ceremonies may be late. This does not diminish their importance, since memories speak forever, and we must never forget the great debt owed to our war dead.

(746 words)



Return to Unknown Soldier

[HOME PAGE](#)



April 2000

Vimy Ridge Soldiers finally get the respect they deserve and it was not through the myopic lens' of "Experts"

It is not surprising that Canadians know so little of the high price paid in blood and lives by its youth of the past to enjoy that peace that we have today. Even the so-called "experts" in Canadian war history have failed to give recognition to Vimy Ridge, in a published report of the "top 20" Canadian military accomplishments of the twentieth century.

100,000 of Canada's finest young men moved forth as one to enter a hell of inhumanity and won the day, in April of 1917. Today at Vimy Ridge stands a memorial so majestic that it defies real description, erected on French soil as a testimonial to Canada's supreme effort. While France remembers, we forget. We simply relegate this fantastic military accomplishment to the "back burner" of famous Canadian military exploits.

For shame! Shame on these supposed intelligentsia of Canadian military history, who have collectively decided that Vimy Ridge "doesn't count" because "in the long run", the Canadian victory was not "decisive". Apparently, to the "experts", it doesn't count for much that, in the short run, the Canadian efforts were very decisive, and at very high cost.

1% of all of Canada advanced on unconquerable Vimy. 100,000 together, shoulder to shoulder, as Canadian comrades in arms, taking a ridge where tens of thousands had died before, in vain British and French assaults. Canada's losses at Vimy Ridge were tremendous, higher than most all of the "top 20" military sacrifices listed by this "historical committee".

The Vimy Ridge Memorial stands as the pinnacle of Canadian military sacrifice. Many would say that Canada as a nation was born that day; born into the world of nations with respect. Born by the blood of its young. Born through their determination and skill. Thankfully, this spirit lives on today in the name and scholastic pursuits of L'Academie Vimy Ridge Academy, in Edmonton--the first publicly-funded military cadet academy in Canada. Vimy Ridge should not be seen through the myopic focus of these "historians". Their "focus" explains why so many of Canada's youth know little of our military's proud exploits.

Now, Vimy Ridge Soldiers are finally getting the respect they deserve. On May 28th, a Canadian soldier will finally return home to rest at the base of the National War Memorial in Ottawa as Canada's Unknown Soldier. A delegation, that will include veterans, military guard and government officials, including myself, will go to France to bring back his remains. He will lie in state in the Hall of Honour on Parliament Hill before being buried with full military honours. With almost all our war dead buried on foreign soil, this monument will allow many Canadians to

finally pay proper tribute.





1999 October

Twining of Cities: If At First You Don't Succeed, Try Again?

It has recently been reported that Edmonton City Council, particularly in the voice of Councilor Robert Noce, has expressed reservations about the concept of twinning Edmonton with other cities. Councilor Noce's view is that "Twinning looks good on paper, but unless there is a real objective, I don't see a lot of value to it."

Some people don't see much benefit in twinning Edmonton with other cities, based on past experiences. Edmonton has been twinned with Harbin, China, Nashville, Tenn., and Hull, Quebec. The results of some such twinning exercises have been negligible. There is a recent proposal by the Mayor of Ortona, Italy, to twin his city with Edmonton, which I support, based on the potential for economic benefits, as well as historic ties between the two cities. This was defined by the sacrifice of so many young men in Edmonton's wartime regiments who liberated Ortona from the grip of Germany. History regards the Battle of Ortona as the bloodiest Canadian battle of the Italian campaign, and an "all-Canadian" victory.

The history of Ortona is thus steeped in the history of Edmonton's military regiments. In October 1999, that joint history was formally commemorated through the unveiling in Ortona of an internationally-acclaimed monument, across from the location where 17 soldiers of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment lost their lives. This monument was financed by the private donations of tens of thousands of Canadians, and was conceived and constructed through the donated efforts of Canadian sculptor, Robert Surette.

The gratitude shown by the citizens of Ortona is heartfelt and sincere. The city of Ortona is a seaport and a significant presence in this particular area of Italy. The mayor of Ortona will be visiting Canada next year and, with some hoped-for encouragement, will visit Edmonton. Perhaps at that time he could further express his views as to why the twinning of Ortona is important to him and to the residents of Ortona.

Before we dismiss out of hand the significant and sincere efforts of others, we should examine the issue carefully to assess its merits. This particular twinning opportunity provides us with an opportunity to expand knowledge of our history and our heritage, as well as to augment our knowledge of the history and heritage of others. A policy based on past failures might just be regressive and as unimaginative as prior twinning with cities based on their commonality of "country music" fans.

The Italian connections between Edmonton and Ortona are quite strong. The recently-reposted Italian Vice-Consul was stationed in Edmonton. He was a supporter of the "Price of Peace" monument erected in Ortona, as well as the "1998 Christmas Reconciliation Dinner" between Ortona veterans and their German wartime counterparts. That historic dinner remains an event that joins the two cities in, honour, reflection and remembrance, both past and present. In September, the Vice-Consul discussed with me the possibilities associated with cultural and student exchanges between Ortona and Edmonton. At around the same time, Mayor Bill Smith was named an "Honorary

Italian".

Now that "The Price of Peace" greets each sunrise and sunset in Ortona, a foundation has been proposed which will care for and promote the monument and its association with world peace. The creation and sale of brochures, as well as miniatures of the monument, have been proposed. These proposals alone hold the promise of business connections between Ortona and Edmonton, due to the significant historical relevance of the efforts of the "Loyal Eddies" and the proximity of the monument to an important regimental shrine.

There are also potential economic benefits to Edmonton from the tourism of Ortona residents. Generations of families now exist in Ortona who remember all that was done for them by Edmonton's regiments to liberate their city and country. Ortona is an Italian seaport that, in summer, attracts many tourists. During the summer, some Ortona residents holiday abroad to avoid the influx of tourists to their city. Edmonton could become a vacation choice base for Italians, in the same way that Banff is a particularly popular vacation destination for the Japanese. On the other hand, we must not become fixated on benefits from a relationship with a friend, but instead must be grateful for an opportunity to develop a relationship that will expand our horizons.

I believe that twinning Edmonton and Ortona will cement a bond of friendship; I also believe that such twinning can develop into an active, vibrant relationship that is good for both communities, at negligible cost. The rewards could be great. I do hope that any rain on the parade of goodwill associated with Edmonton's potential relationship with Ortona is not Official City Council Policy.

I attended the unveiling of "The Price of Peace" in Ortona in my capacity as Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs. I was in Italy with veterans--including Maurice White, of Edmonton--for the 55th anniversary of the campaign in Italy by Allied forces. Many graves were visited--graves of young Canadian soldiers who never returned from Italy, having made the supreme sacrifice for world peace. Over 5,000 Canadian soldiers fell in Italy and remain buried there. The ceremonies were heartfelt as veterans came face to face, once again, with the glory and sorrow that is war. At the Moro River Cemetery, near Ortona, the Mayor of Ortona, Gianfrancesco Puletti, spoke on behalf of so many who remember and remain forever grateful for the valour of Canadians. The text of his speech, in Italian, is as follows:

La Citta di Ortona che orgogliosamente ed amorevolmente custodisce le spoglie dei giovani eroi canadesi della battaglia di Ortona, rivolge a voi, a voi che avete combattuto per la democrazia e la liberta, un caldo festoso abbraccio. Le giovani generazioni guardano a voi, veterani della battaglia di Ortona, come ad un modello di vita e di altruismo che qui, in questo cimitero, e esaltato fino all'estremo sacrificio. Queste bianche lapidi lanciano da qui, dal fiume Moro, un messaggio a tutto il mondo. Un messaggio di democrazia, di pace, di liberta e di sacrificio. I ragazzi qui presenti ben sanno tutto cio e proprio dal vostro sacrificio trarranno la forza per costruire un mondo fatto con dei mattoni speciali che si chiamano appunto democrazia, pace, liberta, sacrificio e soprattutto amore. Un mondo per cui voi, valorisi combattenti della battaglia di Ortona, avete combattuto. Un mondo per cui questi 1300 eroi hanno dato la loro vita. Il mondo che tutti noi vogliamo e che si potra realizzare solo grazie al vostro sacrificio.

The city of Ortona is very much a "twin" to be cherished. Ortona offers to Edmonton a special "messaggio di democrazia, di pace, di liberta e di sacrificio"--a message of democracy, peace, liberty and sacrifice. The sacrifice for Edmonton is through its sons in uniform, fighting for the freedom of Italy--with many never to return home. Edmonton City Council should adopt Ortona's message as Edmonton's own. Let us hope that this happens.

(1150 words)





MAIL



October, 1999

Vimy Ridge And The Myopic Lens of "Experts"

It is not surprising that Canadians know so little of the high price paid in blood and lives by its youth of the past to enjoy that peace that we have today. Even the so-called "experts" in Canadian war history have failed to give recognition to Vimy Ridge, in a recently-published report of the "top 20" Canadian military accomplishments of the twentieth century.

100,000 of Canada's finest young men moved forth as one to enter a hell of inhumanity and won the day, in April of 1917. Today at Vimy Ridge stands a memorial so majestic that it defies real description, erected on French soil as a testimonial to Canada's supreme effort. While France remembers, we forget. We simply relegate this fantastic military accomplishment to the "back burner" of famous Canadian military exploits.

For shame! Shame on these supposed intelligentsia of Canadian military history, who have collectively decided that Vimy Ridge "doesn't count" because "in the long run", the Canadian victory was not "decisive". Apparently, to the "experts", it doesn't count for much that, in the short run, the Canadian efforts were very decisive, and at very high cost.

1% of all of Canada advanced on unconquerable Vimy. 100,000 together, shoulder to shoulder, as Canadian comrades in arms, taking a ridge where tens of thousands had died before, in vain British and French assaults. Canada's losses at Vimy Ridge were tremendous, higher than most all of the "top 20" military sacrifices listed by this "historical committee".

The Vimy Ridge Memorial stands as the pinnacle of Canadian military sacrifice. Many would say that Canada as a nation was born that day; born into the world of nations with respect. Born by the blood of its young. Born through their determination and skill. Thankfully, this spirit lives on today in the name and scholastic pursuits of L'Academie Vimy Ridge Academy, in Edmonton--the first publicly-funded military cadet academy in Canada. Vimy Ridge should not be seen through the myopic focus of these "historians". Their "focus" explains why so many of Canada's youth know little of our military's proud exploits.





October 1999

Cassino

Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East and Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs, visited Italy as a member of the pilgrimage delegation commemorating the 55th anniversary of the 1943-1944 campaign to liberate Italy during World War Two. The following are his reflections after participating in remembrance ceremonies at the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Cassino, Italy



At the foot of Mount Cassino lie 855 Canadians, who died during the Battle of the Hitler Line and the Allied advance toward Rome. 855 now at peace, amidst what was rubble at war's end-- Cassino's majestic peak and abbey pulverised into an unrecognisable mass of broken brick and tile. The heights of Cassino so steep that, in courageous actions that defied belief, they were scaled by Polish troops whose revenge was to take victory from the Germans. Canadian troops, fully supported by tanks and artillery, helped to win the day--at terrible cost. Cassino bloodied the Canadians once again, but fell to the determined might of the righteous defenders of the freedoms of the world.

Cassino was not one battle, but four, involving many Allied forces. It took nearly five months--during the January to May period, 1944--for Cassino to fall to the Allies and for the Germans to retreat. Canada's role--and its losses--mostly occurred during the fourth battle, between May 11 and May 19, 1944. During this battle, it was the Polish army, reconstituted in exile after the 1939 German invasion of Poland, which erected the Polish national flag over the Cassino ruins. The Canadian 1 Corps, under General Burns, provided much-needed support, fighting in tandem with troops from France. Canadians also provided crucial battle intelligence, as artillery signallers and radar officers. Austin Hemsley, a member of the 1st Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, was at Cassino and has returned on this Pilgrimage, to reflect and to remember. It was during the Italian campaign that Mr. Hemsley earned the Military Medal for bravery.

At the end of the battle, the only German troops left were a few wounded who had not been able to walk through the mountains, back to their lines. The balance of the defeated Germans had escaped imprisonment during the night of May 17-18, by climbing away from the battle site through the mountains around Cassino. At Cassino, the losses to both sides were horrendous. Entire battalions were decimated or captured. Returning in 1999 to the site of battle has been painful. As Joseph Reid of The Calgary Regiment said, "One reason I didn't want to come on this Pilgrimage was Cassino." Mr. Reid nonetheless attended, to bear witness. Another pilgrimage attendee, Vern Downie, of the Three Rivers Regiment, expressed amazement at the bravery of youth: "The view from Monte Cassino opened up a flood of memories for me. How youth and innocence could have overcome such impossible obstacles."

(421 words)





1999 October

1st SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE: Anzio and The "Devil's Brigade"

Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East and Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs, is currently in Italy as a member of the pilgrimage delegation commemorating the 55th anniversary of the 1943-1944 campaign to liberate Italy during World War Two. The following are his reflections after participating in remembrance ceremonies at the Canadian War Cemetery at Anzio, Italy.

Today, October 4, 1999, we remember, in Anzio, Italy. We remember, as we face the supreme tranquil beauty of the Anzio War Cemetery. A war cemetery located near the beaches where the combined Special Forces Unit of Canadian and American soldiers landed in 1943. A war cemetery containing 2,300 graves of those who gave their all, to liberate so many. The tranquility of the cemetery belying the history of its formation, associated with unimaginable brutality. Today, in this cemetery, one is seemingly in another universe, light years from the true reality of events.

Also brought home is the degree of our national amnesia about the contributions of Canadian veterans to world peace. A country where over 100,000 of its youth lie in foreign graves, having fallen in supreme sacrifice to this century's wars, and to the lasting peace that most alive today have known. A country that has been at peace, but sees no reason to teach its children how this peace has been earned.

