

LICENSE AGREEMENT (Download):

Copyright © 2011 Archive CD Books Canada inc.

By clicking on the “+” or “▶” symbol beside the bookmark “LICENSE” to the left, to expand the bookmark, you are signifying that you have read, accept and agree with the conditions of this license. If you do not accept these conditions then you must immediately close this file and delete it from your computer’s storage.

These images are supplied for information and personal research only.

You may not publish or sell any of the data contained on this CD in printed, electronic or any other format without prior written consent. You may not advertise to, or provide, a look-ups service of the contents of this product for personal gain or reward. A non-commercial, free, single lookup may be performed to assist a friend of acquaintance in their historical research but a period of at least six months must pass before providing that same individual with a further single non-commercial free look-up service from this recorded data.

If you wish to copy this file for your own purposes or to freely pass on to another you must copy the entire file as it came to you without any omissions or alteration. If you copy this product to a third party you must do so with this license intact and included.

By downloading this file you have not acquired title or ownership of the software materials or data contained in it. This license grants you a limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable license to use the software only. This license permits only a single user on a single site to access the file at any given time. (For multi-user licensing or for library use please contact Archive CD Books Canada Inc. at the address given below.) If you wish to copy the contents of the file to a CD-ROM or other permanent storage medium for data backup purposes the CD-ROM must be stored under your personal supervision and you shall prevent it from being used by anyone else.

You are prohibited from translating, disassembling, recompiling or reverse engineering any part or the whole of the software.

The software may not be loaned, rented or leased or be used for any form of remunerated gain.

There is no warranty of any kind expressed or implied on the quality or content of this freely downloadable file. By downloading the file you agree that Archive CD Books Canada Inc. will not be held responsible for any malfunction, incorrect operation or damage, directly or indirectly caused by the downloading, storage or use of this software.

If you do not agree with the terms of this license you will take steps to delete or otherwise remove the file from your computer system and its storage system immediately without further use. All conditions of this license agreement apply to each copy of the file no matter how they were acquired.

This license agreement is governed by the laws of Canada.

Archive CD Books Canada Inc.
P O Box 11
Manotick
Ontario, K4M 1A2
CANADA

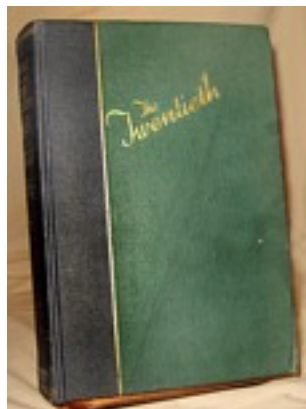
The Archive CD Books Project exists to make reproductions of old books, documents and maps available on CD to genealogists and historians, to cooperate with libraries, museums and record offices to scan and digitize their collections for free, and to provide money to renovate old books in their collection.

The History of the Twentieth Canadian Battalion (Central Ontario Regiment) C.E.F. in the Great War, 1914 - 1918.

CA0369

To view the contents of this CD we recommend the use of Adobe® Acrobat Reader™. You can select a page from the book's Table of Contents or use a Bookmark & the "forward" and "back" buttons, or the scroll bar, to browse through the pages. You may also select a page number by typing it into the page number box, provided the box is displayed on your screen.

(ALL the human readable content in this book is accessible from this entry point. Some of the accompanying files on this CD contain computer code only.)



We have also formatted the text of this book for computer text searches using Acrobat Reader™ and enabled our FastFind technology to speed up searches. While the process we have used to generate the searchable index for this book achieves accuracies in the high 90% area it should be assumed that errors remain.

**Remember, there is no substitute for human reading -
do not rely on search results alone.**

For more books on CD from Archive CD Books, see the web pages at:

<http://www.archivecdbooks.ca/>

[For more books on Military click anywhere in this line](#)

About this CD.

