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GORDON, Melville Burgoyne Kennedy

MG 30, E 367

Finding Aid No. 1253 / Instrument de recherche no 1253

Prepared by Kathy Hayman of the Public Affairs Archives in 1981 and revised in 1982.

Préparé en 1981 par Kathy Hayman des Archives des affaires publiques et révisé en 1982.

MG 30
E 367

GORDON, Melville Burgoyne Kennedy (1905-1974). Army Officer.

Originals, n.d., 1935-1961. 34 cm. Finding Aid No. 1253.

Melville Burgoyne Kennedy Gordon was born at Dixie, Ontario on 7 September 1905. After receiving a B.A.Sc. from the University of Toronto in 1926, he read law with Russell S. Smart, K.C., the senior partner of the Ottawa law firm of Smart and Biggar from 1927. Gordon was called to the bar of Quebec in 1931 and of Ontario in 1948; he was created King's Counsel in Quebec in 1948 and Queen's Counsel in Ontario in 1955.

Gordon began his military career attending the University of Toronto Canadian Officers' Training Corps from 1922 to 1924, and his first posting was as a lieutenant to the Governor General's Body Guard, from 1924 to 1928. Between 1928 and 1941, he served successively as lieutenant, captain and major with the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards.

In May 1941, Gordon was posted to the 12th Canadian Armoured Regiment (Three Rivers Regiment) at Camp Borden, Ontario, with the rank of major. He served as the officer commanding "B" Squadron of the 12th C.A.R. in Canada and while training in England until January 1943, with the exception of a brief posting to the Canadian Armoured Corps Reinforcement Unit from July to September 1942. Gordon was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel and given command of the 27th Canadian Armoured Regiment (Sherbrooke Fusiliers Regiment) in January 1943. He led that unit in training and in the advance across France, Belgium and Holland following the June 1944 landing at Normandy. He was awarded a D.S.O. in the field in Belgium. In December 1945, Gordon was promoted to the rank of colonel and posted to No. 1 Canadian Armoured Corps Reinforcement Unit as commanding officer.

Brigadier Gordon died at Ottawa, Ontario on 7 October 1974.

Volumes 1-4 were presented in 1980 by Col. M.H. Bateman of Ottawa, Ont. Volume 5 was transferred from the Directorate of History, National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa in 1982.

Four (4) photographs transferred to the National Photography Collection; two (2) maps transferred to the National Map Collection. Military insignia transferred to War Museum.

Finding Aid No. 1253 is a descriptive file list.

Personal correspondence, newspaper clippings and memorabilia, n.d., 1935-1961. 5 cm (volume 1).

Royal Canadian Armoured Corps Second World War Roll of Honour and a draft chapter of the Candian Army official history "Normandy: The Bridgehead Battle 7-30 June, 1944", n.d. 5 cm (volume 1).

MG 30
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GORDON, Melville Burgoyne Kennedy (1905-1974). Army Officer.

Orders, codes, procedures, signals and movement documents of the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 1st and 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigades and other units, n.d., 1940-1944. 2.5 cm (volume 2).

Orders, nominal rolls, equipment lists of the 12th Canadian Armoured Regiment and notebooks of field exercises in England, n.d., 1939-1942. 3 cm (volume 2).

Orders, nominal rolls, reports on officers, officers lists and accounts of operations of the 27th Canadian Armoured Regiment, n.d., 1939, 1943-1946. 3.5 cm (volumes 2, 4).

Miscellaneous files including material on combined operations, group training, assault equipment and court martials, n.d., 1942-1946. 3 cm (volumes 2,3 4).

Issues of The Periscope, Maple Leaf, the Sherbrooke Daily Record and Checkers', 1944-1946. 4 cm (volume 3).

Notes and material from an instructional course held at the Royal Armoured Corps Officers' Tactical School, 1941. 3 cm (volume 5).

Various memoranda, assault scales, weapon scales, blank forms, mobilization orders and movement orders, 1942-1946. 4 cm (volume 5).

Report, Overture to the Breakthrough, detailing the 27th Canadian Armoured Regiment's operations in France during July 1944. 1 cm (volume 5).

Melville Burgoyne Kennedy Gordon

MG 30, E 367

Volume	File	Description	Dates
1	1	Record of Service Identification Card; Driving Permit	n.d., 1941, 1946
	2	Newspaper Clippings	1941-1946
	3	Personal Correspondence	n.d., 1942-1946
	4	Memorabila	n.d., 1945-1946, 1961
	5	Humour Overseas - Cartoons, poems, letter	n.d.
	6	Personal Invitations	1943-1945
	7	Programs - Remembrance Day, Memorial Dinners etc.	n.d., 1935-1954
	8	Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, Roll of Honour, World War II	n.d.
	9	Draft of: The Official History of the Canadian Army in the Second World War, Volume III, Chapter VI, "Normandy: The Bridgehead Battle, 7-30 June 1944"	n.d.
	10	The Canadian Army List, Part 1, Active Force, 1952	1952
	11	Their Name Liveth - Imperial War Graves Commission	1955

