

The Untold Story of Lieutenant General McNaughton and the Canadian Army in WWII

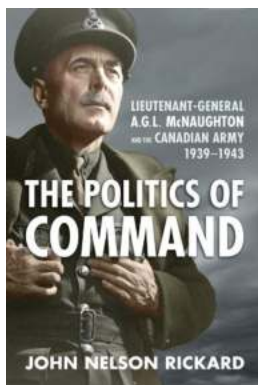
The Canadian Army played a vital role in World War II, and at the forefront of their efforts was Lieutenant General Andrew McNaughton. This article delves into the intriguing history of Lieutenant General McNaughton's leadership and the impact he had on the Canadian Army from 1939 to 1943.

Who was Lieutenant General McNaughton?

Lieutenant General Andrew George Latta McNaughton was a prominent Canadian military leader born in Moosomin, Saskatchewan, in 1887. Known for his exceptional intellect and strategic thinking, McNaughton became a pivotal figure during World War II.

Early Career

McNaughton's military journey began when he joined the Canadian Engineers in 1909. He quickly rose through the ranks, showcasing his brilliance in engineering and technological advancements. During World War I, McNaughton played a crucial role in devising new military technologies, particularly in the field of artillery.



Politics of Command: Lieutenant-General A.G.L. McNaughton and the Canadian Army, 1939–1943

by John Nelson Rickard (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1486 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 417 pages



Leadership during World War II

When World War II erupted, Lieutenant General McNaughton was appointed the Commander of the Canadian 1st Infantry Division, leading them through critical battles such as the Dieppe Raid and the Sicily Campaign.

The Dieppe Raid

The Dieppe Raid, code-named Operation Jubilee, took place on August 19, 1942. McNaughton's leadership and strategic planning during this operation demonstrated his steadfast determination and unwavering commitment to achieve victory. Despite the heavy losses suffered, the Dieppe Raid provided invaluable lessons that led to improved Allied amphibious warfare tactics later in the war.

The Sicily Campaign

Following the Dieppe Raid, McNaughton played a vital role in planning the Sicily Campaign, code-named Operation Husky. As the Canadian Corps Commander, he led the successful amphibious assault on the Italian island of Sicily, marking a significant turning point in the war.

Innovations in Military Technology

McNaughton's brilliance extended beyond leadership; he was also responsible for numerous innovations in military technology. One notable example was the development of the "McNaughton Line" – a network of anti-tank obstacles that

provided enhanced fortification along the Canadian coastline. These innovations played a crucial role in defending Canada's shores from potential enemy invasions.

Challenges and Conflict

Lieutenant General McNaughton faced numerous challenging situations throughout his tenure. One of the most notable conflicts arose when he advocated for a more cautious approach to the assault on Caen during the Normandy landings. This clash of opinions with other Allied commanders led to his resignation.

Legacy and Impact

Lieutenant General Andrew McNaughton's legacy extends far beyond his military career. After the war, he became a prominent figure in Canadian politics and a fierce advocate for scientific research and development. His contributions to both the military and civilian sectors shaped Canada's future in more ways than one.

Lieutenant General McNaughton's role in World War II and his impact on the Canadian Army cannot be overstated. His strategic leadership, innovative thinking, and dedication to his country paved the way for future military advancements. By understanding the untold story of Lieutenant General McNaughton, we gain a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices and strategies that shaped the outcome of World War II.

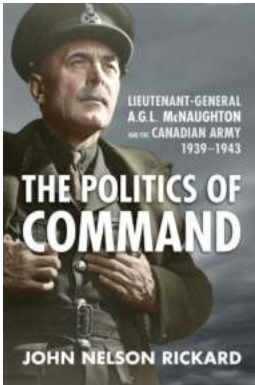
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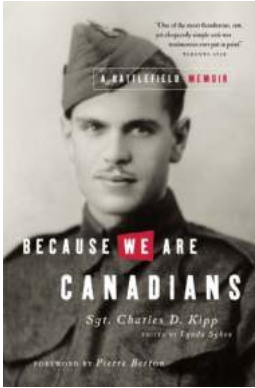
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In December 1943, Lieutenant-General A.G.L. McNaughton resigned from command of the 1st Canadian Army amidst criticism of his poor generalship and of his abrasive personality. Despite McNaughton's importance to the Canadian Army during the first four years of the Second World War, little has been written about the man himself or the circumstances of his resignation.

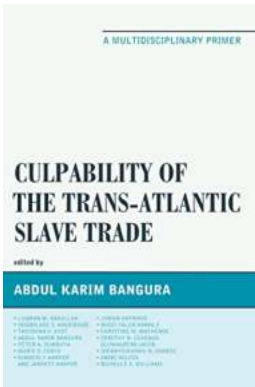
In *The Politics of Command*, the first full-length study of the subject since 1969, John Nelson Rickard analyses McNaughton's performance during Exercise SPARTAN in March 1943 and assesses his relationships with key figures such as Sir Alan F. Brooke, Bernard Paget, and Harry Crerar. This detailed re-examination of McNaughton's command argues that the long-accepted reasons for his relief of duty require extensive modification.

Based on a wide range of sources, *The Politics of Command* will redefine how military historians and all Canadians look at not only "Andy" McNaughton but also the Canadian Army itself.



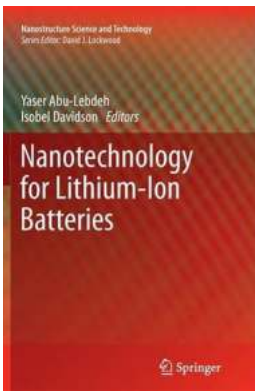
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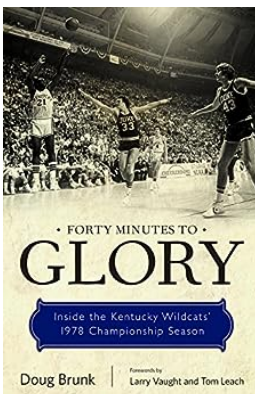
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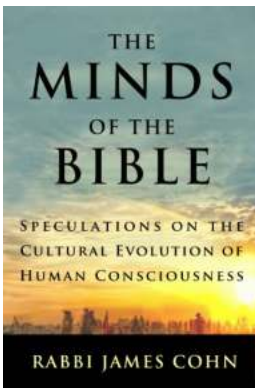
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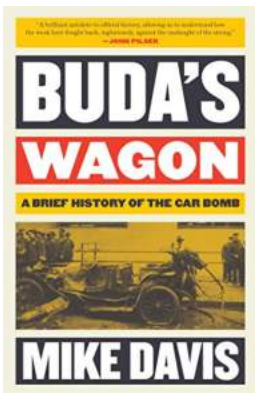
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