This book is the result of work by a committee formed for the purpose of writing a commemorative history of the Battalion and led by Maj. D. J. Corrigan, D.S.O., M.C. It was published in 1935. The history takes 323 pages, including the first three appendices. Appendix IV is a Nominal Roll of the Battalion and consists of a further 268 pages for a total of 591.

The Battalion went to Europe in 1915 as a part of the Second Canadian Contingent after being raised in Central Ontario starting just after the declaration of war in 1914. The originating core was drawn from 12 existing military units in the region being: The 12th York Rangers; The 20th Halton Rifles; The 23rd Northern Pioneers; The 31st Grey Regiment; The 34th Ontario Regiment; The 35th Simcoe Foresters; The 36th Peel Regiment; The 37th Dufferin Rifles; The 39th Haldimand Rifles; The 44th Lincoln & Welland Regiment; The 77th Wentworth Regiment, and The 97th Algonquin Rifles.

The main narrative of the book provides a chronological account of the overseas operations of the Battalion when it was called into active service in the European theatre. This narrative is well written and amply illustrated with interesting anecdotes, maps and portraits. Much of the basis for the narrative was taken from archived official documents but the salient facts have been cross checked with, and confirmed by, many personal recollections and records.

When the Battalion was returned to Canada at the end of the war, and was facing demob., it became clear that the Battalion name would soon cease to exist along with all of its citations and battle honours so those interested in maintaining the traditions requested permission to become part of the Active Militia as the West Toronto Regiment, and in 1920 the permission was given. In 1925 the Battalion was merged with the 2nd Battalion, the York Rangers, to become The Queen's Rangers. This name carried a long and creditable history reaching back to well before the war of American independence and also carried - with Royal ascent - the additional appellation, "The First American Regiment."

Following the main narrative come four appendices, the first three of which record the Battalions honours and awards while the fourth runs about half the length of the entire volume and provides the Nominal Roll of the 20th Battalion in the period from 1914 to 1919.

Well illustrated with 39 plates and maps, this is an excellent account of the 20th Battalion's part in the Great War, including a briefer account of the preceding, and post demob., history, well supported with factual appendices including a very long Nominal Roll. The whole text of the book is fully computer searchable and the search speed is enhanced by our FastFind enabling.

THE HISTORY
OF
THE TWENTIETH CANADIAN
BATTALION
(Central Ontario Regiment)
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
IN THE
GREAT WAR, 1914-1918

By
MAJOR D. J. CORRIGALL, D.S.O., M.C.
20th BATTALION,
C.E.F.

Published for
THE TRUSTEES OF THE TWENTIETH CANADIAN BATTALION
(C.E.F.).

PUBLISHERS: STONE & COX LIMITED
80 GEORGE STREET, TORONTO
1935

CONTENTS

	PAGE
<i>Chapter I</i>	Toronto, 1914-1915 1
<i>Chapter II</i>	England, 1915 11
<i>Chapter III</i>	France and Belgium, Autumn, 1915 23
<i>Chapter IV</i>	Winter, 1915-1916 37
<i>Chapter V</i>	St. Eloi, 1916 49
<i>Chapter VI</i>	Summer, 1916 63
<i>Chapter VII</i>	The Somme, 1916 75
<i>Chapter VIII</i>	Winter, 1916-1917 95
<i>Chapter IX</i>	Vimy Ridge, 1917 107
<i>Chapter X</i>	Hill 70, 1917 131
<i>Chapter XI</i>	Passchendaele, 1917 153
<i>Chapter XII</i>	Winter, 1917-1918 167
<i>Chapter XIII</i>	Summer, 1918 183
<i>Chapter XIV</i>	Amiens, 1918 213
<i>Chapter XV</i>	Arras, 1918 231
<i>Chapter XVI</i>	Canal de l'Escaut, 1918 251
<i>Chapter XVII</i>	Mons, 1918 269
<i>Chapter XVIII</i>	The March to the Rhine, 1918 283
<i>Chapter XIX</i>	Home, 1919 297
<i>Chapter XX</i>	The Queen's Rangers, 1st American Regiment 307

MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
The Battalion in Mass, Exhibition Grounds, Toronto, 1914-1915. Frontispiece.	
Lieut.-Col. J. A. W. Allan, V.D.	VII
Battalion Battle Coloursinserted between VIII and IX	
West Sandling Training Area	13
Lieut.-Col. C. H. Rogers, O.B.E.	19
Route March to Front Line, Eecke to Messines "C" Trenches.....	27
German Defences in Front of Messines, opposite "C" Trenches, September, 1915	31
Vormezeele, St. Eloi Craters "M" & "N" & "P" & "O" Trenches...	51
"The Bluff" and "The Bean and Pollock"	65
The Somme, September 15th, 1916	81
Positions during the 2nd Somme Action, September 29th to October 3rd, 1916	91
The Raid, January, 1917	101
Vimy Ridge, April 9th, 1917	117
Position of the Battalion during the 2nd Vimy Offensive, April 16th-May 6th, 1917	123
Lieut.-Col. H. V. Rorke, D.S.O., I.S.O., V.D.	133
Hill 70, August 15th, 1917	139
Sergeant F. Hobson, V.C.	145
Battalion Wanderings from September 15th, 1915, to April 6th, 1919	151
Ypres—Passchendaele, November, 1917	157
Passchendaele Battle Area	161
The Acheville Front, November, 1917	173
Avion-Mericourt Front, January, 1918	177
Lens and Area North of Arras	185
Area West of Arras	187

20TH CANADIAN BATTALION

MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS (*Continued*)

	PAGE
Arras, East and South	193
Neuville-Vitasse and Mercatel Front	199
Raid 2nd and 3rd of June, 1918	203
Lieut.-Col. B. O. Hooper, D.S.O., M.C.	211
Amiens, August, 1918	215
Amiens, August 7th-10th, 1918	221
Arras, August, 1918	233
Arras, Vis-en-Artois, August, 1918	237
Disposition, September 4th-26th, 1918	247
Cambrai, September-October, 1918	255
Iwuy Engagement, October 11th, 1918	259
Lieut. Wallace Lloyd Algie, V.C.	263
Canal de l'Escaut, October 18th-19th, 1918	267
On the way to Mons, November, 1918, inserted between 276 and 277	277
Mons—November 11th, 1918	279

* * *

APPENDICES

I Decorations and Awards	317
II Distinctions and Battle Honours	319
III The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)	321-323
IV Nominal Rolls :	
Officers	2-21
N.C.O.'s and Men	22-268

Fresh rain had clogged the roads with mud and made tents in that area look ridiculous. Everything, even the horses and mules at the "standings" in the transport lines seemed dejected. The roads were jammed with lorries, waggons and bedraggled troops passing in both directions.

As there was a mist, nothing could be seen far forward. The gun-fire, our own predominating, was continuous though not heavy. A restless night with little or no sleep was spent because of the discomfort and the noise of traffic and the roar of guns.

During the morning of October 30, two large parties of two hundred and seventy-five men were furnished, each for work on the roads. They had to march by the Zonnebeke Road, congested with troops and vehicles and continuously under fire at one point or another. Wounded—some walking, some on stretchers—were going in an almost unbroken stream to and from a dressing station established in a "pill-box" near the road. On both sides of the road were dumps of stores and munitions, one of which, consisting of trench mats and other engineer material and placed at a road junction, was a favorite target for enemy shelling. There were no signs of houses, trees, or blades of grass. The only things on the brown, shell-torn earth were a few derelict tanks, some "pill-boxes" and innumerable guns.

In the afternoon several German planes swooped out of the mist and dropped ineffective bombs all around, and when night fell they bombed the roads leading to Ypres. All felt decidedly exposed in tents.

