

The Call of an Heroic Past

Canada played a proud part in the war of 1812, both on land and sea. Not the smallest page of that glorious chapter in Canada's history is the record of what was done on freshwater, on our own Canadian lakes, when an affirmative answer to the question whether the northern half of the continent was to be British had to be given in blood.

The Great Lakes are part of a two-thousand-mile highway into the heart of the continent. Their traffic to-day is greater than that of Panama or Suez, even before the war. A century ago they floated frigates, brigs and schooners under the whip-lash pennants and red, white or blue ensigns of the Royal Navy and Provincial Marine. Canadian officers and Canadian seamen made a name for themselves and for their country wherever muzzle-loaders roared from wooden walls or canvas fluttered from lofty spars.

The days of muzzle-loading cannon and wooden warships with canvas wings have long passed, but the need for the service which glorified those early days of last century is with us still. Nor is it unanswered. Canadian lake carriers such as the "Meaford" are bearing their share of the Allies' freight in the Mediterranean, and fighting and sinking submarines in the process. Other Canadian freighters on the Great Lakes, like the 14,000-ton "W. Grant