Today, in Anzio, the ceremonies should be a celebration of a unique chapter in the annals of history, when two nations formed a military élite--the Special Forces, known as the "Devil's Brigade". A military unit that never failed to achieve its objective. In September of this year, the main highway between Alberta and the United States was as the First Special Service Force Memorial Highway, between the City of Lethbridge and Helena, Montana. Both the state of Montana and the province of Alberta have chosen to uniquely honour the 1st Special Service Force so that its members will be forever in the memory of those travelling between Canada and the United States. The route represents the journey travelled by Canadians in 1942 to join the Americans in training in Montana, prior to departing to fight for world peace and freedom.

The initiative to dedicate the highway was that of Barbara Waters, widow of Stan Waters, a member of the 1st Special Service Force who was also Canada's first elected Senator. The dedication of a highway to the memory of this crack Canadian and American unit is but a first step. More should be done. Signs on a highway, reminding all of a unique and substantial wartime partnership helps memory--but what school textbook contains this fantastic story of international cooperation? Accomplishments of Canada in both war and peace must be part of all of our children's education.

The history of the 1st Special Service Force serves as a model for determined accomplishment today--start with

nothing and act co-operatively to establish a military force of international stature and accomplishment only to disband and go home, after a job well done. The story of the "Devil's Brigade" is a story of achievement from the infancy of its formation to the life accomplishments of its members--including one, who went on to become Canada's first elected Senator, the highest elected office in the country.

Many may know of the 1st Special Service Force only from a 1968 Hollywood film, "The Devil's Brigade", starring William Holden and Cliff Robertson. The "Devil's Brigade" is a Canadian-American success story that needs to be told--and celebrated--in our schools, rather than being limited to Hollywood reruns on late-night television.

(610 words)





1999 October

Aboriginal Veterans: Time For Remembrance, Reflection, Recognition and Equality

It is a stain on Canada's history that, after the end of World War II, aboriginal veterans were denied equality of post-war benefits. This denial was based on government erroneously mixing the status of being a veteran and the status of being aboriginal, thereby confusing the benefits assessed. This was patently unfair. Someone who has put his or her life on the line for Canada should not be treated differently, based on reasons of race. Valour and sacrifice know no colour. The accomplishments of Tommy Prince, one of the most decorated of veterans in Canadian military history is not an assessment based on his aboriginal status. He is assessed with reference to being a very brave and dedicated person who loved Canada very much. The "aboriginal component" of the sacrifices of Canada's aboriginal veterans is referenced to one significant fact: all were volunteers.

After the war, aboriginal veterans could not obtain the same benefits as non-aboriginal veterans, unless they were prepared to renounce their aboriginal status. This misguided approach by government did nothing to help aboriginal veterans. Aboriginal veterans are now seeking to have this injustice remedied. Post-war discrimination in benefits to any veteran is wrong.





Sept 1999

Riel: An Anomaly, Not a Hero

Historical revisionism, a phenomenon typical of this turn of the century, is both an attempt to distort history and an insult to honest people of good intentions who, many years ago, tried to solve their problems as best they could. Recent examples of this trend were calls to exonerate Louis Riel, the famous Canadian criminal convicted over a century ago, and even to erect a statue of Riel on Parliament Hill.

Gradually, these calls have gone so far as to find expression in a bill, Bill C-417, the Louis Riel Act, which was tabled in June 1998 and which the House of Commons is now considering. This proposed legislation is unique, in that it is an initiative by MPs from all parties. It is sponsored by: Liberal MPs Reg Alcock and Denis Coderre; Bloc québécois (BQ) MP Suzanne Tremblay; New Democratic Party (NDP) MP Lorne Nystrom; Progressive Conservative (PC) MP Rick Borotsik; and Reform Party MP Val Meredith. The bill is sponsored neither by the government nor by any of the sponsors' political parties. Thus there is no all-party agreement, but only agreement among the MPs whose names appear on the bill. Although the wording of the bill was not discussed in the House, work seems to have been done behind the scenes to maximize consensus before the wording was debated publicly.

If passed, Bill C-417 will reverse Riel's conviction for high treason. Riel ordered a man named Thomas Scott to be killed and organized a rebellion that caused the loss of dozens of lives, in order to become a territorial leader. Indeed, Riel spent most of his adult life in Canada and the United States seeking political intrigue. Eventually he was executed for his crimes and the turmoil he caused. That sentence may appear harsh today, but it was no harsher than Scott's execution or the dozens lost in the Riel rebellion: life itself was hard then. The punishment was meted out accordingly, and believed to be very fair at the time.

"Time travelling" back to the Riel era and erasing this judgement from our history books as if it was a wrong, would be wrong in itself. How can we know what was going on in the minds of people 100 years ago or judge them fairly after the fact, without the atmosphere of death and social unrest that formed the background for the judgements of the time? How can we get a feel for those issues, without the sweat of fear that those events caused across the West in that era?

Undoing Riel's hanging through simple historical revisionism implies that someone else should pay the price for killing Riel, now innocent. In other words, it calls our entire justice system into question. Pardoning Riel is something like commuting a death sentence posthumously. In my opinion, it is wrong to revise history out of political expediency or revisionist correctness. History is there to be learned, not to be rewritten by persons who do not like it or to canonize historical characters whose contribution to Canada's development was only marginal. While it is true that Riel defended the Metis' rights and rightly wanted changes, he went too far in calling for an open rebellion that caused the deaths of innocent persons. He led an army of aggressors against the Government of

Canada in order to create an independent territory, and was rightly hanged as a traitor. Even if the writers of the history textbooks used in certain schools believe that Riel was wrongly convicted, they cannot change the truth by simply redefining what he did. The story of Riel has been taught inconsistently across Canada for 100 years; the facts have been gratuitously distorted in response to regional needs. Revisionism's contribution to date has been ignorance of the facts.

Highlighting contributions to Canadian society is laudable. Where Riel is concerned, however, that promotion must be limited to the facts about his troubled, chequered life. Riel, who claimed to be Metis on the basis of having one-tenth aboriginal blood, assumed the role of Metis leader in western Canada. His psychosis manifested itself in the conviction that he was a great religious leader and the spiritual hero of the people of Rupert's Land. The problem was that Metis not of French and Indian descent did not share his vision, any more than did the English-speaking settlers or most aboriginal persons. In fact, the inhabitants of the region simply did not want change through violence.

In short, Riel did not have the full support of his people, let alone Rupert's Land that he needed to create his own territory. Instead, he used arms and force, those ancient non-democratic methods, resulting in death and terror. He was accordingly confronted by force for his crimes, lost and hung.

Riel didn't 'Father' Confederation; he 'fought' those who did. In comparison with the constructive minds of his generation, Riel was an anomaly. Since he was certainly not a hero to everyone, in no case should we commemorate his misdeeds by erecting a statue of him on Parliament Hill. That would be an insult to the memory of the soldiers who fought and died fighting Riel's army and defending the cherished rights we associate with that same Parliament Hill. No person advocating or engaging in armed rebellion against Canada's democratic processes should be so honoured. To do so would be to elevate anarchy and civil disobedience to statesmanship.

A statue of Louis Riel on Parliament Hill would be a world-class monument to historical revisionism.

Peter Goldring is the Canadian Alliance MP for Edmonton East and Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs.



Return to
Veterans Affairs



August, 1999

History Under Attack

Canada's history is under attack. For years, our proud war history has been sanitized, politicized and poorly covered as a subject in our nation's classrooms. Educators have wrongly chosen to shield our young from brutal parts of our country's history. Long before the Plains of Abraham and continuing to the present, Canada's history has been intertwined with war and the military.

Wars are repeated by those who have little understanding of the true cost of lives lost and souls shattered. Academics and others still try to erase our past and rewrite our history to suit their own perceptions from the present. How can our youth understand the future, when they know not of the past?

A recent example illustrating the need to understand history, in order to address a present issue is their suggesting that the Monarchy is irrelevant to contemporary Canadian society. Such persons demonstrate a lack of appreciation of the efforts of proud regiments and veterans who fought in so many past wars for King, Queen, country and freedom. Over 110,000 Canadians lie in foreign graves, paying the supreme price for their country's cause, with their lives. So many Canadian regiments, well-known to the history of Canada and the world, who have paid dearly but with bravery--such as the Royal 22nd, the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, the Queen's Own Rifles, the Royal Highlanders and many others--will not take kindly to being disassociated from the Monarchy. The Monarchy is integral to their very names.

Another example of historical "rot" in Canada is a decision to specifically exclude the portrait of the Queen of England from a planned "National Portrait Gallery" in Ottawa. The Queen and the Royal Family are inextricably part of Canada's history and its future; we proudly remain a member of the British Commonwealth.

The convenient rewriting of history also seems to be the purview of some who try to balance the interests of all Canadians, but end up with loud, "squeaky wheel" demands of "special interest groups", generally well-funded with taxpayer dollars. A squeaky wheel, amplified many times through taxpayer dollars, competes unfairly with the silent majority.

Let us consider the current movement to "unhang" Louis Riel. Louis Riel, by being leader of two insurrections in Canada, caused the deaths of eighty people, many of whom were from famed Canadian regiments fighting for Canada's democratic traditions. These were soldiers called upon to save Western Canada from anarchy and terror initiated and pursued by Riel. How warped our sense of history becomes is illustrated by the fact that there is currently a Bill before the House of Commons to pardon Riel, 100 years after his conviction, and to declare him to be a Father of Confederation. There is also a movement to erect a statue in his "honour" on Parliament Hill. Let us not lose sight of an historical fact: Riel was tried by a jury of his peers and, despite having the best legal minds acting in his defence, was convicted of treason and sentenced to death. Riel fought against the Fathers of Confederation; he did not support them. To "unhang" Riel now would be to unfairly question the character of those who did convict him 100 years ago--at a time when the offence of treason was punishable by hanging. A "Father" of Confederation should not have the blood of Canada's "children" on his hands.

Another example of the attack on Canadian history occurred in 1998, in Quebec City. A monument was unveiled to commemorate the Allied war leaders Roosevelt, Churchill and Mackenzie King attending the "Quebec Conferences" of 1943 and 1944. Canada's Mackenzie King was excluded from the monument. In Quebec City, Mackenzie King will for all time, courtesy of the actions of Quebec City revisionist historians, be regarded as insignificant to the Allied war effort.

Currently in the House of Commons is a Bill by Bloc Member of Parliament Richard Marceau, the objective of which is to remove any reference to "Her Majesty" on Royal Canadian naval vessels. It serves a separatist cause well to remove symbols of Canada's history--symbols which have defined Canada from sea to sea and to the world. A country with eroded historical attachments has little pride in its accomplishments. A country with eroded historical attachments has little sense of its own identity. A country with eroded historical attachments is a country ripe for division.

Canada did not begin as a country with the 'contest' on the Plains of Abraham. Canada began with the Treaty of Paris, in France. Canadian teachers of history must emphasize to our children that the "United Nations Security Council" of the day--England, France and Spain--met and shaped the duality of Canada. Canada's auspicious beginnings were thus courtesy of the good graces and foresight of royalty: the Kings of England, Spain and France.

By the Treaty of Paris, the future of "New France"--or Canada--was determined. Previously, citizens of a conquered territory could be simply killed or ordered out. The future of Canada, by contrast, was to be based on the benevolence of the King of England, guided by the Treaty of Paris. First and foremost, citizens were given the option to leave, with their possessions. The majority chose to stay, as they were permitted to continue to speak their own language, practise their own religion and to continue to follow the Napoleonic civil code. These accommodations were unheard of at the time; they proved to be the key to Canada of today, with two Official Languages, coupled with religious and cultural tolerance.

There are those who actively seek to filter or obliterate Canada's proud history; there are others who hold naïve opinions of Canadian society, devoid of the Monarchy or the "roots" of nationhood. History has shown that weakness of national character or weakness of a sense of nationhood leads to a focus on self-interest over national community. Those who make the effort to study and preserve their family history generally possess strength and pride in past family accomplishments. Those with no interest in historical family referents are most frequently among the aimless. A nation apathetic and uncaring about its history is more easily brought down, as was demonstrated during the 1995 Quebec referendum. How many of those voting "Yes" appreciated the Treaty of Paris and the rich Canadian duality that has resulted from it? How many of those voting "Yes" fully understood that Canada's greatest strengths are its diversity of language and complexity of culture? Ours is a history to be remembered, appreciate and celebrated, rather than to be rewritten or erased to suit the political moods of the moment.

(1120 words)





July, 1999

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Let us consider a recent example illustrating the need to understand history, in order to address a present issue. Some are suggesting that the Monarchy is irrelevant to contemporary Canadian society. Such persons demonstrate a lack of appreciation of the efforts of proud regiments and veterans who fought in so many past wars for King, Queen, country and freedom. Over 110,000 Canadians lie in foreign graves, paying the supreme price for their country's cause, with their lives. So many Canadian regiments, well-known to the history of Canada and the world, who have paid dearly but with bravery--such as the Royal 22nd, the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, the Queen's Own Rifles, the Royal Highlanders and many others--will not take kindly to being disassociated from the Monarchy. The Monarchy is integral to their very names.

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June, 1999

The 55th Anniversary of D-Day

Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament, Edmonton East and Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs was with the pilgrimage to Normandy in June 1999 for the 55th Anniversary of D-Day and gives his reflections of the event. He returned again in June 2000 in place of the Minister of National Defense.

Fifty-five years ago, dawn broke on the beaches of Normandy, with the silhouette of war painted across the horizon. One thousand Allied ships were poised for action. D-Day had arrived. These tranquil shores would soon bear witness to the largest combined wartime invasion in history. An invasion force of Allied might would strike the heart of Nazi tyranny. The scourge of Europe was about to be dealt a blow that would lead to Nazi defeat and to Europe's freedom.