On the two days following working parties were again detailed. One of these assisted an artillery battery in difficulties, and as a result the following letter of appreciation was received:

"O.C. 20th Canadian Battalion.

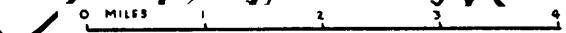
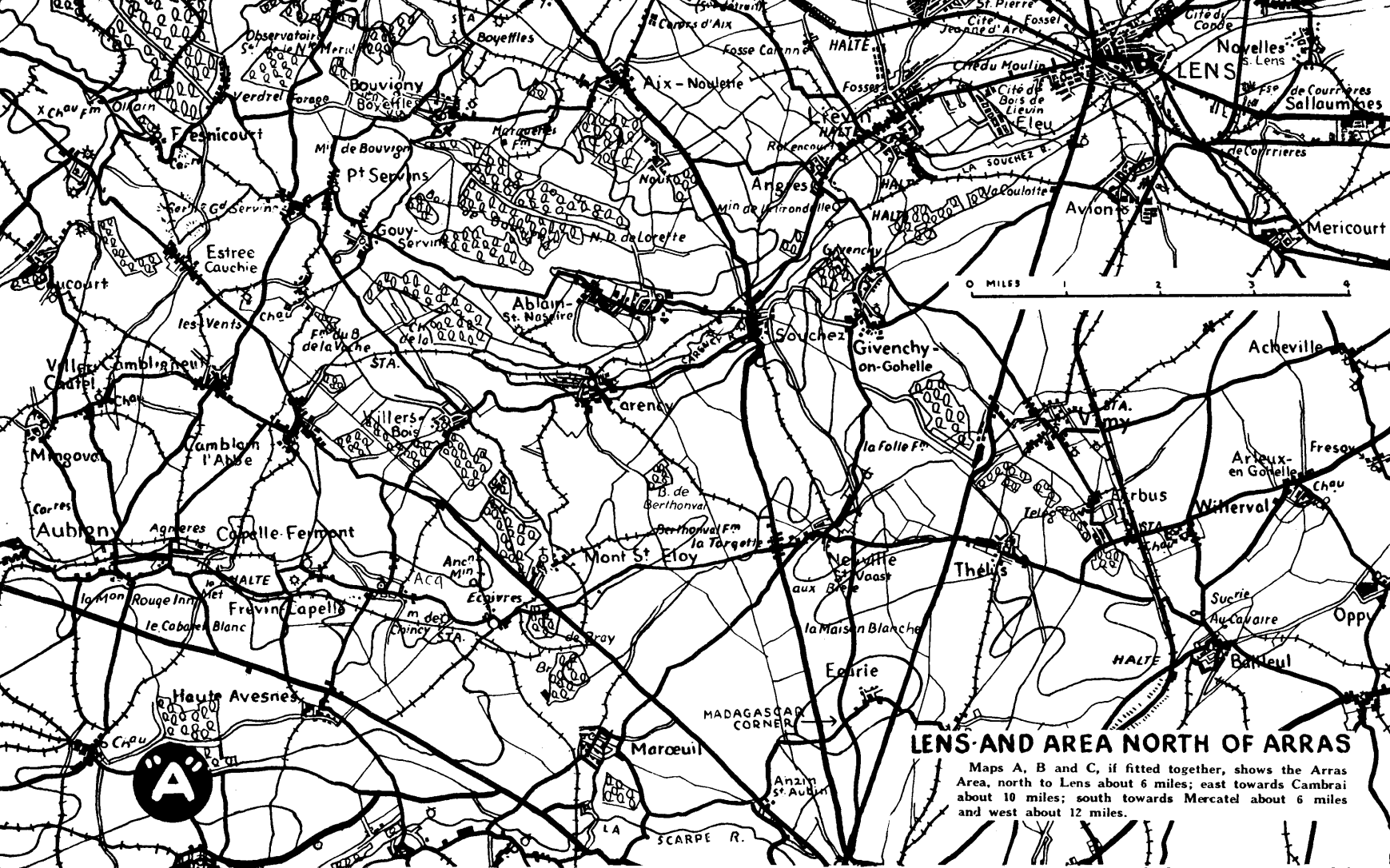
I am extremely obliged to you for the help your men gave me this morning in getting material up to my gun section.

