



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MAN  
LE MUSÉE NATIONAL DE L'HOMME  
OTTAWA

OUR FILE NO. MMB 81  
NOTRE DOSSIER N°

Canadian War Museum,  
330 Sussex Drive,  
Ottawa 2, Ontario.

February 13, 1970.

Mr. T.H. Raddall,  
44 Park Street,  
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

A series of books on the collections of the units forming the National Museum of Man, (National Museums of Canada) is in preparation. One of the books will be a publication devoted to the Canadian War Museum.

The narrative for the War Museum's book will consist of vignettes. These, and illustrations of artefacts presented with them, will, it is hoped, bring to a wider public some of the lesser known aspects of our military life, some of the humour and pathos, certain great efforts, and perhaps some minor ones as well.

What we are looking for is evocative material which might consist of impressionistic paragraphs, verbal sketches or apt quotations. The field is a wide one and we'd appreciate the help of well-disposed, informed persons like yourself.

We have, for example, artefacts covering these incidents or periods: French/Indian fighting in the early 17th century; King William's War; the fall of Louisbourg, 1758; Quebec, 1759; The American War of Independence; British and Fencible regiments at the turn of the 18th century; the War of 1812; the 1837 rebellion; the Crimean War; the Indian Mutiny; Fenian raids; the Nile boatmen, 1884; the North-West Campaign, 1885; the South African War; the birth of the Canadian navy; the First World War - army, navy air force; the Second World War, all services; Korea; NATO; and peacekeeping.

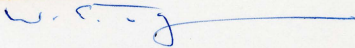
Drawing on your knowledge of literature relating to Canada's military past would you be willing to give us or point our way to some striking vignettes? Even an indication--the book, perhaps, and the incident--would be most helpful.

If you feel that you can assist us we should be most grateful and, because of deadlines, could you please let us hear from you by April 1st? Perhaps you will send whatever you might have to Mr. L.F. Murray, Secretary and Curator, The Canadian War Museum, 330 Sussex Drive, Ottawa 2.

Not all the vignettes can be used, of course, but a panel will select those that are most appropriate to the artefacts which we hold.

Thank you for any help which you might give.

Yours sincerely,



W.E. Taylor, Jr.,  
Director  
Museum of Man.

March 16, 1970

Mr. L.F. Murray, Curator,  
Canadian War Museum,  
330 Sussex Drive,  
Ottawa 2, Canada.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Taylor wrote asking me for a suggested vignette having to do with war in Canada.

Here is one that has to do with Nova Scotia and the American War of Independence.

On April 21, 1778, H.M.S. Blonde challenged a strange frigate off the Nova Scotia coast, drove her into the harbour of Liverpool, N.S., and after a fight captured her. She turned out to be the French ship "Duc de Choiseul", loaded with muskets, cannon, ammunition, clothing, and other supplies for the American army. The British boarding party also found one of the new American flags, and a letter from Silas Dean, the American agent in Paris, addressed to Robert Morris, the financial expert of the American Congress. In fact she was one of the ships engaged by the French secret service to carry munitions to the Americans before France came openly into the war, and her capture on the Nova Scotia coast was the first positive proof.

I gave a full account of this, with the sources, in a paper I read before the Nova Scotia Historical Society some years ago, and it was published in Volume 35 of their transactions, in 1966. I published it myself in a book of true stories called "Footsteps On Old Floors", published by Doubleday in New York and Toronto in 1968.

The actual artifact in Canada is the diary of Colonel Simeon Perkins, merchant and militia officer of Liverpool, N.S., who saw the fight, and afterwards interviewed some of the French officers. He was also engaged in salvage of some of the French cargo. His diary is kept in a bank vault here in Liverpool, but there are typewritten and microfilm copies in the archives at Ottawa. I suggest the diary entries for April 24 and 25, 1778.

Perkins, of course, did not know all the facts about the "Duc de Choiseul", but what he wrote is interesting enough. The cargo would have been precious to Washington, just after the hard winter at Valley Forge.

Sincerely,



National Museums Canada  
Musées nationaux Canada

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Canadian War Museum,  
330 Sussex Drive,  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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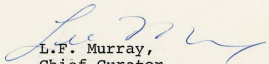
19 September 1974

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,  
44 Park Street,  
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Raddall,

Not long ago I came upon a reference to the exchange of sashes between General Brock and Tecumseh on page 201 in your attractive book *The Path of Destiny*. This occurrence is of consuming interest to us because we have in our possession the woven, arrow-patterned sash believed by descendants of the Brock family to be the one. Would you be kind enough to let us have a reference source for the description of the event, if you still have it in your records. Any help that you can give us will be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

  
L.F. Murray,  
Chief Curator.

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LFM;cac



Sep.26,1974

Mr. L.F.Murray,  
Canadian War Museum,  
330 Sussex Drive,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Murray:

Regarding Tecumseh's sash.

I cannot recall my source or sources offhand. Dalhousie University Library acquired most of my papers last year, and I don't know if they have had time to cross-index everything.

I made my researches for "Path of Destiny" eighteen or nineteen years ago and there is a sad possibility that a lot of my notes were destroyed when I cleared a lot of old papers out of my attic much later on.

However, I find, on turning to my book shelves, a brief reference in "The War With The United States", by William Wood, Chronicles of Canada, published in Toronto in 1915.

On page 73 there is the following:- "Then Brock, in view of all his soldiers, presented his sash and pistols to Tecumseh. Tecumseh in turn gave his many-coloured Indian sash to Brock, who wore it till the day he died."

Sincerely,