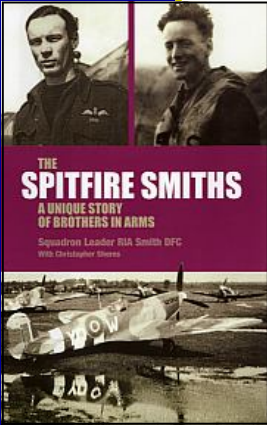


# The Spitfire Smiths



## A Unique Story of Brothers in Arms

*Squadron Leader RIA Smith DFC with Christopher Shores*

\$39.95 HC 215pp 5.5x8.75" b/w photos ISBN 978-1-906502-11-9 Grub Street September

Rod and his brother Jerry both became Spitfire pilots during WWII, leaving their home in Canada only to find themselves—purely by chance—serving together in the defence of Malta during 1942. Jerry had already gained some fame as the first ever pilot to land a Spitfire on an aircraft carrier. Both showed immediate promise as fighter pilots, but by the end of that year Jerry

was dead—last seen chasing a German bomber out to sea while Rod had become an 'ace' and would receive the DFC.

Two years later, serving as a squadron commander in Western Europe, he claimed six Messerschmitts down within a single week, and was involved in the shooting down of the first German jet aircraft to fall to Commonwealth fighters. He ended the war as one of Canada's highest scoring aces, with more than 13 victories to his credit.

Qualifying after the war both as an aeronautical engineer and as a barrister, he brought a keen and analytical intellect to a passionate inter-

est in aviation and aerial combat, writing many letters and articles of great insight which are recorded herein.

This book, containing many dramatic and insightful diary entries from each of the brothers, is a testament to them and the service they gave to a nation facing potentially overwhelming forces.

# One Who Almost Made It Back



## The Remarkable Story of one of World War Two's Unsung Heroes, Sqn Ldr Edward 'Teddy' Blenkinsop, DFC, CdeG (Belge), RCAF

*PETER CELIS*

\$39.95 HC 224pp 6x9" illus. ISBN 978-1-906502-16-4 Grub Street October

On the night of 27/28 April 1944, Teddy and his crew were acting as deputy master bombers during a Pathfinder raid on Montzen in Belgium. After a successful attack, their

Lancaster was shot down. Miraculously he survived to be protected by Belgian citizens before ending his days in Bergen Belsen concentration camp. Little was known of his exploits in between, until Peter Celis, a Belgian air force officer, began to research the story. What he uncovered is far more amazing than any fictional film could be.

He found that Blenkinsop was not only an exceptional and gallant pilot, but that his loyalty, dedication and devotion were second to none and

that his bravery and fearlessness led him to make the supreme sacrifice in the face of Nazi Germany.

Written with pace and insight, this is an uplifting account of an outstanding Canadian young man who very nearly made it back home.

# River Class Destroyers

## Of the Royal Canadian Navy

*Keith Butterley & Ken Macpherson*

\$29.95 PB 128pp 11x8.5"

114 b/w photos, ship plans

ISBN 978-1-55125-093-9

Vanwell Publishing

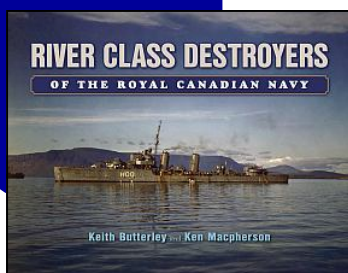
Available

This completely updated and revised edition of Ken Macpherson's first class history entitles River Class Destroyers, published twenty years ago, is now

presented to a new generation of Canadian readers. Over the intervening years, more historical information has come to light on the war years, enabling the authors to correct some previous inaccuracies and expand the operational histories of each ship. Many new photos, plus drawings of the ships and their modifications, their armaments and radar, along with camouflage patterns and colour notes, will make this book a complete reference, suitable for historians and model-

lers.

The Rivers were not old ships by ordinary standards, but wartime demands aged them rapidly, and they did not survive to serve in the postwar Navy. A new generation of ships has borne their names and battle honours, recalling with pride the large contribution made by these fourteen hard-worked ships to the cause of victory in the Second World War.