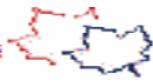
In the invasion's first hour, over 100,000 stormed ashore, taking their place in history's role of honour. Many did not reach shore, their last moments slipping beneath the channel's sea water, victims of horrific shore fire. Here were men of good will, fathers and sons, driven from peaceful pasts to take up arms. Here they fought for their God, King, country and world peace, their strengths, courage and convictions being tested to the extreme. Canadian soldiers with their Allied friends--the British, Polish and American--carried the day, as victory was brought to the free world.

War is not won in one day alone; the march to total victory carried on. Canada's role in the D-Day invasion was large, for a country of 11,000,000 souls. On D-Day, over 30,000 Canadians were fighting for Normandy's shores. 109 Canadian vessels, crewed by 10,000 sailors. 15,000 Canadian soldiers waded towards shore, while our Air Force bombed and strafed the enemy throughout the day. The "Road to Falaise" had begun. By journey's end, 5,000 would lie dead in Normandy's graves--reminders for all time of Canada's supreme sacrifice to free France. The long road to Falaise would be paved with the lives and blood of Canada's young soldiers. By World War II's end, over one million men and women would serve in our country's army, navy, air force and merchant marine services. At war's end, 45,000 never returned home.

It is fitting that those who survived the D-Day invasion return with the Canadian youth of today, to bear witness to the glory and sorrow of the sacrifices made by Canada's youth fifty-five years ago. Youth who will never grow old, and who lie forever in graves far away from home. History unfolds at the feet of Canadian youth in Normandy, in 1999. History unfolds also for elder veterans, who walked this land fifty-five years ago.

All on this D-Day pilgrimage will hopefully take the knowledge learned at Normandy and impart it to many others, so that none will forget. The price of the peace in Canada today has been the high cost of lives lost in the wars of the past. Let us not forget.

(400 words)



MAIL



April, 1999

World Genocide Museum in Canada

The human race has witnessed acts of genocide throughout its history. Genocide is not solely the horrendous by-product of certain wars. In fact, many incidents of genocide are not war-related at all. Genocide is always a failure of humanity; the dark side of a civilization run amuck.

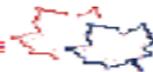
It is important to groups which have been decimated by genocidal acts that the world remember the particular atrocities, in order to learn and understand what happened. All groups affected by genocidal acts want only to be remembered equally. The genocides of world history cannot be distinguished on the basis of size or scope; all genocide is horror.

In my view, Canada should institutionalize remembrance, through the construction of a "stand alone" World Genocide Museum. This would be a museum in Canada's capital depicting the madness and inhumanity of the decimation of so many. Such a museum would send a powerful message to visiting world leaders; it would also speak clearly to all Canadians as to the duty to be advocates of a world peace that respects all persons.

As is commonly understood, our history has witnessed one Holocaust, in World War II, and many attempted genocides. In my view, genocide should be regarded more as a "failure of civilization", rather than as a product of war, whether it be the Ukrainian famine, the Cambodian killing fields or the Holocaust. The dark side of humanity is a separate issue to be remembered, quite apart from honourable military histories, or even the positive side of 'civilization'. It is my hope that consideration will be given to examining the dark side of humanity throughout history, by way of the establishment in Canada of a separate and permanent 'World Genocide Museum'. This would certainly be a challenge to all interested parties to successfully combine efforts.

With these objectives in mind, I have introduced a motion in the House of Commons, calling for just such a museum. A modular museum could be constructed to have wings and galleries of various sizes to accommodate displays of all of the world's major genocides, including the Holocaust.

It is anticipated that a Canadian initiative to construct a World Genocide Museum would receive accolades worldwide. The museum would become an important point of reference to visitors to Canada's capital, as well as serve as a solemn reminder to all of society's potential to descend into madness. Civilization's failures must be on public display, so that we all can view the dark side of humanity, to hopefully learn and remain mindful of its horrendous potential.





1999 March

Aviano

My family and I spent last Christmas in Italy, attending the historic "Christmas reconciliation dinner" at Ortona between Canadian and German wartime counterparts. I am privileged to have been one of the principal organizers and fundraisers of this event, in my parliamentary capacity as Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs. While in Italy, my family was overwhelmed with the warm hospitality that was directed to us, as Canadians. Many Italians are familiar with Canada's efforts on their behalf during the second World War and thanked us profusely.

With the recent events in Kosovo, this area of the world is once again embroiled in conflict; once again, Italy is playing a vital role in resolving matters. This becomes a time for NATO to assess its mandate, amidst differences of views. Aviano, Italy has been transformed from a sleepy, one-runway airport into the most active military base in the world. In the last few weeks, over 5000 flights have left this base in northern Italy.

The NATO operation could have been staged from another country, or from aircraft carriers, but at significantly greater cost and risk to our pilots. All Canadians are thankful that Italy has contributed to our troops' safety and comfort. We do not know how long this operation is going to last, but for the next while at least, Aviano will be home for some of Canada's most dedicated and skilled military personnel. I am confident that history will recognize the positive contributions that Italy continues to make towards a sustained world peace.

(261 words)





1998 November

Canada's Veterans Retake Christmas In Ortona, Italy

In December of 1943, our Canadian soldiers fought in the battle to liberate Ortona, Italy. These young soldiers of many regiments and from all across Canada valiantly faced a crack German army bent on following the Fuehrer's order of "no retreat."

The battle in Ortona was the hardest street-by-street, house-by-house fighting of the campaign to liberate Italy. Our Canadian soldiers moved forward – by inches, feet and then miles – until they pushed the Germans out of Italy. In winning the battle, the Canadians won a profound respect from their opponents that only they could truly describe.

On Christmas Day, 1943, Canada's soldiers, pulled from the front line in small groups, sat down in a shell-damaged church in Ortona to have Christmas dinner. They sat humbly at makeshift tables, drank out of tin cups, and ate their meagre dinners from metal boxes. During this brief reprieve, they certainly paused to reflect on family and mortal soul and limb before they returned to the front lines. Soldiers on both sides suffered loss of life immediately before, during and after this time of peace and reflection. The battle of Ortona did not involve a reprieve for Christmas, so once the meal was done, they went back to continue the war.

Fifty-five years later, a veterans group, organized by Mr. Edmund Griffiths, with members from each regiment that fought at Ortona, want to retake Christmas of 1943, this time at a dinner with German Army veterans. This group's simple yet heartfelt proposal involves sending 30 veterans back to Ortona to retake their Christmas dinner of 1943. Canada's veterans will meet with their former German foes and bring closure to wartime memories that cannot be erased.

On August 4th, 1998, in my capacity as a concerned Canadian and the Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs, I issued a national press release to raise awareness of the Ortona Veterans' trip that was rejected. This release was reported on in Edmonton and included with a major Ortona story. On August 12, 1998, I issued a national press release asking Canadians to contribute to a fund to send the veterans to Ortona. I then embarked on a trip across Canada to raise support.

The response from Canadians across this great land was overwhelming. Radio personalities and journalists from across Canada took up the cause. Thousands of average Canadians – from all walks of life – donated what they could. Our \$100,000 fundraising goal was achieved on September 25th, as a result of the efforts of Canadians from coast to coast. In their generosity, they showed our veterans their compassion, caring, and appreciation of past valiant efforts.

"Lest we forget" should not be an expression solely reserved for November 11th of each year. Instead, it should reflect a fundamental belief that is adhered to every single day. Canadians of future generations must never forget

the sacrifices endured by Canada's veterans, casualties of war, and their families. Time has not healed the wounds of our veterans. They still grieve for long lost friends, and ponder why the price of peace is so high. The 1998 Ortona campaign has provided Canadians with an opportunity to demonstrate their appreciation for the courage and sacrifice of our Canadian soldiers.





1998 October

Pilgrimage Criticisms: Why Now?

Pilgrimage: A journey made for sentimental reasons.

Junket: A pleasure trip made at public expense and ostensibly as an official duty.

Webster's Dictionary of the English Language

There has been some recent criticism of a pilgrimage of veterans to Korea, to commemorate the end of the Korean War. The pilgrimage is currently under way; I am writing this from Tokyo, en route to Korea. Mr. Michael Woloschuk, in a recent column in the *Ottawa Sun*, points out an apparent inconsistency in the willingness of the Department of Veterans Affairs to fund a "junket of dubious value", while at the same time resisting compensation claims of Merchant Navy veterans.

When questioning government expenditures, it is easy to make comparisons with how funds could have been better spent. While obviously comparisons could go on and on, I believe that it is more constructive to examine the basic issue—are the costs of this pilgrimage an economic, efficient and effective use of government resources?

While it could certainly be argued that more veterans and less non-veterans should be accommodated on this trip, we must appreciate that the attendance arrangements have been in place for some time. The time to criticise such arrangements is at the planning stage, rather than in the midst of the pilgrimage. One way to achieve a more equitable composition of pilgrimage attendees would be to have the attendee list discussed with parliamentary Opposition critics beforehand. With respect to a forthcoming pilgrimage to France and Belgium, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of the First World War, I am hopeful that discussions of this nature will take place with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

It is important for Canadians to remember the contributions of our war veterans to world peace. To travel to foreign battlefields and cemeteries of Canadian soldiers is right and shows that our country has not forgotten. While I certainly do not wish to minimize or trivialize the costs involved, the point is that much more is gained by participating in a pilgrimage such as this than in declining an opportunity to participate.

I have already spent much time with the veterans on this pilgrimage. My clear impression is that the veterans on this pilgrimage are extremely grateful to have been accorded the privilege of being able to effect closure with friends left behind some 45 years ago. It is easily forgotten that in peace, there are far more opportunities for final farewells than in war. For the veterans on this pilgrimage, this is a priceless opportunity to reflect on and reconcile with the past.

For the youth and Cadets on the pilgrimage, helping the aging veterans with their luggage and providing general

assistance, the opportunity to hear from their elders of the valour and heartache of war creates an impression that will last a lifetime. For such youth, and also for active service members on the pilgrimage, this voyage is particularly powerful, as they come face to face with the history of glory and sorrow of their particular units while engaged in the Korean conflict.

There are Members of Parliament, such as myself, as well as Senators, on this pilgrimage. The majority of us are here in furtherance of our parliamentary roles--in my case, as Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs. The experience for us is one of education as we talk and learn of the Korean war veterans' struggles for recognition, as well as the problems of today.

In my parliamentary capacity, I am on this pilgrimage as a minister-in-waiting of a government-in-waiting--as Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition is so described. The pilgrimage is preparatory experience for decision-making and governing roles with respect to veterans' issues. I learn from the current Minister of Veterans Affairs, and also have used the opportunity to make unscheduled information-gathering visits in furtherance of addressing veterans' issues. For example, while in British Columbia, with some time prior to the departure for Korea via Japan, I was able to tour area health care facilities for veterans. I am in the process of compiling information on veterans health care facilities throughout Canada.

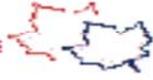
Is this pilgrimage a "junket of dubious value"? I don't think so. It is certainly not in the "junket" category of seventeen Members of Parliament travelling to Rome last spring. It could be argued that there are some non-essential personnel on the current pilgrimage among Senators, Members of Parliament and ministerial representatives. It could also be argued that the pilgrimage could be of shorter duration. These are hindsight considerations relevant to planning future pilgrimages. To properly fulfill the mandate of the pilgrimage with respect to remembrance, closure and awareness-raising, most people with whom I am travelling have important and dedicated roles to play, in furtherance of the larger interests of Canada and its veterans.

Many outstanding issues affecting veterans remain unresolved and not to be forgotten. In my parliamentary role, I have expressed disappointment with respect to the actions of the Minister with respect to lack of support for Ortona veterans and their desire to have a 1998 commemorative and reconciliation Christmas dinner with their German wartime counterparts in Italy. That disappointment translated into personal sponsorship of a fundraising campaign, which successfully raised the funds privately. My disappointment is another issue for another day; it is not relevant to the social good to our veterans of this pilgrimage. Similarly, as I am writing this, three elderly Merchant Navy veterans are continuing their hunger strike at the steps of Parliament Hill in Ottawa. I remain close to--and closely apprised of developments with respect to--this issue, which must be resolved quickly, before tragedy strikes. Before I left to join this pilgrimage, I met with Ossie MacLean, one of the hunger strikers, and other Merchant seamen; I also made two statements in the House of Commons calling for attention to their plight and asking for the Minister to respond before a tragedy occurs. The Minister has indicated that forthcoming legislation will address some Merchant Navy concerns with respect to (a) full war veteran status, (b) recognition at official memorial ceremonies and (c) compensation for benefits denied as of the end of World War II to date. Without being provided with details, I can only here ask the Minister to provide these Merchant Navy veterans with some concrete hope so that they will end their fast forthwith.

I will be persistent in my endeavours to resolve these and other issues, such as equitable health care funding at the Perley-Rideau Veterans' Health Centre, compensation to Hong Kong veterans for wartime enslavement and compensation for victims of Gulf War Syndrome.

Each of these issues will be addressed in an appropriate arena. None will be addressed during the course of this serious pilgrimage of Korean War veterans going back to revisit departed friends and memories. The important vision and somber goals of this pilgrimage should not be interfered with. The veterans taking part deserve to be able to travel in peace on their voyage of remembrance.

(1823 words)



MAIL



1998 August

Canada's Call To Arms

Canadians went to Italy 55 years ago to fight the crack 1st German Parachute Division and the 95th Infantry Division, who were instructed by Hitler to defend the city of Ortona at all costs. Many of our soldiers aged 18, 19 and 20, were thrust into a bloody battle and on December 25, in the midst of what is considered the fiercest battle of the Italian campaign, the soldiers stole a few moments to have Christmas dinner. Our Canadian soldiers ate their rations in a battle-scarred church and longed to be home with their families. The soldiers were victorious in seizing the city from the Germans, but it cost Canada over 1400 of our fathers, husbands, sons and brothers who sacrificed their lives defending freedom. This Christmas, 30 Canadian Veterans of the Ortona Battle want to return to that same church in Ortona, where they savoured a brief period of civility amongst a setting of profound destruction and bloodshed, so that they can bring about closure and reconciliation with their German counterparts.

