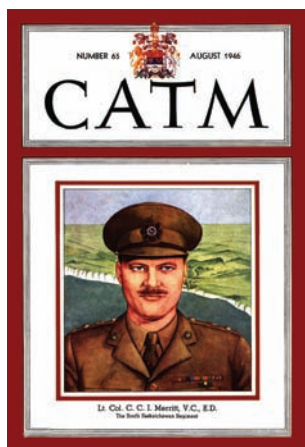


THE CANADIAN ARMY JOURNAL 1947-2007

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The Canadian Army Training Memorandum (CATM) was the Army's professional development journal during the Second World War and immediately after. It was replaced by the Canadian Army Journal in 1947.

There are many forums where armies may debate aspects of their profession, but few have a more permanent impact on the legacy of their institutions than professional journals. *The Canadian Army Journal (CAJ)* and its various predecessors have served as the primary tool for professional debate in the Army since the nineteenth century. This brief article provides an overview of those forms and traces their evolution through to the present day.

Canadian Army-related professional journals have existed for some time. The *Canadian Militia Gazette* and later *Canadian Military Gazette* ran from 1885 through to 1943. These were accompanied by *VRI Magazine* (1894-1897) and the *Canadian Field* and *Canadian Defence* magazines (1909-1916), followed after the war by the creation of an all services journal, *The Canadian Defence Quarterly*. During the Second World War the Army published, *The Canadian Army Training Memorandum (CATM)*, a doctrinal and training bulletin than ran from 1941 until 1947.

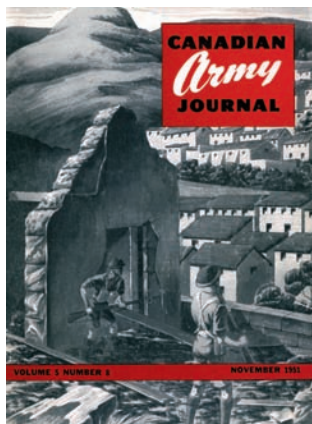
The CATM was replaced after the war by a new bilingual service publication simply titled *Canadian Army Journal*. At the head of its editorial board sat three distinguished veteran officers, Brigadier W.A. Milroy DSO CD, Colonel S.C. Waters

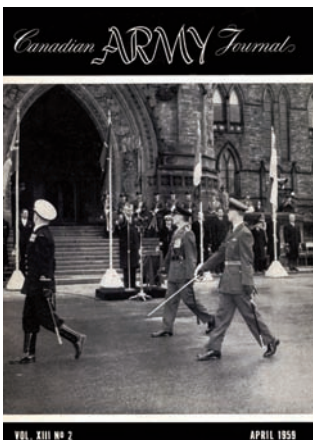
CD, and Colonel V.R. Schjelderup DSO MC CD. The Army selected Mr. Jack G. DeProse, a civilian, as editor. With a tiny staff (ed. note—some things never change) consisting of an editorial assistant, a staff artist, and a draughtsman-photographer, Mr. DeProse was assigned the daunting task of producing the Canadian Army's capstone professional journal on a quarterly basis. His mission was straightforward, "...provide the Canadian Army with information designed to keep it abreast of current military trends, and to stimulate interest in military affairs."¹

In its early years *Canadian Army Journal* served as a form for Army news, updates, the discussion of emerging trends and the publication of history. Ideas such as the future of airborne, atomic and arctic warfare were discussed,

as were the transformation of infantry towards mechanization and the new roles of the service and support branches. The Army's official historian, Colonel C.P. Stacey, published several articles.

Army operations in Korea (1950-1954) presented an immediate issue for debate





then much in the same way that Afghanistan is discussed in the CAJ today. During this period the journal also changed its stripes. The thin 8x11 red and yellow covered journal (reproduced on the cover of this issue) was replaced by a smaller but thicker pocket sized edition. The covers started carrying illustrations, often of a historical nature, and the masthead went through a few changes. Another notable aspect was the fact that almost



the entire content was



indigenously produced. Almost half of the content of the early postwar CATM was derived from republishing foreign sources, but by the early 1950s this practice had stopped. Army officers were once again writing for themselves, and the value of this was reflected in the journal through the remainder of the decade.

The last issue of the first inception of the Canadian Army Journal, Summer 1965

Canadian Army Journal also served to promote the high quality of Canadian Army writing in other professional forms. For example, in 1964, it was noted that Captain Francis J. Norman, RCR, had won the British Army's Bertrand Stewart Essay Prize for his submission on the effects of night vision equipment on battlefield mobility. He was not the first Canadian to win the essay prize either. Previously, Lieutenant-General E.L.M. Burns had won the award twice, in 1932 and again in 1936.

Despite its strong independence, *Canadian Army Journal* could not escape the dynamic changes underway within DND during the mid-1960s. In 1965 DND decided to phase out its separate service publications in support of the unification process then currently underway. The editor and staff of *Canadian Army Journal* were informed of the pending cessation of their publication and tasked to prepare their last issue for release in the summer of that year. Mr. DeProse, who was still serving as editor, sadly prepared his publication for closure.

The last issue of *Canadian Army Journal* (Vol.19: 2) was released in June 1965 carrying a number of farewell statements and thanks for nearly two decades of service. There were many promises that the new tri-service publication, *Sentinel* would be a more than adequate replacement for *Canadian Army Journal* and its two sister publications, the Navy's *Crow's Nest*, and the Air Force's, *Roundel*. In the end the *Sentinel* proved to be a good publication, but its thin magazine format and newspaper journalistic style made it unable to serve as a proper forum for professional debate. The Army had to turn elsewhere to carry on this tradition.

Between 1965 and the end of the Cold War, the Army published a number of various in-house forums—including branch and regimental journals—in the absence of an overarching Army periodical. The three combat arms—infantry, artillery and armour—all produced their own in-house journals and bulletins. Engineers and logistics also published effective journals. Meanwhile, the Army's central organizations focused on publications related to specific topics such as conceptual and doctrinal design, training, safety, and lessons learned. Among these various publications, *The Canadian Army Doctrine Bulletin* (CADB) is notable in that it served as the catalyst for reintroducing an Army-wide periodical publication back into the Army.



The Canadian Army Doctrine Bulletin appeared in 1981.

First published in 1980, the CADB produced a number of articles dealing with defence doctrine, airmobile operations, tactical aviation, human dimensions in battle, as well as various advances in tactics, techniques, and procedures. The CADB was produced on a roughly biannual basis until 1993. Further changes within DND during this time led to the cessation of most Army publications, including many of the various branch and in-house journals and bulletins. *Sentinel* magazine continued to run during this period but its content grew thinner. A new Army-wide publication would not appear in the Army for several more years.

After considerable internal effort and debate, in August 1998 the Chief of Land Staff authorized the publication of a revamped and very much upgraded *Army Doctrine and Training Bulletin* (ADTB) for, “the dissemination and discussion of doctrinal and training matters, leadership, technological, conceptual, ethical,

and historical issues as they relate to the Army.”² Under the managing editorship of Captain John Grodzinski, the ADTB rapidly evolved to become the new forum for professional debate in the Army. In addition to a number of senior officers and NCOs writing for the journal, the publication attracted considerable interest and participation from Canada’s leading military historians and scholars.

The ADTB’s arrival on the scene was fortuitous for the Army. Very much the old *Canadian Army Journal* in disguise, it matured at the same time that the Army entered a period of tremendous transformation, and as such it became a focal point for many serious discussions that later influenced larger decisions within the Land Force. Soon reaching past its title, the ADTB swiftly became the capstone Army journal that its leadership needed and wanted.

In 2004, Major Shane Schreiber succeeded Major Grodzinski as managing editor. Though his own tenure at the helm of the publication was brief, Schreiber built on the solid foundation laid by his predecessor and completed the transformation of the ADTB during its seventh year of publication into *The Canadian Army Journal* that we know today. Since then, successive editors have guided the journal as it continues to serve as the Army’s primary forum for professional ideas and debate.

This year the CAJ celebrates its tenth year of uninterrupted publication and its sixtieth year since first inception. Looking back at its history one cannot help but feel proud of its accomplishment, and be honoured to be part of its continued legacy.

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Back in business. The Army released the First Issue of *The Army Doctrine and Training Bulletin* (ADTB) in 1998.

Endnotes

1. Mission statement. *Canadian Army Journal* Vol. 19: 2 (1965).
2. LGen B. Leach, “Guest Editorial”, *The Army Doctrine and Training Bulletin*, Vol.1.1 (August 1998), 3.