# Flower Class Corvettes

## SHIPCRAFT Special

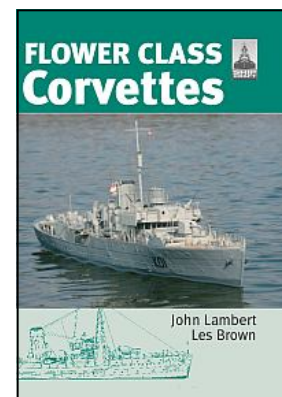
John Lambert & Les Brown  
\$39.95 HC 128pp 8.5x11" 32pp  
colour ISBN 978-1-55068-986-0  
Vanwell Publishing November

The ShipCraft series provides modellers with all they need to know about a famous class of warship and associated model kits. This 'Special' has twice the extent of the standard volumes in order to give better coverage of a class that was built in large numbers and in many variations. The 'Flower' class was originally conceived as a simple coastal escort that could be constructed by shipyards with little or no naval

experience, but such was the shortage of ocean escorts that they became major players in the Battle of the Atlantic, as so famously depicted in the book and film of *The Cruel Sea*. Subject to continuous upgrading, hardly two of them were identical – besides the major differences between British- and Canadian-built ships – and they eventually evolved into a far more potent 'Modified Flower' class. With its large number of detailed plans and photographs of ships, fittings, weapons and equipment, this book offers an unparalleled level of visual information, including many paint schemes and completed models in full colour.

For any model maker setting out to build one of these famous ships, it is simply the best reference available.

- Summary of design and building history
- Information on class variations and modifications
- Many detailed plans of ships and equipment
- Colour reference for paint schemes
- Gallery of photographs of outstanding models
- Critical reviews of available kits
- Sources of further information from books to websites



# A Magnificent Disaster

## The Failure of Market Garden, The Arnhem Operation 1944

David Bennett  
\$34.95 HC 286pp 6x9" 16pp  
photos ISBN 978-1-932033-85-4  
Casemate October

After Normandy, the most spectacular Allied offensive of WWII was Operation Market Garden, which saw three divisions of paratroopers dropped behind German lines, to be joined by massive armoured columns breaking through the front to force a quick end to the war.

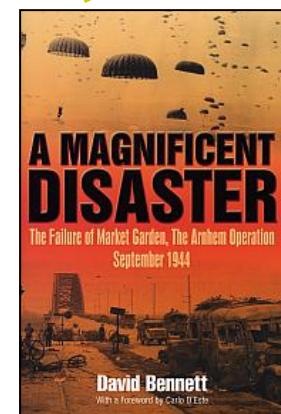
The Operation utterly failed, of course, as the 1st British Airborne was practically wiped out, the

American 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions became tied down in vicious combat for months, and the vaunted armoured columns were foiled.

In this work, the author puts forward a complete, balanced and comprehensive account of the British, American, Polish, Canadian and German actions, as well as the strategic background of the Operation in a way not yet done. Also deals as never before with the key role of all three Corps of British Second Army, not just Horrocks' central XXX Corps. For the first time, we learn the dramatic, untold story of how a single company of Canadian engi-

neers achieved the evacuation of 1st Airborne's survivors back across the Rhine when all other efforts had failed.

Also revealed is the scandal of how Polish General Sosabowski was humiliated, insulted and dismissed by the British military authorities. The author has interviewed survivors, walked the ground, and performed prodigious archival research to increase our understanding of the battle. From the actions of the lowliest soldier to the highest commander, the Operation develops in highly readable style, with the author's expert analysis unveiling new insights at every step.