These brave and noble Canadian War Veterans requested assistance from the Minister of Veteran Affairs and the Department of National Defence to make this reconciliation dinner possible, and were rejected. These people who rejected their request, are the same people who have suckled on peace and freedom every day of their lives, and who have reaped the rewards of everything this great country of ours has to offer. Canadian soldiers left the comfort and security of their homeland, their friends, their families and their future. They sacrificed their youth, their innocence, and even their lives, to protect the world from the Nazi threat.

All that our courageous war hero's ask in return, is some assistance to attend a reconciliation dinner this Christmas with the German veterans. The [government] has spoken, and has shamefully rejected this request. It is now our duty, as the people of Canada, to correct this injustice and to show that we have not forgotten the bravery, dedication and sacrifice that our Canadian Veterans displayed outside that battle-scarred church in Ortona, Italy, 55 years ago.

You can help get our Veterans to Ortona by sending a cheque payable to the Three Rivers Regiment Veterans Association, postage free to: Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament, House of Commons, 619 Confederation Building, Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6.

(387 words)





1998 August

Visit to Benny Farm Veteran's Complex

On August 14, I visited with approximately 25 concerned residents of the Benny Farm Veterans Complex in Montreal. I was met by Mr. John Mackay, president of the Residents' Association, who proudly gave me a tour of his new home.

I have been associated with the construction industry for over 30 years, with 25 of those years being as a business owner and employer. It was not necessary for John to point out to me what was obvious: his new home was designed with the best interests of resident seniors in mind, and clearly shows it. I have been extensively involved in customized and general electrical system design and supply during the course of my business career. As a result, I have literally walked the floors of hundreds of buildings housing seniors in apartments, nursing homes and hospitals throughout Canada. I am also reasonably familiar with changes in building codes over the years relating to access control, fire protection, emergency lighting, electrical systems control and mechanical systems control.

My positive impression of John's new home is to be contrasted with my shock and amazement with the state of the older buildings that some argue are suitable for renovation. My immediate reaction was that compliance with 1965 Sudbury building fire code requirements for simple walk-up apartments--with which I was quite familiar--was absent in 1998 in Montreal's old Benny Farm Complex. The "old" buildings I was shown at Benny Farm appeared to be stuck in a 1947 time warp from which no responsible person would recommend reprieve other than by a "bulldozer" blade.

I had travelled to Montreal after reading that a person with ostensibly some knowledge of renovation matters had stated that \$2,000 per unit was all that was required to bring the buildings up to today's standards. Such a sentiment created an impression on myself and others that the buildings were in fairly good condition. I am not a person to readily criticize another person's opinion. In this case, I cannot see a "\$2,000 per unit" opinion as being other than worlds away from the truth.

Irrespective of differences in building codes from province to province or municipality to municipality, I don't see how a reasonable person could conclude otherwise than that the state of the Benny Farm buildings is absolutely deplorable. Let me provide you with some examples of what I observed:

- ε Original 1940's wiring has not been upgraded; there is no "third pin" in the outlets for grounding purposes;
- ε Electrical outlets are too few and too low for seniors;
- ε No ground fault outlets in the bathrooms;
- ε No fire alarm system;
- ε No security intercom;
- ε No emergency lighting in the event of power failure;
- ε No exit signs in case of fire or other disaster;
- ε Stairwells were narrow and steep, hindering access (particularly wheelchair access) of seniors;

- ε Stairs were worn and required resurfacing;
- ε Internal fire escape stairs wooden and treacherous;
- ε Hollow wooden doors, both apartment entrance and fire escape;
- ε Any access doors have surface, rather than flush floor trims;
- ε Floor joists are 8"; floors "spring";
- ε State of flooring generally bad to poor;
- ε Wooden windows are single pane;
- ε Walls and floors are hollow; no soundproof insulation;
- ε Rooms are small; poor closet space;
- ε Kitchen 1940s cupboard space is small;
- ε Bathrooms from the 1940s;
- ε Building foundation shows cracks;
- ε Brickwork nearing the end of life of mortar;
- ε Heating is by radiator;
- ε No air handling or air conditioning, plus power is not available for use of air conditioners.

In 1947, emergency housing of this nature was welcomed by returned veterans and their young families. In 1998, this 50 year-old accommodation is deplorable. As but one more example, the fire escape stairwell, which was described as "innovative", is in reality a recipe for disaster. We are all aware of the dangers of fire, in circumstances of limited exits and combustible materials. In my opinion, a fire in the basement of a Benny Farm building would quickly spread through the fire escape stairs and through the hollow doors, turning the intended escape route into a chimney, with no emergency lights and treacherous stairs.

In my view, it is sheer folly to suggest that these units could be updated for \$2,000 per unit--and then, as is suggested by Mr. Fish, then sold for \$30,000 per suite. I guess the updating could be from 1948 to 1949 standards, with a buyer totally unfamiliar with the inherent deficiencies associated with the purchase. Having had some experience renovating, I believe that the expenditure of \$2,000 per unit will do little more than provide a much-needed coat of paint for halls, exterior wood windows and apartments. Such an expenditure will cover little else. There appear to be some agendas at play here, though I am an outsider to the specifics. It does strike me as somewhat mean-spirited that people will enter into a "heritage fray" for what appear to be objectives of political or personal gain.

I am the Loyal Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs. My role is to be a watchdog with respect to Federal government actions affecting veterans; I am to be the conscience of government, pointing out shortcomings in government action. The shortcoming of the Federal government in this instance is not the construction of new housing for veterans. The shortcoming of the Federal government is the lack of a strong, forthright rebuttal to those who would delay these much-needed improvements to the daily lives of veterans, under the cloak of "heritage preservation". In this case, the heritage to be preserved is the quality of life of our veterans; the "heritage" to be passed over without further delay is the "cinderblock" living quarters to which these veterans have been subject for far too long. I compliment the Federal government on the fine, new buildings for veterans. Let's get on with completing the project in the same fine style.





July 1998

Canada's Veterans Deserve Respect: Preserve Their Health Care

Canada's veterans deserve our respect far beyond mere words. Many have suffered unimaginable horrors as they defended our freedoms and way of life on foreign soil. Their physical and mental states have suffered immeasurably from the ravages of these experiences. To question this is to simply not understand the horrific reality that all-out war has brutal, long-lasting consequences to both body and soul of the participants.

In the name of our national conscience, we must remember these facts as we address health care funding constraints and try to shoehorn our war veterans into civilian or "normal" care facilities. War is neither normal nor comparable to any civilian lifestyle. Those who have no such first hand experience with war ought not to be fostering "normal" care standards on Canada's war veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has made an agreement with the Ontario government that dramatically affects the quality of care for our veterans at Ottawa's Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre.. In four years, funding per patient will drop to an unbelievable rate of \$94 per day. A similar care facility in the Montreal area, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, is receiving \$256 per patient per day.

Why the difference? Will Ste. Anne de Bellevue follow this funding nosedive when Veterans Affairs in turn cuts a deal with the Quebec government? How can the same level of care be guaranteed in both facilities, given the wide disparity of rates? The Minister must intervene to correct a looming grave injustice from occurring at the Perley and Rideau and possibly to be repeated at Ste. Anne de Bellevue.

It is certainly possible to cut costs at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre in Ottawa. It is possible to cut costs elsewhere, at health care centres dedicated to the special needs of veterans. It is possible to cut costs and to insult our veterans in the process. It is possible to cut costs,, without providing assurance that the levels of care that veterans have earned through sacrifice will be maintained. The Ontario government is proving this as I write. In the process of provincial approaches to rationalization of the health care system, it doesn't seem to matter that the Perley and Rideau is a facility dedicated to the health care of veterans.

For veterans in Ontario, the commencement of the provincial cost-cutting process was by way of insult. The Ontario government insisted that the Perley and Rideau health care facility, honouring the sacrifices of our veterans and already the product of the merger of institutions, be stigmatized by way of being declared to be a "charitable institution". It is disgraceful that the 100 year-old World War I veteran whom I met at the Perley and Rideau, and who is to receive the Legion of Honour from the French government this fall, receives instead "charitable status" from the Ontario government.

It is possible to cut costs, but veterans whom I have met wonder where the savings are. I met one veteran of World

War II who, before the cuts, would be helped to the commode in a timely fashion--assistance that is far from being a luxury, given his physical state. Now, as I spoke to him, this veteran sits in wet diapers, due to staffing cuts. He suffers sores that he never had before. He is a man who proudly served his country; now, before a Member of Parliament, he sits in need of assistance that our country owes him, but is not providing to him. Other veterans to whom I spoke expressed similar concerns, saying that staffing cuts have dramatically affected the frequency and attention given to their care.

What concerns me most is that the cuts have only begun. At the Perley and Rideau, the per day, per patient funding has been cut in the last two years from \$185 to \$165. Five years from now, in 2003, it will have dropped further, to \$94 per day. Five years from now, our veterans will be in need of greater care, not less care. The federal government must fulfill its obligation to our veterans, irrespective of provincial health care strategies.

Canada's veterans should never be treated as charitable wards of our country. They are our collective Canadian responsibility, and should be guaranteed a level of health care that reflects our national conscience and our gratefulness for their sacrifices. Canada's veterans served our country in a manner that few civilians truly understand. Their care should not be bottom-lined, nor should they be warehoused in charitable institutions. The veterans' very purpose as combatants was to be violent and to face violence. For many, the experience of war caused a lifetime of suffering, both from physical injuries and from the anguish of mind that only they can know. Veterans require special care to address these concerns and as a continuing expression of our national gratitude for their service to our country.

What our veterans need across Canada is a well-developed, enforceable and national standard level of health care. Specifications can and must be written by Veterans Affairs that will guarantee health care service levels for veterans that may well exceed those available to the civilian population and which reflect an appreciation of the unique wartime experiences of our veterans. This may be a case for dedicated federal health care funding support for veterans, to supplement provincial health care funding allocations made for "minimal" levels of health care. The bottom line is that our veterans must not be warehoused in charity wards across the country. If persons qualify for veteran status, they also qualify for our highest levels of respect, in the interest of their dignity and in the interest of reflecting our national conscience. Yes, it is possible to cut costs to health care for veterans---but it comes at a very high price. It tarnishes and cheapens our national conscience and sense of history of our nation. It is a price we shouldn't pay.





1998 June

Canada's Cancer: Historical Revisionists

As Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs, I attended ceremonies in Europe commemorating the 55th anniversary of the Battle of The Atlantic--wartime activities that epitomized Canada's national capabilities and which demonstrated forever in the eyes of the world just how great Canada is. These ceremonies commenced on May 8 in St. John's, Newfoundland, and continued in England during the following week.

From September 1939 to the time of the Quebec Conference in 1943, Canada proved that it was a loyal supporter of England, which was largely standing alone against the European wartime onslaught. During this period and for the balance of World War II, Canada proved that it could harness its tremendous wealth of resources, industry and determined peoples to drive a substantial wagon of war, second only to that of England itself.

I was both privileged and awed to visit the Merchant Navy Memorial in St. John's, Newfoundland, prior to leaving for England. A message as to the extent of Canada's wartime contribution is permanently found on this memorial. There is the written text; there is also the listing of so many, dead or missing. The commemorative party, of which I am a member, went to sea on the Canadian frigate Charlottetown, to lay a wreath on the waters. Internment at sea was to forever slip beneath the waves, without markers to speak to history and to future generations.

During World War II, Canada came of age on the international stage. At the time, our population was but 12 million, yet 1 million men and women served in the war effort. We were a major supplier of raw materials and armaments for the war effort; we also served as a major training ground for Allied forces. It is far too easy to overlook the material contributions Canada made to the Allied victory, as well as the extent of Canada's labour that resulted in such production. Canada's wartime production included 400 cargo ships, 280 destroyers, 200 minesweepers, 3,300 landing craft, 17,000 aircraft and 900,000 vehicles. All of this from a country so small in population. At war's end, 370 fighting ships and 110,000 persons were in the service of the Royal Canadian Navy, making it the third largest Allied navy force.

It is worth remembering that the United States really only committed itself to Atlantic naval warfare long after the 1943 Quebec conference. Similarly, the United States entered World War II two long years after the war started, and only after it had been attacked by Japan. This left England and Canada to fight alone for Atlantic sea lanes. Even after it declared war, the United States dedicated its naval military strength to the war in the Pacific, leaving the Atlantic to be defended by England and Canada. Canada protected and preserved the vital umbilical cord.

In early May, Quebec City historians continued their assault on historical truth through fabricating both a monument and a myopic fable, narrowly focusing memory on the technical protocol of the two wartime conferences held in Quebec City in 1943 and 1944. The opportunity to commemorate the wartime efforts of Canadians and our wartime Prime Minister, Mackenzie King, was ignored. Thanks to Mr. Pierre Roy, a Quebec City veteran who recently was

responsible for restoring Canada's flag to Quebec City Hall, I was provided with notice of the May 7 unveiling. I was able to spend three weeks prior to the unveiling informing others of the "ceremony". I was also able to attend this disgraceful event, for the purpose of speaking for veterans. I also rose in the House of Commons on April 24 and made the following statement:

Canada's War History "Rewritten"

Mr. Speaker:

Canada's brave young men fought, spilled blood and died on foreign soil 50 short years ago.

50,000 never returned to their homes.

1,000,000 Canadians rose to their task in World War II.

Our country was third in Allied military might.

Canada trained all the air forces of the free world.

Canada's factories built 17,000 planes.

*Canada's Navy and Merchant Seamen
kept sea lanes free to feed the war effort.*

Now we shame this memory by neglect.

Now we belittle our proud war effort.

Now we extinguish our War Leader from view.

Québec ought not "drop the torch";

Québec must "hold it high".

Our Prime Minister Mackenzie King must stand

shoulder to shoulder with

other Leaders of a war that allowed our flag to fly.