Volume	File	Description	Dates
2	12	Seaford Ranges Standing Orders; 9th Canadian Infantry Brigades; Comments on exercise "Neptune".	n.d., 1943-1944
	13	1st and 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigades - Codes, Procedures, Orders, Signal Diagrams	n.d., 1940-1944
	14	Documents concerning the movement of elements of the 12th & 14th Anti-tank Battalion and other units from Camp Borden, Ontario to Gourock, Scotland, 17 June-1 July. - includes a notebook kept by Gordon detailing the units on board the train, the vessels in the convoy and documents given into his care.	1941
	15	12th Canadian Armoured Regiment (Three Rivers Regiment) - Standing Orders, Nominal Rolls, Equipment Lists, etc.	n.d., 1939-1942
	16	M.B.K. Gordon, Daily Note and Reminder Book. - contains personal reminders, notes on Umpires' Conferences regarding training manoeuvres; notes on Brigade Conferences regarding officers' training.	1941
	17	M.B.K. Gordon, Daily Note and Reminder Book. - contains information regarding exercises "Beaver IV" and "Tiger".	1942

Volume	File	Description	Dates
2	18	27th Canadian Armoured Regiment (Sherbrooke Fusiliers Regiment) - Standing Orders, Nominal Rolls, Officers Lists, Operations - contains accounts of the following operations: "Overload", Account of Action D Day to D6 Inclusive, June 1944 "Charnwood", Fall of Caen, July 1944 "Atlantic", Overture to the Breakthrough, July 1944.	n.d., 1939, 1943-1946
	19	"Establishing the Beachhead, 6 June-7 July". - on account of the 27th Canadian Armoured Regiment at Normandy, June and July 1944.	n.d.
	20	27th Canadian Armoured Regiment (Sherbrooke Fusiliers Regiment)- Roll of Honour, June 6, 1944- May 8, 1945.	n.d.
	21	1st Canadian Armoured Corps Reinforcement Unit - Change of Command, Requests for officers.	n.d., 1945
	22	No. 1. Canadian Repatriation Depot (Lorne Scots) - Standing Orders.	1946
3	23	Blank postcards with coloured illustrations of tanks (2); dealing with an unexploded bomb.	n.d.

Volume	File	Description	Dates
3 (cont'd)	24	Orders regarding neurological examinations of personnel.	1942
	25	Reports on Officers' Mess	n.d., 1942
	26	Combined Operations, Group Training.	n.d., 1943
	27	Assault equipment	n.d., 1944
	28	Court Martial Procedures	n.d., 1940
	29	The Periscope - 3 issues	1944
	30	"An Inspired Fighting Brigade" /2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade/ - by Charles Lynch	1944
	31	Maple Leaf	1945
	32	Armour and Equipment Questionnaire	1945
	33	Sherbrooke Daily Record	1946
	34	"Checkers!" - Publication of the Sherbrooke Fusiliers Regiment	1945
4	35	27th Canadian Armoured Regiment Regiment (Sherbrooke Fusiliers Regiment) - Confidential Reports on Officers; Promotions	n.d., 1942-1944
	36	Court Martial Proceedings	1942-1945
5	37	Notes and material from an instructional course held at the Royal Armoured Corps Officers' Tactical School (Part 1)	1941
	38	Notes and material from an instructional course held at the Royal Armoured Corps Officers' Technical School (Part 2)	1941

Volume	File	Description	Dates
5 (cont'd)	39	Promotions	1943
	40	Regimental funds	1943
	41	Mobilization	1943
	42	Corps study exercises	1943
	43	Memoranda re: evacuation of casualties and postal regulations; blank forms	1944
	44	Movement Orders	1944
	45	Demonstrations re: artillery support for tanks and use of armour piercing ammunition	1943
	46	Canadian Army Tank Battalion War Establishment; Internal Security Instructions; Night Illumination Diagram; Characteristics Chart for preparing confidential reports on officers; Special Administrative Order No. 38 re: Canadian Military Headquarters in Great Britain	1942-1946
	47	Assault Scales - vehicle loads for a Canadian Armoured Regiment	1944
	48	27th Canadian Armoured Regiment Organization	1944
	49	Assault Scales	n.d.
	50	Assault Scales Work Sheet	1944
	51	Weapon Scales	1944
	52	Map reference codes	1944
	53	Memo re: LAD's in Assault	1944
	54	Landing Tables	1944
	55	Assault Scales	1944

Volume	File	Description	Dates
5 (cont'd)	56	Scales for 85 LAD	1944
	57	Data on penetration of enemy tanks by existing guns and ammunition	1944
	58	Overture to the Breakthrough - Account of 27th Canadian Armoured Regiment in France	1944
	59	Regimental Security Standing Orders	1944
	60	Personal notes on an operation	n.d.
	61	Finding Aid for Volume 5, prepared by Directorate of History, National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa	