

the D A L H O U S I E
GAZETTE

Volume 120, Number 9

November 12, 1987



Twenty million people died in the first World War; 60,000 were Canadian soldiers sent overseas. They waited in those dank, muddy trenches before being called over the top to die in astonishing numbers.

A generation after that war, 40 million people died in World War II, including 37,000 Canadian soldiers.

Today, among the veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces, there are those who believe their country is stumbling along into a third and final global war, where nuclear weapons will bring the home front to Canada.

The 550 members of Veterans Against Nuclear Arms are worried about the future of their children and grandchildren. And they

believe Canada must choose between a permanent arms race and new, stabilizing approaches to international security.

"We think nuclear deterrence is unstable by its very nature," says Giff Gifford, a former air squadron leader, who co-founded VANA with three friends in 1982 and currently serves as its national chair.

"If you threaten somebody, their response is not to cave in, but to equal and if possible surpass your threat," he says.

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