All three must be remembered. Lest we forget.

I learned that Premier Bouchard intended to turn the unveiling into a nationalist media triumph and was intending to have both a former Lieutenant-Governor and senior military personnel present, for the purpose of adding credibility to this historical sham. My office immediately contacted the office of the Minister of National Defence, for the purpose of clarification. I was assured that the military would not be represented. I also learned that the former Lieutenant-Governor was in the process of reassessing the wisdom of attending the event.

I contacted the Ambassador of the United States. I was advised that the Ambassador would attend, but with a heightened awareness of the sensitivity of the situation to Canadians. Similar sentiments were expressed to the office of the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom. Both gave speeches at the unveiling which lauded Canada's contribution to the war effort. Lucien Bouchard ignored Canada during his speech, and decided to reference the May 7 unveiling date to a wartime event in France.

Shortly before the unveiling, I was surprised to see senior military officers present, contrary to the understanding which was expressed by the office of the Minister of National Defence. I approached two senior army officers and advised them that the Minister had given instructions that they were not to be visible for the "Bouchard event". They were offending all Canadian veterans by their presence, and I asked that they verify their orders with the

Department of National Defence. The officers left the grounds, and did not return. I then approached two senior naval officers who were near the podium area. I conveyed similar concerns, though it was necessary to be somewhat more firm with a "four striper": "I am a Member of Parliament and I am telling you to give my name to the Department of National Defence and to verify your orders. You are not to be here." The naval officer then turned on his heel and stomped off, not to return.

I believed that it would have been disgraceful for senior Canadian military officers to be duped into believing that the unveiling was simply a routine ceremonial function for foreign dignitaries. This was a calculated "photo-op" for Lucien Bouchard to present himself in international circles without Canada's name, but with Canada's military support.

I was the only Member of Parliament present at the time of the unveiling. When my presence became known, I was invited to join the ceremonial party. When I requested an opportunity to speak, I was advised that no such opportunity would be provided. I then declined to be part of the ceremonial party, and stood with the crowd near the podium waiting for Lucien Bouchard to speak. As he began his speech, I stepped forward and read a tribute and apology to Canada's war veterans that I had written, entitled Canada's "Loss of Face"--the face of Mackenzie King. I began as follows:

I apologise to our courageous war veterans,
Both here and throughout history,
For the silence of our Federal government,
For the loss of face through acquiescence.

At this point, I was shuffled away by Bouchard's security. The full text of what I had hoped to read is as follows:

CANADA'S "LOSS OF FACE"

*On this day of unveiling
I ask that these shrouds remain in place.
To hide the embarrassment of two war leaders,
To conceal the shame of our nation from their eyes.*

*To the envoys of England the United States,
I ask that you turn your backs on this sordid affair.
I ask that you walk from this serpentine square,
From this disgrace to your own great leaders,
From this insult to Canada's war veterans,
From this insult to the 50,000 Canadians
Who did not return to their homes,
From this insult to our nation and its history.*

*I apologise to our courageous war veterans,
Both here and throughout history,
For the silence of our federal government,
For the loss of face through acquiescence.*

*To Canada's visitors I say quite clearly,
De Gaulle was no saviour of our country,*

*Yet he is honoured by statue near here.
Canada at war was not fed and armed by England,
Yet Churchill guards the gates to Quebec as if still duty bound.
Canada at war was not liberated by the United States,
Yet Roosevelt is a sentry to Canada as well.*

*This monument is not a monument to a war meeting.
This monument is not a monument to Canada's wartime honour.
This is a monument to the shame of Canada today.
This is a monument to Canada's "loss of face",
For where is the face of Mackenzie King?
This is a monument to Canadian indifference;
This may be a monument to Canada's demise.*

In Quebec City on May 7, 1998, Lucien Bouchard was having a decidedly bad day. Historical revisionism was losing ground to national and international federalist sentiments. Bouchard stood alone on his great stage, to be lectured by British and American dignitaries as to the wartime importance of Canada and all Canadians. Bouchard stood alone on his great stage, to view the international indignation at his failed attempt to rewrite history.

Bouchard has much to be politically embarrassed about. So does the federal government. The unveiling date and the controversy surrounding it were known weeks in advance. The controversy had received nationwide media coverage, due in part to my own involvement with the issue. The Prime Minister had been invited to attend the unveiling, but chose not to. He also chose not to say anything at the time.

And so it was that two hours after the event, in the House of Commons rather than in Quebec City, the Prime Minister spoke out concerning the omission of Mackenzie King from the monument. By way of a staged question to himself from one of his Liberal backbenchers, preceded by two statements made by Liberals in the House of Commons condemning the event. The Prime Minister then decided to reinforce this by an equally rare media scrum.

Why is it so important to continue to speak out about the lack of representation of Mackenzie King in Quebec City? A very recent example comes to mind. The very day after the unveiling, I was in St. John's, Newfoundland, for the commencement of ceremonies commemorating the 55th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic. The Bloq has a Critic for Veterans Affairs, Maurice Godin, and he stated that our Prime Minister Mackenzie King was like an "ice sweeper" at a hockey game, in terms of his wartime role. Certainly not a hockey star, like Roosevelt or Churchill, or near-star. Not even a player. This being a supposedly informed assessment of the leader of the third largest contributor to the Allied victory.

In my humble opinion, Canada's proud history must be guarded from this poison of historical revisionism by separatist propaganda.





1998 May

The Battle of The Atlantic Canada's Lonely Vigil

I recently had the distinct honour and privilege of attending, with Canadian war veterans, ceremonies to commemorate Canada's great contributions in World War II to the Battle of the Atlantic. It must be remembered that Canada and Newfoundland kept Great Britain alive, through keeping Britain's supplied by sea, until long after the United States entered the war.

The Atlantic was Canada's sea fare wartime post. Canadians and the British turned the tide of war in the Atlantic prior to the Quebec Conference of 1943. While the war was not over, the "beginning of the end" had commenced, due to the efforts of Canada and Britain. Canada's great effort in the Atlantic was the combined result of the efforts of men and women in the Canadian air force, navy, and merchant navy. Men and women who hailed from farms, fishing villages and cities and who came together to defeat fascism.

My recollections of the 55th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic commemorations include images of the faces of many veterans--creased faces mellowed by the years. The comradeship on the trip was comparable to that which I experienced among my service buddies, during my own short period of peacetime military service 35 years ago. Faces that may be at peace today often mask experiences of the harsh realities of war. A wartime reality that included the constant closeness of death. A wartime reality that included a determination to extract all possible toll from the enemy in order to live to see the enemy's defeat. As a peacetime military person, I can only imagine and will never know their experiences.

The ceremonies took place in several locales. A Saturday ceremony in Liverpool was particularly moving. Townsfolk and veterans of the English and Canadian military participated with seriousness and ceremony not seen often enough in Canada. I recall the Lord Mayor in attendance and the streets ablaze with Canadian flags; Canadian flags replacing the Union Jack, out of respect for Canada's contribution to victory in the Atlantic. Young cadets line the street, respectfully at attention as the veterans march by. There is a full military band playing, accompanied by a local choir. A solitary piper pays respect to the sacrifices to history and freedom; the lament of a solitary trumpet completes the acoustical showpiece. There is now a Canada Street in Liverpool, with a pedestal to remind all tourists and townspeople that the history of Liverpool is forever linked to the histories of both Canada and Britain. This is a history not to be compromised or rewritten by revisionists.

I am a Member of Parliament due to a deep love of my country and its history, as well as due to an equally deep concern for my country's united future. I did not present myself as a candidate for public office for any other reason. From this trip commemorating the 55th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic, I take away a deep resolve to stand and defend Canada's great war contributions at every opportunity, and to encourage all to learn more. Many Canadians are not as well-versed in their history as they might be. Canadians must also shake the inferiority complex shared by many--many who believe that the United States was a more prominent contributor to Allied

victory in World War II. Some go so far as to consider the "star hockey players" to have been Churchill and Roosevelt, and see Mackenzie King, our wartime Prime Minister, as little more than an "ice sweeper". These analogies are not my own; the description is as provided to me by another Member of Parliament who attended the ceremonies with me. I will use the analogy, though with very different conclusions. The North Atlantic wartime "stars" were Canada's Navy and its Merchant Navy. The "sweeping" was very much "star quality", since the seas were swept of submarines, to keep democracy alive.

Veterans have done Canada proud. It is now up to younger generations, which includes anyone who did not participate in the Allied victory, to ensure that the memory survives and grows. Our country needs so much to regain its pride. Accurate and repeated memories of our wartime valour should be a major source of such pride.

(707 words)





1998 March

Two Minutes of Silence

On March 12, 1998, the House of Commons debated Bill C-279, a legislative initiative of Jason Kenney, Reform Member of Parliament for Calgary Southeast. The intent of this legislative initiative was to restore the observance of two minutes of silence on Remembrance Day. Mr. Goldring spoke in support of the initiative, in his capacity as Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs and the following is the text that speech.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak to Bill C-279, An Act to promote two minutes of silence on Remembrance Day. I have a ten minute speech in support of two minutes of silence: two very important minutes of silence observed by many in November of each year; two very important minutes of silence that are frequently overlooked by many others, including those whose employers grant them a day off to observe Remembrance Day.

Since Remembrance Day is not a day accorded the same importance as New Year's Day, among other statutory holidays, Remembrance Day is most frequently associated with the phrase "banks and government offices are closed". For many who must work on Remembrance Day, any pause to remember our war dead is either overlooked or difficult. For these and far too many others, the sacrifices of war are in a fog of memory, at best.

I thank my colleague, the Honourable Member for Calgary Southeast, for his thoughtfulness in sponsoring this initiative. As the Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs, I can assure the Honourable Member and this House that this initiative is greatly appreciated by Canadian veterans everywhere. In life, we value those who remember our sacrifices and our triumphs long after their occurrences. In death, those who take the time to remember the accomplishments of one who has passed on show respect for that person, as well as acknowledging that person's contribution to the welfare of others. With respect to our war dead, so many of whom died in their early twenties and without marriage or children to pass on their legacy, remembrance of their sacrifices becomes all the more important.

The purpose of this Act--to be called "the Observance of Two Minutes of Silence on Remembrance Day Act"--is invitational--there is no mandated requirement that two minutes of silence be observed throughout Canada on Remembrance Day--perhaps there should be. Rather, it is stated in the Act that "the people of Canada are invited to pause and observe two minutes of silence at 11:00 a.m. on each Remembrance Day to honour the men and women who died serving their country in wars and peacekeeping efforts".

I note that this legislative initiative parallels Bill passed in the Ontario Legislature in October of 1997. That initiative was commenced by Mr. Morley Kells, by way of a private member's bill. It is of interest that the current initiative and that in Ontario are the results of the concerns of individual members, rather than being an initiative of the government of the day. It is also regrettable that the Act in this House is not votable, given that comparable legislation was deemed to be of sufficient importance to have been voted on in the Ontario legislature.

I also wish the Hansard record to show that the current Bill has been introduced by a Member of this House who is

not yet thirty--one of our younger colleagues. Many of his peers do not have a precise appreciation of the sacrifices of war. It is refreshing to encounter an individual with such concerns and appreciation, at such a comparatively young age.

As witness to the recent Senate hearings on the Canadian War Museum, I must say that the role of the museum in preserving the respect and memories of our soldiers is essential. Many argue as do I, that the museum should be under the control of Veterans Affairs to allow for better representation by those whose memories are preserved in the museum. It is the Canadian War Museum that allows our young and innocent a chance to touch the history that won them the freedom they enjoy today. It is the Canadian War Museum that remembers the Veterans every minute of every day and so it too must receive the same thanks that our veterans receive.

In the current Bill, suggestions are made as to ways in which the people of Canada could promote the pause and the observance of two minutes of silence. Some of the suggestions are traditional; some are novel. It is suggested that Canadians could participate in a traditional Remembrance Day service at a war memorial. Consistent with practices at most primary and secondary schools, it is suggested that Remembrance Day assemblies be held. It is also suggested that similar assemblies be held at post-secondary institutions--colleges and universities--where, to the best of my knowledge, Remembrance Day practices are less common. Consistent with practices in Europe but not common in Canada, it is suggested that, if driving, Canadians could stop their vehicles along the side of the road and sit--or, I suggest, stand--quietly for two minutes. It is also suggested that factory assembly lines be shut down, and that at all workplaces, persons gather in common areas to observe two minutes of silence. A final suggestion is that Remembrance Day services be held in places of worship.

Silence is an important component to healthy reflection. Many scorn on those who wish to reflect on the past. Somehow, this perspective sees the lesson from the past as a hindrance to healthy living in the present. This same "be here now" approach to life also denies that one's actions can have a positive or negative effect on others. Respect is often contagious.

When soldiers go to war, they do not do so on the basis of "what I feel is real, and I am the only one who matters". Instead, there is a collective sense of purpose--a sense of placing one's life at risk for the greater good of others. A willingness to sacrifice in the support of a higher purpose. An appreciation that individual sacrifice can and does have a profound effect on the direction of history. There is no interest in "instant happiness" on the part of those who go to war. There is also in the military a very, very keen sense of history--an appreciation that one MUST learn from the lessons of history, in order to ensure that past mistakes are not repeated. To say to a military person that all that matters is to "be here now" is to invite a response combining amazement and pity.

The world in which we currently find ourselves is one in which instant gratification and self-interest are celebrated. There is no need to make a commitment to any person or ideal other than oneself. It seems there is no need to remember the sacrifices of others made for our future welfare.

If we are to progress as a nation and as individuals, we must continuously remember those who have sacrificed their lives for us. In houses of worship, we are often asked to sit silently, to contemplate how we can improve ourselves in our daily lives. In silent contemplation, for but two minutes on Remembrance Day, we are invited to contemplate how others have contributed to our ability to improve ourselves in our daily lives. A single soldier, dead fifty, seventy-five or one hundred years has made such a contribution to our welfare. We must remember the sacrifice. I applaud the Honourable Member from Calgary Southeast for his initiative.