# Tom Hoppe

## A Journey of Leadership

\$19.99 PB pp 6x9" b/w photos  
ISBN 978-0-9781693-5-0 Breakout  
Educational Network November

Tom Hoppe joined the Canadian Forces in 1982 and served with distinction during a career spanning 20 years. While in service in Bosnia in 1994, he rescued three children who were being shot at by snipers. In recognition of his conspicuous leadership and bravery under fire, Tom was awarded with both the Meritorious Service Cross and the

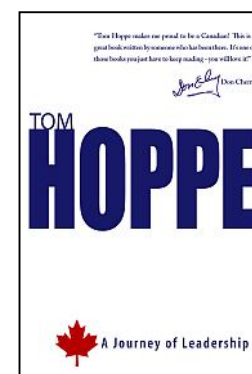
Medal of Bravery. As Canada's most decorated soldier during one tour since the Korean War, Tom has been the subject of documentary films, featured in three books, listed in Canada's "Who's Who," and has a street named in his honour by the City of Calgary. Since retiring from the forces, Tom Hoppe completed a Master of Arts in Leadership and Training at Royal Roads University. Mr. Hoppe has been involved in seminars on team-building and leadership in both the private and public sectors and has been a featured

speaker on democracy and leadership in Canadian high schools.

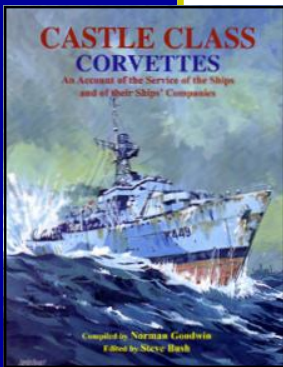
Tom is actively involved with modern-day veterans' issues and assists his fellow veterans by educating government on necessary programs and benefits. Tom is a trained commercial pilot and works in the field of public safety and security.

*"Tom Hoppe makes me proud to be a Canadian! This is a great book written by someone who has been there. It's one of those books you just have to keep reading - you will love it!"*

- Don Cherry



# Castle Class Corvettes



## AN ACCOUNT OF THE SERVICE OF THE SHIPS AND OF THEIR SHIPS' COMPANIES

By F.N. Goodwin  
\$64.95 HC 544pp 240x195mm illus.  
b/w photos  
ISBN: 978-1-904459-27-9  
Maritime Books Available

This is the story of the 39 Castle Class corvettes which played such a vital role in countering the U-boat threat during the latter stages of the Battle of the Atlantic. From 11<sup>th</sup> December 1943 to 6<sup>th</sup> June 1945 they escorted 237 ocean convoys comprising 12,000 merchant ship sailings. Only ten merchant ships were lost by enemy action. They

destroyed 7 U-boats for the loss of just three corvettes.

The account is told by those who made history; from the reports of the Senior Officers of the Escort Groups, from Commanding Officers' reports and from the anecdotes of those who sailed on the ships.

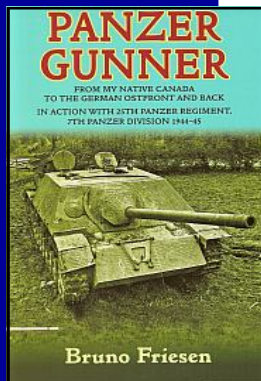
As far as possible each ship's ocean voyage has been chronicled. From this it is possible to determine the general location of any one of the ships at approximate ten day intervals.

Particularly after the introduction of the German acoustic torpedoes (the Gnat) the ships were in danger as soon as they left harbour. However,

the weather held the main influence on the well being of the crews and this is a constant theme throughout the book. In this respect, the Castle Class corvettes proved themselves as excellent sea-boats, hence their post war use as Weather Ships of which four were engaged in providing meteorological data from the empty spaces of the Atlantic.

Whereas most of the ships were laid up and soon scrapped after the war, all the Canadian ships were sold off for mercantile use.

These ships were built for war, and this provides the emphasis of this book – their post war histories are given less emphasis.