They very materially assisted in getting my guns into action.

(Sgd.) H. S. Browne, Major R.F.A.,
Cmdg. B. 186th (Army) Bde. R.F.A."

The 2nd Canadian Division was to relieve the 4th Canadian Division on the night of November 2nd. As usual, complete instructions were issued for the relief. The 4th Divisional frontage, extending for about twelve hundred yards, was held by the 12th Brigade. The 4th Brigade was to relieve the 12th Brigade by sending the 19th and 21st Battalions forward, the 18th in support and the 20th in reserve. As no troops had previously occupied the reserve area, which was a mile south-west of Zonnebeke, the Battalion was ordered to find what accommodation it could.

The front-line in the Brigade sector was about three-quarters of a mile south-west of Passchendaele and four thousand yards in front



LENS-AND AREA NORTH OF ARRAS

Maps A, B and C, if fitted together, shows the Arras Area, north to Lens about 6 miles; east towards Cambrai about 10 miles; south towards Mercatel about 6 miles and west about 12 miles.



20TH CANADIAN BATTALION

An hour later the following special order was received and afterwards read on parade:—

SPECIAL ORDER

By Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur W. Currie, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.
Commanding Canadian Corps.

“In an endeavour to reach an immediate decision, the enemy has gathered all his forces and struck a mighty blow at the British Army. Overwhelmed by sheer weight of numbers, the British Divisions in the line between the Scarpe and the Oise have fallen back fighting hard, steady and undismayed.

Measures have been taken successfully to meet this German onslaught. The French have gathered a powerful army, commanded by a most able and trusted leader, and this army is now moving swiftly to our help. Fresh British Divisions are being thrown in. The Canadians are soon to be engaged. Our Motor Machine-Gun Brigade has already played a most gallant part and once again covered itself with glory.

Looking back with pride on the unbroken record of your glorious achievements, asking you to realize that today the fate of the British Empire hangs in the balance, I place my trust in the Canadian Corps, knowing that where Canadians are engaged there can be no giving way.

Under the orders of your devoted officers in the coming battle, you will advance or fall where you stand, facing the enemy.

To those who will fall I say: You will not die but step into immortality. Your mothers will not lament your fate but will be proud to have borne such sons. Your names will be revered for ever and ever by your grateful country and God will take you unto Himself.

Canadians, in this fateful hour, I command you and I trust you to fight as you have never fought with all your strength, with all your determination, with all your tranquil courage. On many a hard fought field of battle you have overcome this enemy. With God's help you shall achieve victory once more”.

Commanders rarely issue special orders to their troops. This order, coming at such a time, affected everyone profoundly, as an echo of the traditions of an earlier day, as a reminiscence of Trafalgar.

Two platoons of “D” Company relieved “B” Company on outposts at 8.05 p.m. At 8.45 p.m. orders were received to be ready to move to the Wailly-Ficheux area at 9 p.m. and at 10.15 p.m. definite orders for the move arrived. Those orders had been delayed in transmission to the Battalion and did not reach it until half an hour after the starting point should have been passed. The Battalion was ready at 11.30 p.m. but the march of other troops on the narrow road leading to Wailly made it impossible to move. At 1.25 a.m., March 29, the