MAIL



Gulf War Syndrome
& Depleted Uranium



Merchant Navy



Norwood Legion
(Edmonton)



Remembrance Day
& Memorial Ceremonies



Veterans Affairs
Pilgrimages



Last updated on December 14, 2000



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Gulf War Syndrome and Depleted Uranium



Peter hosts a press conference in the House of Commons with Gulf War veteran Louise Richard to highlight the devastating effects of **depleted uranium** on both soldiers and civilians. **Depleted uranium** is a radioactive material used in weapons, such as anti-tank shells, which on impact creates a toxic nuclear waste cloud. Peter has a legislative motion that calls for a global ban on the use of **depleted uranium** in conventional warfare.



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Merchant Navy



Peter was instrumental in the efforts to finally compensate **Merchant Navy Veterans** who were denied benefits following their service in World War II. Peter had all parties agree to the list of four concerns, called for Parliamentary hearings into the compensation claim and authored the Minority Report which was eventually adopted by all Opposition parties. Upon Mr. Gordon Olmstead's death, Peter called on Parliament to recognize his life-long efforts by renaming the Bill the *Gordon Olmstead Act*. Mr. Olmstead is seen here on the far right.



Peter Goldring on Parliament Hill meets with Merchant Navy Veteran Billy Riddell on Remembrance Day as he sought official recognition of the Merchant Navy.



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Norwood Legion (Edmonton)



Lorraine Goldring spoke on Peter's behalf at ceremonies to dedicate the new **Norwood Legion monument**. Peter was fulfilling his Shadow Cabinet Veterans Affairs duties by attending ceremonies in Holland, along with 5,000 Canadian veterans. The Dutch were celebrating and remembering the 55th anniversary of their liberation through the efforts of Canadian troops.



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Remembrance Day



Peter Goldring on Parliament Hill on Remembrance Day 1998 as he laid a wreath on behalf Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition Party.



Peter, as a Member of Parliament and the Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs attends many remembrance and memorial ceremonies across Canada including this one at the Ukrainian Cultural Village in the Edmonton Area with City Councillor Robert Noce.



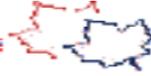
The **Canadian Ambassador to Italy**, Jeremy Kinsman in honour of Peter's fundraising efforts to send 30 Canadian veterans to Ortona, Italy for the Christmas Dinner in December, 1998 presents Peter with a **plaque**. The Mayor of Ortona, Italy looks on.



The **refurbished plaque** presented to the Royal Canadian Legion, Norwood Branch was found and saved from the Maple Leaf plant by Peter. Receiving the **Swift's plaque** of employees who served in war is John Boychuk and Brenton Chmilliar.



Peter proudly receives an award from Veteran Maurice White of the **Loyal Edmonton Regiment** for his dedication to veterans, his support of the regiment and museum. Members of the Loyal Eddies took part in a retake of their Christmas Dinner of 1943 in 1998 at Ortona, Italy. The **Loyal Edmonton Regiment** has proudly served Canada since World War I and is an essential component of the Edmonton Community that must continue whether as a reserve unit or regular force.



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Veterans Pilgrimages



Members of Parliament Peter Goldring (formerly of Whitby, ON), Judi Longfield (currently from Whitby), and Bob Wood visit a Canadian cemetery in the Netherlands to remember the 55th Anniversary of their liberation.



Members of Parliament Peter Goldring, Bob Wood and Judi Longfield lay a wreath in France during a pilgrimage to a Canadian cemetery in 1999.



Peter Goldring and a Canadian Senator take a moment to reflect in France during a pilgrimage to a Canadian cemetery in 1999.



Mr. Goldring is invited to view the burial of the Dutch Unknown Soldier on May 5, 2000 at Grosbeek, Netherlands with a 21 gun salute.



Peter, a part of the official delegation, is with the relatives of **Private John David Carlson** following his burial in France. **Pvt. Carlson**'s remains were previously listed as "Missing In Action" in World War I, and were discovered by hiking British tourists. **Pvt. Carlson** was given a full military funeral by an official Canadian delegation in France. Originally, the relatives were not included in the trip, but Peter's intervention moved the Minister at the last moment to allow them to attend and pay their respects.



Members of Parliament Peter Goldring, Judi Longfield, Bob Wood and Veterans Affairs Deputy Minister Larry Murray visit the Netherlands.



Senator Frank Mahovalich and Peter Goldring at the **Vimy Ridge Memorial** in May 2000. At Peter's insistence, a tour was conducted and included a full examination of the monument including the inside foundation and super-structure. The inspection revealed an appalling lack of structural maintenance. Peter called for and received from Minister Baker agreement that repairs would commence immediately. This issue will be closely followed by Peter.



Peter, as the Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs, has accompanied many veterans, including **Victoria Cross winner Smokey Smith**, back to their former battlefields, and to visit the foreign cemeteries where so many of their comrades lie. They never are to grow old. They are never forgotten. In the past century alone, 110,000 of Canada's young soldiers have been buried in foreign graves.



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September 7, 2002

Korea Veterans Association Biennial International Convention and Reunion 2002

Honoured veterans, co-chairs Jean Pierre Van Eck and Jim Milton, Senator Thelma, Chalifoux, Mayor Bill Smith, ladies and gentlemen and honoured guests, I am pleased to be with you tonight to share in your friendship and memories. I thank co-chairs Jean Pierre Van Eck and Jim Milton for this kind invitation. Today, the war in Korea, the "forgotten war" is still a war on hold – still not resolved. The war that was never declared, was a war that loomed ominously beneath the nuclear haze that had so recently evaporated Hirohito's will for war. But make no mistake: it was a war.

I have visited Korea, and am amazed at the terrain involved. While peacetime travel is in the valleys, wartime dictates that you take the hilltops. Soldiers had to adopt billygoat attitudes to lead mules to the summits, to take the heights from the enemy, then time after time defend those heights against massive counter attacks. Kapyong comes to mind, as does the Presidential Citation to members of the PPCLI.

During the war in Korea, 30,000 Canadians distinguished themselves with their fine service under severe conditions. Some say that Canadians were responsible for the holding of Seoul, still safely in South Korea to this day. For so many here today from other countries, the experiences were similar. All of you did so much for so many. You gave a small, beleaguered nation the opportunity to be free. The price of this freedom was many who never came home, including over 500 Canadian lives.

The demilitarised zone at Panmunjom today is a surreal standoff point of two still very hostile nations. Very much at odds, each country's sentries, trained in martial arts, glare at each other across a line in the sand. These front line defenders are backed by hundreds of thousands of fully armed and alert-ready soldiers. When I visited Korea four years ago, I was sombly reminded of the true price of peace, as the then recently-discovered remains of five United Nations soldiers, killed half a century ago, were transferred from North Korea to the South Koreans, with Canada's veterans in attendance. It might well have been your lost friends whom they carried on that day. The number of Allied war dead in graves in Korea today is astounding.

Korea war veterans deserve global respect and recognition as contributors to the defence of the world's freedoms, just as young soldiers again today are defending us all against world terrorism.

As young boys, my brother and I met our first soldier in full battle dress uniform. He was a twenty-something nephew of the Pratts, our next door neighbours, and had just returned from Korea. He riveted us with his stories of the hardship of death and life in the Korea that he was so glad to leave. His stories were not of glamour and adventure, but of frostbite, amputations and survival. This young soldier was very glad to be back home. So glad that he cared not that there was no "welcome home" for him; his family was away from home when he arrived.

I would like to close with lines from a poem that some of you know very well:

There is blood on the hills of Korea
It's the gift of the freedom they love
May their names live in glory forever
And their souls rest in Heaven above.

This is from "In The Field, Korea", written by Patrick W. O'Connor, of the Royal Canadian Rifles, on May 29, 1951—
one day before he was killed in action, trying to assist some wounded comrades.

Thank you again for the kindness of your invitation. I am deeply honoured to be in your company.



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Korea Veterans Memorial Service

July 21, 2002

I am pleased to be here today, to lay a wreath on behalf of the Government of Canada, commemorating the 49th anniversary of the ceasefire of the war in Korea.

The war that was never declared, was a war that loomed ominously beneath the nuclear haze that had so recently evaporated Hirohito's will for war. Korea was a 'war': make no 'mistake'.

Today the Korean war , the "forgotten war" is still on hold – still not resolved

I have visited Korea and am amazed at the terrain involved. While today the hills of Korea are covered in lush greenery, fifty years ago they were brown and treeless. While peacetime travel is in the valleys, wartime dictates that you take to the hilltops. Canadians had to adopt mountain goat attitudes to lead mules to the summits, to take the heights from the enemy, then time after time defend those heights against massive counter attacks.

During the war in Korea, 30,000 Canadian soldiers distinguished themselves with their fine service under severe conditions. Many say that Canadians were responsible for the holding of Seoul, still safely in South Korea to this day.

The demilitarised zone at Panmunjom today is a surreal standoff point of two still very hostile Nations. Very much at odds, each country's sentries, trained in martial arts, glare at each other across a line in the sand. These front line defenders, backed by hundreds of thousands of fully armed and alert-ready soldiers, would in a heartbeat shoot to kill an invader of 'their' space.

While there has recently been hopeful talk of reunification of North and South Korea, we caution those who would rush peace before disarmament. During 49 years of ceasefire, there has been no abatement of positioning raids and a war-footing stance.

When I visited Korea four years ago, we were sombrely reminded of the true price of peace, when the remains of five United Nations soldiers, killed 50 years ago in North Korea, were discovered. The remains were transferred from North Korea to South Korea, with Canadian veterans in attendance and assisting in the transfer. The remains carried by a Canadian veteran might well have been those of a long-lost friend from half a century ago. A long-lost friend who never had a chance to grow old

Korea was a war. Korea today is a war simply on hold.

Canada's Korea war veterans deserve our respect and recognition as contributors to Canada's defence of the

world's freedoms, just as Canada's soldiers again are defending Canada against world terrorism.

100,000 Canadian soldiers fell in past wars and did not return home. 500 fell in Korea alone and now eternally rest on South Korean soil. We remember them today at this, the 49th anniversary of the ceasefire of the war in Korea.

We remember the members of the famed regiments like the Patricias, who served so proudly then and now, and who gave lives from their ranks again in Afghanistan. We are so thankful that today our fallen soldiers can now be brought home for a final rest. Yet, sadly, in our world of today, there is still no reprieve from war.

In laying this wreath, we show that while we remember and give thanks to those living with us today, we will always remember those who gave their lives in the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. We must never forget.



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November 11, 2001
(as delivered at the Beverly
Cenotaph in Edmonton)

Remembrance Day 2001

Veterans, Distinguished Guests, Cadets, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls.

Three short years after Confederation, Canada's soldiers were first called to protect our peace.

Canada's first war medal's ribbon had the colours of our flag of today - red, white, red. The medal garland with maple leaves was issued with ribbon clasps for the Red River Campaign or the two Fedian Raids.

Then 5000 Canadian soldiers served in the Northwest Rebellion; 7000 in South Africa; and over 600,000 in the Great War.

'The Great War', World War I, the war to end all wars, and which did not.

Then 1.1 million Canadians were in uniform in World War II, which was ended by the splitting of a minute atom over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Korea was a war and still is on hold today at the demilitarized zone at Pan Mon Jom, Korea. The Gulf War, and many Peacekeeping missions followed.

Of two million that have served in uniform in war and peace since Canada's Confederation in 1867, 120,000 paid with their lives and many hundreds of thousands paid with their health for Canada, for a world that knows not yet how to live in peace.

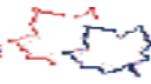
Today, our soldiers are once again at the serious business of war. We think of our men and women in uniform on the Arabian Sea today.

We think too, of the senseless civilian toll of New York on September 11, two months ago today, and wonder what madness our soldiers and civilian population will face next. But Canadians have stood to face the evil of war before and stand again, with resolve, to prevail once again for peace. As Canada's Navy says, "Ready - Aye - Ready, Sir."

For all who have served, for those who have died, we show our respect today.

"The torch be yours to hold it high." Forget - we simply must not.

As our veterans gathered here today know all too well, freedom is not free. Freedom has a human toll!



MAIL



Sept. 17, 2000

Korea Still At War After 50 Years ([en français](#))

Distinguished guests and political colleagues.. As very young boys, my brother and I met our first soldier in battle dress uniform. A 20 something nephew of the Pratt's, our next door neighbours, who had just returned from war in Korea. He riveted us with his stories of hardship of death and life in the Korea he was so glad to leave. His stories were not of glamour and adventure but of frostbite, amputations and survival. This young soldier was very glad to be back home.

30,000 Canadian volunteers all distinguished themselves with their fine service under severe conditions.

This past Tuesday I had the honour and privilege of speaking at another Korea War Veterans function – a memorial wall at the Vimy Ridge Academy in Edmonton.

This school wall, like the memorial plaque today, are important reminders of the efforts and lives lost to preserve the peace that we enjoy today.

The Vimy Ridge school has each classroom representing a different Regiment and of course has one classroom devoted to the Royal 22nd Regiment, the proud Vandoos. Regimental colours, insignia and memorabilia are prominent on the walls

The Vandoos paid a very high price. Of the 516 Canadians who died in Korea 104, or 1 in 5, was a Vandoos.

104 brave young Canadians lives sacrificed at the alter of world peace in a land so far from home and possibly never to be visited by their families and friends to this day. But, peace is a legacy of great honour.

I have visited Korea and am amazed at the terrain involved. While peacetime travel is in the valleys, wartime dictates that you take to the hilltops. Canadians had to adopt mountain goat attitudes to lead mules to the summits, then time after time defend those heights against massive attacks.

The war that was never declared, was a war that loomed ominously beneath the nuclear haze that just before had vaporized World War II's Hirohito's will for war. Korea was a war make no mistake.