# Panzer Gunner

## FROM MY NATIVE CANADA TO THE GERMAN OSTFRONT AND BACK, IN ACTION WITH THE 25TH PANZER REGIMENT, 7TH PANZER DIVISION 1944-45

By Bruno Friesen  
\$49.95 HC 264pp 6x9" 50 b/w photos, maps ISBN: 978-1-906033-11-8  
Helion & Co. Available

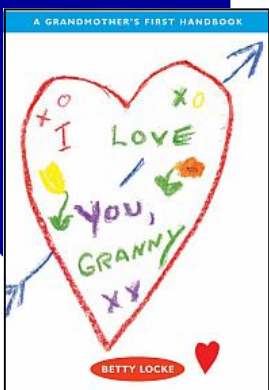
There are few memoirs available of German Panzer crews that focus on the climactic last 12 months of the war on the Eastern Front, 1944-45. What makes this account virtually unique is his family background: his parents came from a German-speaking Mennonite community in the Ukraine, and were to all intents and purposes culturally German. To make matters even more complex, in 1924 his parents left the Ukraine

for Canada, where Bruno was born. In March 1939 he and his brother Oscar found themselves on a ship bound for Bremerhaven in Germany. He barely spoke German, and had never been to Germany, nevertheless his father envisaged that a better life awaited them in the Third Reich. Needless to say, Bruno became caught up in the Second World War, and in 1942 was drafted into the Wehrmacht. The author provides a full account through unusual circumstances, he found himself a Canadian-born German soldier.

The bulk of the book is a detailed account of the author's training, and his subsequent service with 25th Panzer Regiment, part of 7th Panzer Division. He provides a fantastic amount of information about these

two vehicles, and how the crews actually fought in battle with them. This kind of 'hands-on' detail has almost never been available before, particularly such extensive information concerning the characteristics and combat performance of the Jagdpanzer IV.

If one wants to know how German tank crews fought the Soviets in the last year of the war, then this book provides an outstanding account, containing material simply not found elsewhere. The author closes his account by reflecting on his post-war efforts to return to Canada, which eventually succeeded in 1950, and his subsequent life there. This book is not just a critique of armoured fighting vehicles and tank warfare, it is above all a very human story, told in a lively, conversational and fluid manner, and is a remarkable contribution to the literature of WWII.



# I Love You, Granny

## A Grandmother's First Handbook

BETTY LOCKE  
Foreword by her son, Stephen Locke  
\$14.95 PB 84pp 6x9" illus.  
ISBN 978-155125-137-0 October

This is a heartwarming, practical and humorous handbook for "new" grandmothers. It reflects the wisdom and wonder of our grandchildren and their grandmothers, like you.

*I Love You, Granny* written by Grandmother Betty Locke, speaks to all grandparents caught between traditional values and the broad social changes being experienced by their children and grandchildren.

The Stephen Lewis Foundation has approved *I Love You, Granny* as a fundraiser for the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.

This book has been published in thanks to the Nyanyas of Niagara.

This organization of grandmothers have been committed to raising money for the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.

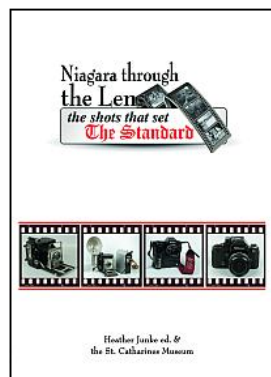
For more information on the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, please visit their website: [www.stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org)

# Looking Back Press

It is our pleasure to announce a new book partnership with the St. Catharines Museum, located at the Lock 3 complex of the Welland Canal. The museum has been the recent recipient of a generous gift of 600,000 photographic slides and negatives from our local newspaper, St. Catharines Standard. These images represent an unbelievable source of photographic history of our region and the museum will preserve

and catalogue the images.

The museum plans on developing this resource and in an effort to promote the wealth of images they have inherited, they launched a special exhibit starting this September showcasing award-winning photographs from The Standard photographers. Vanwell Publishing is the publisher of a just



**Niagara Through the Lens**  
Shots that Set The Standard  
Edited by Heather Junke

\$29.95 pb 9x12" b/w & colour illus. ISBN 978-1-55068-921-1

Also available in a Hardcover edition:  
\$50.00 ISBN 978-1-55068-964-8 September

published book to accompany the exhibit.