Regi- mental No.	Final Rank C.E.F.	Highest Rank Held 20th Bn.	NAME	Original Unit and Date of Enlistment	Regimental Record 20th Battalion	Previous or Subsequent Service	Casualty (See footnote for Details)
412998	Sergeant	Sergeant	SPROULE, Arthur	39th Bn., 20-2-15	France, 28-6-16 to 23-8-17, 29-10-18 to 1-3-19. M.M.	Ret. to Can., 10-5-19. S.O.S., 19-5-19	*10-4-17 *10-5-17 *18-8-17
412960	Sapper	Private	STEWART, Henry	39th Bn., 4-3-15	France, 15-9-15 to 12-1-16	No. 3, Tun. Coy., France, 13-1-16 to 20-2-16, C.E., France, 17-3-17 to 7-9-18. Ret. to Can., 18-1-19. S.O.S., 19-2-19	*17-6-17
412859	Sergeant	Sergeant	STORY, Thomas	39th Bn., 8-6-15	France, 15-9-15 to 6-4-19. M.M.	Ret. to Can., 13-5-19. S.O.S., 26-5-19	*6-6-16 *17-1-17 *25-5-18 *18-9-18
412869	Private	Private	STROUD, Alfred	39th Bn., 2-3-15	France, 15-9-15 to 8-10-16	Ret. to Can., M.U., 10-11-16. S.O.S., 31-7-17	—
412880	Private	Private	STUART, William	39th Bn., 2-3-15	France, 15-9-15 to 30-11-15	Ret. to Can., M.U., 27-8-16. S.O.S., 4-2-17	*24-11-15
412999	Private	Private	TREVOR, Foster	39th Bn., 22-2-15	France, 15-9-15 to 15-9-16	—	*10-5-16 †15-9-16
412987	Private	Private	WATSON, George	39th Bn., 22-2-15	France, 26-10-15 to 3-3-16	Ret. to Can., M.U., 24-3-16. S.O.S., 22-4-16	—
412332	Private	Private	WEST, James	39th Bn., 25-2-15	France, 15-9-15 to 10-11-17	Dis. in B.I., M.U., 18-8-18	*26-5-17 *5-11-17
412973	Private A/Sgt.	Private	WHYMARK, Arthur	39th Bn., 4-3-15	France, 15-9-15 to 23-7-16	Res. Units and C.T.S., Eng., 24-7-16 to 20-2-19. Ret. to Can., 21-2-19. S.O.S., 22-3-19	—
412874	Private	Private	WRIGHT, George Mervyn	39th Bn., 1-2-15	France, 31-12-15 to 30-6-16. D.C.M., Croix de Guerre, French	C.F.C., Eng., 17-12-17 to 4-12-18. Ret. to Can., 5-12-18. S.O.S., 5-3-19	*21-6-16
454396	Private A/L/Cpl.	Private	ADAMS, Thomas	59th Bn., 24-6-15	France, 6-6-16 to 18-4-17	Res. Units, 19-4-17 to 2-5-19. Ret. to Can., 3-5-19. S.O.S., 18-5-19	*17-4-17
454463	L/Cpl.	L/Cpl.	ALCHORN, Harry Herbert	59th Bn., 9-6-15	France, 5-6-16 to 3-1-18	Inv. to Can., 24-9-18. S.O.S., 12-12-18	*21-8-17 *18-12-17
454951	Private	Private	ANTOINE, John	59th Bn., 14-7-15	France, 6-6-16 to 19-9-16, 6-3-17 to 10-9-18	Ret. to Can., 22-2-19. S.O.S., 5-4-19	*17-9-16 *25-4-18 *28-8-18
454413	Private	Private	AUDETTE, Honore	59th Bn., 29-6-15	France, 6-6-16 to 19-8-16	22nd Bn., France, 20-8-16 to 15-8-17	†15-8-17
455928	Private	Private	BARBER, Herbert	59th Bn., 6-3-16	France, 6-6-16 to 25-10-16	Inv. to Can., 11-4-17. S.O.S., 1-5-18	*27-9-16

*Wounded. †Killed in Action; Died of Wounds; Presumed Dead. ‡Died of Disease. §Prisoner of War.