Today the Korean War, the forgotten war is still a war on hold – still not resolved.

The demilitarized zone at Panmunjom is a surreal stand off point of two very hostile Nations. Very much at odds, each countries` unarmed sentries, trained in the martial arts, glare steelily at each other across a line in the sand. These front line defenders, backed by hundreds of thousands of fully armed and alert soldiers would in a heartbeat shoot to kill an invader of their space. When I visited Korea, two years ago, we also were sombrelly reminded of the true price of peace as the recently discovered remains of 5 United Nations soldiers, killed 50 years ago, were transferred from North Korea to the South Koreans with Canada's veterans in attendance. They might well have been their friends, they carried.

Our veterans deserve our respect and recognition as contributors to Canada's defence of the world`s freedom.

An appropriate way to express our National gratitude would be to issue a stamp honouring Canada's veterans of the War in Korea. Profits could go for the badly needed repairs to the war monument in Kapyon.

I will be asking for this when Parliament re-convenes.

Many soldiers like Mr. Pratt`s nephew, did return home. But, never to be forgotten, are the 516 young Canadians who fell in Korea, who never returned home, who never had a chance to grow old.

*"There is blood on the hills of Korea, It is
The blood of the brave and the true."*

We will not forget





August 2000

Tour of Duty

Speech for Army, Navy and Air Force Convention Regina, August 6-9, 2000

Good afternoon to all veterans. Past President Akmal Khan, Vice President Bob Cassels, Admiral Larry Murray, my parliamentary colleague Bob Wood, all veterans, ladies and gentlemen. I thank my friend President Bert Prichard for his invitation. I also wish to use this occasion to acknowledge our late mutual friend Chuck Murphy of the Royal Canadian Legion, who lived to see the Unknown Soldier return to Canada, and then himself to pass away. I want to express my gratitude, great appreciation and very high regard that I have for all of you, for the good work your organization does.

The Army, Navy and Air Force, "ANA Vets", organization is over 150 years old and has been in existence since 1840, before Confederation. The past century has been the most violent in history with the South African War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, which is still a war on hold, the Gulf War and many regional conflicts. Near the end of the previous century, the French and English speaking Canadians fought together for the first time in the Fenian Raids, the Red River Campaign against foreign invasion and internal insurrection.

These soldiers were recognized with a General Service Medal. For Canada's first veterans, the medal had a ribbon, very appropriately coloured; red, white and red as is Canada's flag of today. Clasps on the medal's ribbon indicated "Fenian Raid 1866", "Fenian Raid 1870" or "Red River 1870". The medal itself was garlanded with maple leaves. Undoubtedly, some of the early ANA veterans or "AN" veterans were proud recipients.

To encourage remembrance of this and all of Canada's war history, I propose a series of postal stamps with a dedicated purpose. Stamps to recognize individual efforts like those of our Victoria Cross winners, Unit efforts, major battles, major memorials, and major conflicts – a *Canada at War* series. The purchase of these stamps could create an important, revenue source for the long-term repair and maintenance of our memorials abroad and also would raise awareness of Canada's war history. They include the Vimy Ridge, France and Kapyon, Korea Memorials, which I have seen, among others that are sadly in need of repair.

It has been very much an honour and a humbling experience to have been so very much involved with veterans' issues over the past three years. The successes have been many, due to so many working together. In 1998, history was made with the Ortona Christmas Dinner, which touched so many internationally. Our Hong Kong veterans' slave labour compensation claim and our Merchant Navy veterans' grievances were finally settled, after so very many years. Tough issues were finally put to bed. I have also called for national health care standards for veterans. Simply put, extraordinary people need and deserve extraordinary care.

Today, I announce my departure from the Veterans Affairs Critic role. It's time to move on. I want you to know that this really is not my choice at all, since there is still much work to be done. It's like I'm still in the military. I have just received my marching orders and, like any good soldier, I obey my superior commander without reservation. I may grumble a little bit in private, but I will soldier on. As I move on, I will take with me the memories of the great friendships and wonderful experiences that I have encountered during this tour of duty as Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs. I take with me a duty to inform others of my experiences.

I now better understand Vimy Ridge and its tunnels having seen them. I now better understand the Normandy landing having walked on Normandy's shores. I now better understand the Unknown Soldier's presence at Canada's war memorial having stood and heard the message in his silence. I now better understand the glory and sorrow that is war having looked carefully and respectfully into the eyes of a Canadian war veteran. And after all this, I can still not "fully" understand the true terror of those times. Only those that have been there will ever know all.

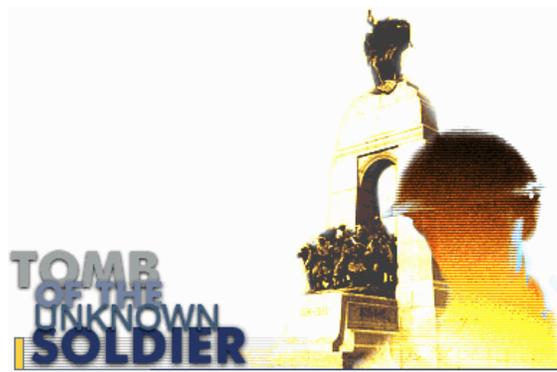
The picture in my mind of my experiences over the past three years is a picture painted with colours brought to life by the voices and the recollected experiences of so very many veterans; veterans who took the time to share a small corner of their lives with me. I thank you very much for the last three years, which I will never forget; God bless you for according me the honour of serving.

One such experience so very memorable amongst many, many other experiences happened earlier this year. I was in the reviewing stand in Appeldoorn, Holland, during the massive, two-hour parade to commemorate the 55th anniversary of Holland's liberation. Thousands of Dutch citizens, many with tears, greeted the Canadian veterans, as they marched by. The Dutch have not forgotten, and will never forget. As the soldiers proudly marched by, a chorus suddenly broke out all around us, among the 200,000 citizen spectators: "Old soldiers never die. They simply fade away." They fade away to our memory with the highest honour and respect. The memory will remain with us always.

Thank you for three years that I will never forget. Good luck with your convention. Keep up the good community work and keep veterans and their spouses' well being the highest priority. See you in Edmonton in 2002.

(917 words)





May 18, 2000

Veterans Affairs Critic Statement On The Unknown Soldier

by
Peter Goldring
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to respond to the statement of the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The events to occur next week are truly historic and long overdue. The ceremonies in Ottawa will bring together all provinces, since earth gathered from each province and the soil of France where a soldier fell so long ago will be interred with his remains.



Next week, a soldier will be carried home from the shadow of Vimy Ridge to rest forever on Canadian soil. Not to the town he left so long ago, for we know not where he lives. Not to his family's home, for we know not who his family is. But home he will soon come to rest in an honourable place and to receive the deserving respect of all as we, the public, remember the war, think of his soul and ponder the supreme 'Price of Peace' that his death reflects. These actions show us that the Unknown Soldier represents all Canadians. In falling at Vimy, the Unknown Soldier fell in a crucial battle—a Canadian victory that all the world would see. Many would say that Canada took birth that day. Born into the world of nations with respect. Born by the blood of our young. Born through their determination and skill. Their spirit lives on to this day.

Mr. Speaker, over 60,000 Canadian soldiers died in the War to end all wars. The last century, over 100,000 Canadians never returned home. More than 27,000 of our war dead—nearly 25% of all Canadians who lost their lives in fighting for our freedoms—have no marked grave, being buried at sea or on land.

It is this soldier's life and his death that is of singular importance at this time. The Unknown Soldier is whom we speak of today. His name is known only unto God. Soon he will rest in peace on Canadian soil. Soon he will be with his family--all Canadians who will honour his past. Soon he will be home at long last.



Return to Unknown Soldier



MAIL



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2000 May

Samuel de Champlain

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to contribute to this debate on Bill C-428, an Act to establish Samuel de Champlain Day. The Bill is sponsored by the Honourable Member for New Brunswick Southwest. Under this Bill, commencing in 2004, June 26 would be designated as "Samuel de Champlain Day". The timing of the enactment is to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the first French settlement by Champlain on St. Croix Island, in 1604. The Honourable Member, when introducing the Bill in this House, mentioned that passage of this Bill would be important to those in New Brunswick, due to the planned celebrations of the 400th anniversary of Champlain's first North American settlement.

It should be remembered that Champlain's association with New Brunswick is but one small component of a life of much larger travels. If Champlain were to be honoured for his discoveries, that honour should be shared by southern Ontario, the northern United States and southern Quebec, as well as by New Brunswick. It should also be remembered that Champlain's discoveries were on behalf of France. His reward for these discoveries was to be named the Governor of New France. Based on his position as Governor, he was arrested by the British after the British defeat of New France.

While Champlain's voyages were on behalf of France, some might argue that there was no Canada at the time to reference Champlain's accomplishments. People might then be inclined to argue that Champlain's discoveries are closely tied to the French origins of New France. In my view, this misses the point. If Champlain is so important to Canada as we now know it, he should be equally heralded in the United States. After all, the majority of the territory that Champlain discovered and mapped is now part of the northeast United States. Champlain's famous 1632 map of New France, while lauded as a demonstration of the extent of his discoveries, in fact includes land that was mostly explored by others. Who explored the Labrador, Hudson Bay, Rupert's Land and Northwest Territories coastlines? It wasn't Champlain. It was Henry Hudson, the discoverer of Hudson Bay; it was Captain Vancouver, after whom the City of Vancouver was named. It was also John Cabot, considered to be the very first discoverer of Canada. Their discoveries are no less significant to the establishment of Canada than those of Champlain, yet we do not accord them any particular federal honours.

In my opinion, exalting Champlain's accomplishments in the manner proposed by the current Bill demonstrates an elitist, centrist approach to the discoverers of our country. Many appear more than willing to honour anyone who explored in the area around the St. Lawrence River. Regrettably, some are unwilling to place on the same pedestal those who bravely mapped our significantly more vast northern and western territories. People who consider the "north" to be Lake Nipissing, ignore the reality of the geography and history of 80% of Ontario.

In my view, an appropriate manner by which to view Champlain's accomplishments is illustrated by how he was honoured by Canada's Merchant Navy, during World War II. The Merchant Navy fleet had many ships, known as "park ships". In a time of war, when an accurate representation of a nation was crucial, there was no "Champlain fleet" delivering supplies to the troops. Rather, Champlain's name was on but one of the ships in the fleet. In a

similar vein, Champlain's accomplishments should be viewed as part of a much larger group of discoveries. No one person is accorded a federal honour. Rather, the federal honour is to the collective effort.

The Bill is divisive and it is for this reason that I am reluctant to support it. Samuel de Champlain is more commonly known as the "father of New France", relative to his later establishment of settlements in Quebec. This fact is acknowledged in the preamble to the Bill, where it is stated that he was "influential in the development of two further settlements—one at Port Royal on the Bay of Fundy, and one at Quebec". The Quebec settlement was established in 1608, four years after the events which are to be commemorated by the Bill currently under consideration.

The issue raised here is whether it is more appropriate for Samuel de Champlain Day to be proclaimed by the New Brunswick provincial legislature, rather than by this House. At the federal level, should we acknowledge Champlain for his first discovery, or for the discovery that he is best known nationally? I suggest that the latter approach is to be preferred at the federal level. Even the Acadian Centre, in a publication on Champlain, acknowledges that Champlain is, above all, recognized as the founder of Quebec.

Champlain exemplified the multi-talented nature of so many of our nation's heroes. He was both an explorer and a cartographer. He also wrote much about his travels, though very little about himself or his family background. He lived from 1567 to 1635. Even though born in France, as the son of a sea captain, Champlain's first military association was as member of the British Army. His first voyage was in 1599, when he explored the West Indies and Mexico. In 1603, at the age of 36, sponsored by a fur-trader, Champlain commanded a ship that explored the St. Lawrence River as far as Montreal is located today. The purpose of this voyage was to "colonize the New World", though this objective was apparently not accomplished. In this respect, historians appear to distinguish between the establishment of a "settlement" and a "trading post". Champlain's 1604 actions in Acadia, on the Isle of St. Croix, appear to be categorized as being in the nature of "trading post" creation. While Champlain arrived in Acadia in 1604, the first fort in the area—Fort Latour—was not constructed until 27 years later, in 1831. In fact, at least one historian considers that Champlain essentially lost his optimism about the future of Acadia, after having spent three winters there. This is one of the explanations for Champlain's 1608 voyage and consequent founding of Quebec City.

It is in 1608 that Champlain is regarded as having established his first European settlement, in what is now known as Quebec City. One reason for this is the official capacity in which Champlain returned to North America; he was now the Lieutenant Governor of New France. The Quebec City settlement was followed by the establishment, in 1611, of a settlement in Montreal.

In 1629, when Quebec was captured by the English, the 62 year-old Champlain was sent back to England as a prisoner. Champlain was only able to return to Quebec after New France was returned to France in 1633. During his term of imprisonment, he apparently devoted his efforts to map-making of his journeys. His acclaimed Map of New France was published in 1632, with most of the map being based on Champlain's personal explorations. He returned to his trading post in 1633 and to his position as Governor of New France, where he died two years later.

Acadians in New Brunswick understandably have an identification with Champlain and he should be so honoured accordingly. His identification with Canada as a nation—as well as his associations in North America generally—are somewhat different. In Acadia, Samuel de Champlain is honoured by an educational school and community centre being named in his honour—as of 1985. Champlain's name is also encountered on educational and other public buildings throughout Canada. Lake Champlain is named after him—a lake that Champlain discovered in 1609. The Center for the Study of Canada, at Plattsburgh State University, has an annual scholarly symposium named after him. Ironically, the theme of this year's "Samuel de Champlain Symposium 2000" is "The Quiet Revolution in Quebec: Looking Back After 40 Years".