As we know, once a picture has appeared in a daily newspaper, the next day it is often forgotten. So, Vanwell Publishing and the St. Catharines Museum have planned for a new series to further promote the richness of the St. Catharines Standard collection. The first of proposed titles is called "Fire Services in Niagara, 1937-1950," by Brian Phair. These photographs and captions have been plucked right from the pages of The Standard and will now be available for all to see.



**Niagara Through the Lens**  
Fire Services in Niagara, 1937-1950  
Brian Phair  
\$24.95 pb 7x10" 200+ b/w illus.  
ISBN 978-1-55068-923-5  
October

## Niagara's Gorge Bridges

### Marvels of Engineering

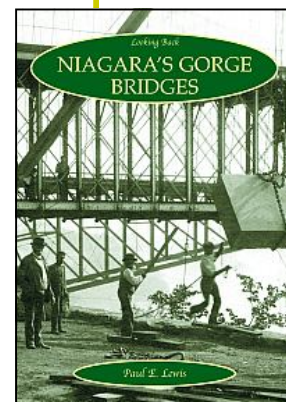
Paul E. Lewis

\$22.95 PB 144pp 6.5x9.25" 200+  
b/w photos ISBN 978-1-55068-925-9  
August

Niagara's Gorge Bridges takes us back over a century and a half, tracing the development and construction of the various bridges that have spanned the river. The first, conceived by William Hamilton Merritt, opened in 1848 and carried only foot and carriage traffic. Today,

three giant spans facilitate millions of crossings by pedestrians, automobiles, and the ever-increasing flow of trucks that are the lifeblood of commerce between Canada and the United States. Over 200 archival photos and engravings have been used to illustrate a sequence of remarkable architecture as the bridges were built, remodeled, and replaced - each incarnation a more modern and more complex structure than the last.

Also profiled are the engineers who built the various bridges. All were masterminds, all were supported by large casts of skilled artisans, mechanics, and laborers, and all were celebrated in their own time.



## Niagara Falls, Historical Notes

Sherman Zavitz

\$22.95 PB 106pp 6.5x9.25" b/w  
photos ISBN 978-1-55068-927-3  
August

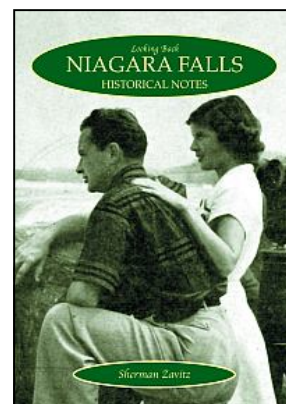
Few cities in Ontario have such a storied past as Niagara Falls, not only because of the cataracts themselves, but due to the city's location on the border with the United States. When battles and animosity finally stopped between these neighbours, events, festivals and people freely celebrated the good times.

Sherman Zavitz who is the official

historian for both Niagara Falls, Canada, and The Niagara Parks Commission, presents 45 vignettes about the city, from the late 18th century to the middles of the 20th century.

These intriguing stories first appeared in the *Niagara Falls Review*, as part of a weekly heritage feature. The lives of many individuals are deservedly chronicled in this wonderful collection. Names such as Blondin, Farini, William "Red" Hill, Sir Harry Oakes, Claire Shuttleworth and many more have in some

way put their stamp on this city. Mr. Zavitz has done a masterful job in telling and interpreting this most fascinating community's colourful past.



# New Publishers now distributed by Vanwell

Vanwell Publishing is pleased to announce that will have acquired the rights to sell in Canada for the Breakout Educational Network and Uniformology.

**Breakout Educational Network** is a Canadian not-for-profit company have produced several titles on Canadian political and military affairs. Look for their new Fall Release "Tom Hoppe, A Journey of Leadership."

**Uniformology** is a small, Texas-based publisher that has dedicated itself to the preservation of the history of the uniforms and accoutrements worn by the world's armies and their regiments, reproduced in small softcover colour books.

For complete listing of available titles please contact us or check our website for details.



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