

War communications

Photographs from the picture division of the Public Archives show Canadian soldiers in the trenches in the First World War using pigeons and messenger dogs to relay dispatches.

Several tape recordings made during the Second World War by Canada's first radio correspondents who transmitted on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation direct from the battlefields, include tapes by Matthew Halton, Peter Stursberg and Marcel Ouimet, who describes the elation on the streets of Paris when the city was liberated on August 26, 1944. With earphones the visitor to the exhibit can listen to Canadian soldiers singing lustily in an English pub before crossing the Channel to France.

Models of the Canadian satellites *Anik* and *Alouette* seem coldly scientific and impersonal.

Quebec literary prize

The 1974 *Prix David*, the highest literary award of the Quebec provincial government, has been won by Quebec writer Rina Lasnier.

Quebec Minister of Cultural Affairs, D. Hardy, presented the \$5,000-prize during a ceremony that took place in October in the Salon Rouge of Quebec's National Assembly.

The 1974 *Prix David* was awarded to Rina Lasnier in recognition of her published work to date. As early as 1943, the poet had earned considerable literary distinction for her first three works, which had appeared in 1941: *Féerie indienne*, *Images et Proses* and *Le Jeu de la voyageuse*.

The *Prix David* was founded in 1922 by Athanase David, then Secretary of the province.



Rina Lasnier, winner of the 1974 *Prix David*, with Quebec Cultural Affairs Minister Mr. Denis Hardy.

Stamp honours Welland Canal promoter — "father of Canadian transportation"

An 8-cent stamp in honour of William Hamilton Merritt, on the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the start of construction of his greatest project, the Welland Canal, was issued by the Canada Post Office on November 29.

The stamp features a portrait of Merritt in the right foreground combined with a view of the Welland Canal in the background.

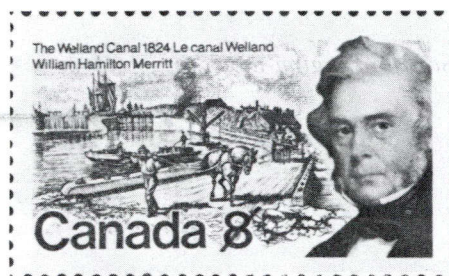
"Merritt was not called 'the father of Canadian transportation' without good reason," said Postmaster-General Bryce Mackasey. "Because of his ingenuity and zeal, Canada has become a more independent, more unified nation. A man so vitally interested in Canada's progress should be an inspiration to all Canadians," he added.

Merritt's ambition

William Hamilton Merritt was born on July 3, 1793, in Bedford, New York. In 1796 his family settled in what is now St. Catharines, Ontario. In 1811 he set up a general store and took up farming. The War of 1812 interrupted business, however, and Merritt joined the militia, which he left in 1815 with the rank of captain, after several campaigns and eight months of captivity by the Americans.

Within three years of the war's end, Merritt set to work on what was to be his life's ambition: "to make Canada

the avenue of trade between Great Britain and the western states". In 1818 he and some other St. Catharines businessmen claimed, in a petition to the Legislature, that a canal could easily be built to bypass Niagara Falls. A slump in agricultural prices and a customs dispute between Upper and Lower Canada postponed the task



until 1824, but by then Merritt and his colleagues had raised enough money to begin the canal which, with plenty of support from the Government and American investors, was ready for traffic by 1829. Monetary success was not immediately forthcoming.

The Welland Canal depended heavily on local American traffic and was eventually nationalized in 1841 because of financial embarrassments. Canadians were not unanimous in their praise of the great achievement, and Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie went so far as to accuse Merritt of charging to the company his "expenses

in London for clubs, theatre tickets, cigars and gin".

Whatever the initial reception, the canal eventually became the kingpin of the transport system linking the Great Lakes with the Atlantic.

Medal for Middle East UNEF troops

After 90 days service in the Middle East, Canadian servicemen in the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) will be entitled to wear a new medal.

The medal, approved by the Governor-in-Council, is identical to one currently issued for other service with the United Nations, which shows the UN symbol on the front and the words "In the Service of Peace" on the reverse.

A medal was previously authorized for service with the original UN Emergency Force that existed from 1956 to 1967. The new medal, which differs from the old one in ribbon design, has a beige centre with two blue borders and two thin dark-blue lines running through the centre stripe.

The UNEFME medal complements nine others previously issued for UN service in Korea, the Congo, Lebanon, Palestine, India and Pakistan, West New Guinea, Yemen and Cyprus, as well as for service with the earlier UNEF.