Based on the foregoing sentiments, Champlain may be certainly be viewed as having involvements with some significant events prior to the founding of Canada. I believe that his official role as Governor of New France points to the greater appropriateness of a Quebec-based commemoration of his life. Accordingly, I cannot support the Bill before this House, as currently worded, because it focuses too narrowly on one man, when many explored and established Canada.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.





House of Commons
Remembrance Day Tribute 1999

A Century of War

We remember today the blood and tears shed for our freedom by war veterans of Canada and Newfoundland. As the 'sands' of time slip away from this century, we pause to reflect on the supreme price paid by so many for the peace we enjoy today, ending a century so violent that humanity was brought to the brink.

In 1899, soldiers left for war in South Africa. Their sacrifices are immortalized in bronze at the gates of old Quebec, standing as testament to this century's baptism by war.

Then Canada was born into the world of nations, by respect gained for its price paid for world peace, with the blood of its young, as 100,000 moved forth at Vimy Ridge in 1917. A majestic memorial, defying real description, stands on French soil to honour our soldiers' supreme effort.

Dawn broke on the beaches of Normandy, with the silhouette of total war painted across its horizon. With one thousand Allied ships poised for action, D-Day had arrived in 1944. These tranquil shores bore witness to an invasion force of Allied might that struck a death blow to Nazi tyranny, bringing about Europe's freedom.

Soon, a minute atom vapourized Hirohito's will for war. The death clouds scarcely fade--dissipating 100,000 souls, as the Korean War loomed, in the ominous shadow of nuclear might.

The price tag of peace in this violent century has been war, and has been so very high, with 110,000 Canadian war dead. We must learn from the harsh truths of wars past so that we not repeat humanity's mistakes.

History records the poppy as a symbol of earthly life, until a day in Flanders, when from the fields of war, Lt. Col. John McCrae penned verse of remembrance for Canada's war dead. He spoke for all who have faced their soul in the finality of the theatre of war, whether Korea, the Gulf or the two World Wars. He could well be speaking of all brave men who have soldiered the world for Canadian beliefs. His words, carved on the walls of this House, are as enduring as the threat of future war:

"If ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep."

For our honourable war veterans and remembered war dead, we pause today to give our respect. We will not forget.





June 2, 1998

Hong Kong Veterans Compensation Claim

Mr. Peter Goldring (Edmonton East, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I move that the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, presented on Thursday, May 7, 1998, be concurred in.

I rise today representing the constituents of Edmonton East to move concurrence in this motion. As the sands of time run out on the 20th century they do too for Canada's World War II veterans who were captured and enslaved by Japan 57 years ago.

On Christmas Day in 1941, 2,000 soldiers surrendered to Japan beginning a 44 month tenure of a hell of inhumanity at the hands of the Japanese and at the feet of Emperor Hirohito. Many barely survived, only to suffer lifelong misery from the effects of Japan's engineered slave labour camps. These men were sentenced to pay with their lives and health by a Canadian government eager for a war posting and by an enemy, Japan, indifferent to humanitarian treatment and the Geneva convention.

Japan went on to recover from its war injuries to prosper as an industrial giant, somewhat due to our veterans' efforts. Canada's Hong Kong enslavement veterans deserve an apology and some recompense. It is fair. It is right and the Liberals agree.

Some of these very modern industries then employed slave labour treating the workers with brutality beyond contempt. On the eve of the new millennium as we face the globalization of the international marketplace, Canada must take a leadership role in insisting that we Canadians are not simply purveyors of timber and oilfield technology. Canadians also export our Constitution and Charter of Rights and Freedoms. When the outside world sees our flag, the symbol of our nation, it feels warm in the solace that it stands for freedom and rights of all Canadians.

Our government could do well and reflect on this to act to redress wrongs committed years ago to our brave veterans. By example Canada could lead the way to show to other nations as Japan that their shame is our shame if we do not act.

Japan's shame is well documented in all the nations of the world except Japan itself. Revisionists and extinguishment of history may well suit the Japanese population as a whole but Canada should not participate. Canada must not wait for Japan to act. Canada must reference Japan's shame, lead by example and act alone.

To acquiesce and support Hong Kong veterans in spirit but not in recompense as the Minister of Veterans Affairs wishes is to be an accomplice to the same and to share Emperor Akihito's bewilderment

in the veterans' disdain and to share Hirohito's shame. To be mute to the outrageous honouring of Hirohito's son Akihito for chivalry when our Hong Kong veterans still suffer from the ravages of enslavement is unconscionable and displays a government callousness that cries out for question.

Certainly the Government of Canada must achieve fiscal responsibility by a balanced budget and reduced taxes, but we have a duty to show Canadians that we care and will support their legitimate concerns. We also have a duty to show to the world that we are not followers but rather a leader when recognition and recompense are appropriate.

We can and must act now to do right and provide compensation to our war veterans who were forced to endure slave labour at the hands of the Japanese and Hirohito. We must not hesitate or skip one heartbeat in the conduct of our duty to Canada's veterans. Certainly we should claim costs from Japan but at a later date.

Today I will read a list of survivors' names to put a human face to this request and hopefully to add a sense of urgency as well. This list contains 361 names. It is shorter than it was a week ago. It will be shorter again a week from now. I ask in the name of decency that I will not be in the House on this matter to read again a much shorter list next year and the year after. I ask that you pick up the torch. I ask that you not fail in the task lest we all forget.

Hong Kong veterans Robert Acton, Leslie Adams, Borge Agerbak, Knud Agerkak, Peter Allain, William Allister, Arthur Ambrose, Francis Andrews, Alexander Archibald, Harold Atkinson, Alfred Babin, James Badger, Harold Baker, Stanley Banfill, George Barron, Robert Barter, Thomas Barton, Eric Batley, John Beaton, George Belcourt, James Bell, William Bell, Jack Bennett, Duncan Benton, Leo Berard, Donat Bernier, Walter Billson, Leonard Birchall, Gerard Bisson, August Bitzer, Clement Blacquièrè, Joseph Blacquièrè, Phillip Bliss, Sydney Blow, Eugene Bond, Graham Boudreau, Armand Bourbonnière, Robert Bowman, William Bradley, Charles Brady, Ray Bronson, Charles Broome, Frank Brown, Lucine Brunet, Ernest Buck, Ludovic Bujold, Clarence Burgess, Bruce Cadoret, Wallace Cake, Kenneth Cambon, Charles Campbell, Railton Campbell, Edward Campbellton, Leslie Canivet, Charles Cardinal, Arnold Carrière, Lloyd Carter, Bernard Castonguay, Robert Chamberlain, George Chanell, Frederick Chapman, Leslie Chater, Charles Chesser, Glyn Chipping, Kathleen Christie, Ronald Claricoates, Oswald Clark, Robert John Clayton, Bliss Cole, Lloyd Cole, Fred Cooper, Claude Corbett, Renaud Côté, Leonard Cotton, Kenneth Court, George Coutts, Albert Cox, Bryce Craig, Winston Cunningham, Adolphe Cyr, Roger Cyr, Theophil Cyr, Wilmer Cyr, Donald Dainard, Charles Dallain, Jean-Paul Dallain, Paul Dancause, John Danielson, James Darrah, John Davies, Morgan Davies, Frederick Dawe, John Dearden, Pierre-Lionel Delarosbil, Albert Delbridge, Elmer Denison, William Derhak, Thomas Dewar, Ralph Dewby, Arthur Diehl, Samuel Disensi, Phillip Doddridge, John Doiron, Leonard Doiron, Rosaire Doiron, Gerald Doucette, Lts Doull, Lloyd Doull, Robert Dunlop, Gordon Dunn, Daniel Dunseath, Gordon Durrant, George Edgecombe, Harold Englehart, Arley Enright, Roderick Everson, Kenneth Ewing, John Fair, John Fertal, Cecil Fines, Horace Fitchett, Audrey Flegg, John Fleming, Robert Fleming, Thomas Forsyth, Earl Francis, Homidas Fredette, Isaac Friesen, Frederick Gard, John Gauthier, Donald Geraghty, Horace Gerrard, David Golden, Jack Goodey, Edward Granham, Walter Gray, Glenford Gregoire, Richard Grieves, Anthony Grimston, Gerald Gunson, James Guthrie, Harry Gyselman, Michael Haddad, George Hallada, Lloyd Hanna, George Harbour, Allan Harper, Wallace Harrington, Harry Hawryshok, John Hay, Harold Heath, Norman Henderson, Walter Henderson, Elwin Herring, Joseph Hickey, William Hickie, Henry Hladych, Kenneth Hogarth, James Houston, Alfred Hunt, Clarence Hunt, Hector Hunt, Joseph Hunt, Edmond Hurd, Thomas Hutchinson, Kenneth Inche, Walter Inglis, Gilbert Jacquard, John James, James Jessop, Alton Jewers, Richard Johnson, Thomas Jones, Wilfred Jones, Richard Keays, Lloyd Keene, Frederick Kelly, Reginald Kerr, John Kinahan, Michael Kudlovich, Thodore Kurluk, Ernest Ladde, Thomas Laflamme, William Laidlaw, Regis Lajeunesse, Jean Pierre Lalime, Frederick Lanyon, Eugene Lapointe, Maurice Lapointe,

John Lavoie, Reginald Law, Philip Lawlis, John Lebelle, Jean-Paul Leblanc, Joseph Leblanc, Leandre Leblanc, Leopold Leblanc, Lionel Lecouffe, Lesly Leggo, Richard Leir, Wilbert Lester, John Levitt, Stanley Lloyd, William Lockwood, Arthur Lousier, John Lowe, Oswald Luce, Wilbert Lynch, Henry Lyons, Robert Lytle, Gerald Marley, Allison MacDonald, Edward MacDonald, George MacDonell, Laurie MacKay, Ralph MacLean, James MacMillan, Donald MacPherson, Eldon MacWhirter, William MacWhirter, Eric Maloney, William Maltman, Williams Marks, Geoffrey Marston, Allen Martin, David Martin, Douglas Martin, John Maruschak, Frederick Mason, Eugene Matchett, Alfred Matthews, Clifford Matthews, William Mayne, Richard Maze, William McAuley, Clifford McDavid, Milton McDonald, Roy McDonald, Lewis McFawn, John McGee, John McGreevy, Gordon McLellan, William McNaughton, Angus McRitchie, George Merritt, Joe Michalkow, Joseph Miller, James Mitchell, James Moar, William Muir, Leon Murphy, Raymond Murray, Howard Naylor, Donald Nelson, Frank Neufeld, William Nicholson, Cornelius Nickel, Wallace Normand, Walter O'Hara, Lloyd O'Leary, Albert Oakford, Robert Olscamp, Carl Olsson, Grenville Onyette, Douglas Orr, Marcel Ouellet, William Overton, Gordon Palin, Parker Robert, Soren Paulson, Raymond Pellor, Gerard Pentland, Abraham Peters, George Peterson, Arthur Pifher, Leo Pitre, Joseph Poirier, Ferdinand Poitras, Allison Pollock, Coleman Pollock, John Pollock, William Pople, Arnold Porter, Ross Purse, Edward Query, Raymond Quirion, Charles Rame, Lawrence Rattie, Douglas Rees, Douglas Reid, James Riddoch, Arthur Roberts, Austin Roberts, Ernest Roberts, Roy Robinson, William Rodgers, Edwin Rodrigues, Peter Rollick, Jacob Rose, Arnold Ross, Lancelot Ross, Lawrence Ross, John Roussel, Ronald Routledge, Berthrand Roy, Albert Russell, Fred Ryman, Mattew Sandford, William Sarginson, Oliver Sauson, Adam Schnell, Theodore Schultz, Arthur Schwartz, Leonard Seaborn, Lloyd Seaward, Edward Shayler, John Simcoe, Harold Smith, Jack Smith, John Smith, Raymond Smith, John Snively, Donald Southworth, Lionel Speller, Arthur Squires, Robert Stager, Lawrence Stebbe, Clarence, Leslie Stickles, John Stroud, Gerald Sunstrum, Royce Sweet, Dempsey Syvret, John Tayler, George Taylor, Joseph Tennier, Elved Thomas, Bernard Thompson, Daniel Thompson, Percy Thompson, Wendell Thompson, Raoul Tremblay, Sidney Vale, Johannes Van Baalen, Emile Van Raes, Alfred Wagner, Howard Ward, Robert Warren, Lenoard Watson, John Webb, Harry White, Allan Whitman, Richard Wilson, Cecil Windsor, Peter Wing, Leonard Wood, Arthur Wright, Frederick Wright, John Yanota, Lavin Zaharychuk and Nick Zytaruk.

This tribute is to Canada's forgotten war veterans to remind the all party committee of its unanimous agreement to compensate Canada's Hong Kong war veterans for enslavement. I want to recognize the human element of a well documented statistical history.

I wish now to conclude my tribute to the surviving veterans of Japan's evil enslavement with a call for support for compensation for Canada's Hong Kong veterans.

Mr. Dick Harris (Prince George—Bulkley Valley, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that everyone in the House can support this issue. I hope the Liberal government will take those steps to ensure that our veterans who were enslaved in camps in Hong Kong during the war will be adequately recognized and compensated. That compensation will be claimed from the country of Japan.

I ask the member if he could give us an explanation as to why Canada has not acted on this issue prior to now. Why does it take until 1998 for a government, whether current or previous, to act on this very important issue?

Mr. Peter Goldring: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question.

The history of this relates back to 1953 when there was a settlement made with a Japan that was broke. With Japan's economy after the war it was felt that there was no money available for compensation. The Canadian government on behalf of the Hong Kong veterans accepted a \$1 a day settlement for enslaved labour by Japan, a buck a day settlement.

What the Hong Kong veterans are asking for is something that was a reasonable return for labour at that time, let alone slave labour. They would like \$18 a day, which would be reasonable. The \$1 a day was totally unacceptable. It was inappropriate. Japan, now the richest country on earth, uses that buck a day settlement as an excuse not to approach it again. That is wrong. Canada now has an opportunity now to correct this wrong.



