

various pieces — almost all are written by non-professionals — have that charming simplicity of a Grandma Moses painting. The authors write about what they know, what they like and what they feel is important. Taken as a whole the book is an unusual piece of work. It is not great, and its authors and its editor make no such claims, but from it one can attempt to ascertain that *ambiance* — rural, uncomplicated and natural — which suddenly seems to be of more value than contemporary technology.

The prose essays are generally better than the poetry. The latter is excessively derivative, using models that were fashionable in schoolbooks when the authors were young. The prose is stronger, more direct and less sentimental. Verna Gawston's "Happy Days in a Relief Camp", Maisie Ferguson's "Eulachon Time in the Fraser Valley" and Frederick Hall's "Mainland Crossing — Then & Now" are especially evocative.

Like all anthologies, this is not a book to be read at a sitting, but rather one to be enjoyed over a series of evenings. The editor is to be complimented on her skills in diplomacy and selection; to make selections from a plethora of material is never easy, and it is harder still to have them of a uniformly high level. *Making History* will probably not be very significant to the professional scholar except in a general way, but since the modern world is not as inclined to put down thoughts on paper as our ancestors were prone to do, it will add supplementary information to the documentary evidence. To the amateur, and one must always recollect for whom a book is written — this is not to be patronizing but practical and realistic — this book will give very real pleasure and it may well serve to encourage others to record some of their own experiences for posterity, for such is 'the stuff' of history.

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*The Dukes*, by Douglas E. Harker. Vancouver, British Columbia Regiment (D.C.O.), 1975.

One of the many military inheritances Canada received from her long and warm relationship with Great Britain was the regimental system of raising and maintaining infantry units for service in peace and war. Ask an infantry veteran about his wartime experience and nine times out of ten he will mention his regiment first, his brigade second and his division third.

The concept of the "regimental family" has been kept warm for well over a century and accounts, in large measure, for the number of books written on regiments as compared with the almost complete lack of works dealing with larger formations. The regiments, usually, are not only anxious to have their story written, but with the aid of regimental funds and generous donors are able to secure the finances to pay the writer and assure the publication of his work. The results, as might be imagined, vary widely.

*The Dukes* is the history of the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own). The author served in the regiment during the Second World War and, indeed, he is the author of an earlier though briefer history of the unit published about 1950. The author is, with good reason, proud of his regiment and without a doubt veterans of the unit will be delighted to have this permanent record available to them.

"The Dukes", as the regiment is nicknamed, was raised in 1883 and has had a varied life in peace and war. It started as an artillery unit, became a rifle regiment, fought in the Great War as infantry, was re-organized in the Second World War as an Armoured Regiment, and continues on today in the Canadian Militia. In The Great War it fought in most of the major battles as part of the 7th Battalion, C.E.F., from Ypres to the Canal du Nord. In 1939-45, as part of the 4th Armoured Division, it received its first baptism of fire in the battle for Falaise and continued on until the last shot was fired in May 1945.

The author has worked with the regimental war diary and personal accounts of battle as his major sources of information. The official history of the Canadian Army by C. P. Stacey and G. W. L. Nicholson, along with other secondary material, has been used to good effect. It is unfortunate, however, that the author has not made use of the brigade and divisional war diaries available to him at the Directorate of History in Ottawa. These diaries, with their message logs, operation orders, and so forth, give an accurate and detailed account of battles on the larger scale which permits the regimental historian to set the account of the unit he is dealing with against the wider background.

Delving into this material would also help fill in some gaps of the regimental history. For example, on 9 August 1944 "The Dukes" had a bloody battle which resulted in the loss of forty-seven tanks. "This episode," wrote the official historian, "with its mixture of gallantry and ineptitude", resulted in losses "which did much to prevent us from seizing a strategical opportunity of the first magnitude." Mr. Harker does give some good personal accounts of the battle, but there is no attempt made to describe

why the battle went so badly for "The Dukes", nor does he attempt to analyse the lessons learned from it.

Those who served in "The Dukes" will enjoy their regimental history; military historians will be far more critical. There are numerous errors throughout: Fort Rod in one place, Fort Rodd in another; H. P. Crease instead of H. P. P. Crease; the 33rd British Armoured Division when he meant the 33rd British Armoured Brigade. Similar inaccuracies are far too prevalent to be excused. The lack of maps is another handicap but on the plus side the book does have a useful index.

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