

The temptation to conclude with a quotation from one of the documents in the book is irresistible. This statement appears in the Ontario edition of the *Canada War Thrift Book*, compiled in 1918 and distributed to schoolchildren in 1919:

It is but natural, and it is but right, that those who live in Ontario should think that they are citizens of the "Banner Province" of the Dominion. To this distinctive name Ontario had many good claims before the war. She has more right to that high honour now. The story of what Ontario has done should produce in every pupil, not a spirit of boastfulness, but a just pride that this Province has so nobly done what she could for the cause of civilization.

All those who suspect Ontario of harbouring delusions of grandeur, take note!

Peter Robertson
Public Archives of Canada

Out of the Shadows: Canada in the Second World War. W.A.B. DOUGLAS and BRERETON GREENHOUS. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1977. 288 p. illus. ISBN 0 19 540257 X \$14.95.

This volume is a disappointment. The authors, two senior historians with the Department of National Defence in Ottawa, have attempted to write a popular overview of Canada's participation in the Second World War. They succeed in providing an overview of the contributions of the army, navy and air force, but the result is less than exciting. While it is difficult to compress the complex and sometimes frantic activities of the armed forces for almost six war years into less than three hundred pages, nevertheless, the story itself must be more interesting than the authors would lead us to believe.

For those who know little of Canada's over-all contribution to the Second World War, *Out of the Shadows* will cast only half-light on the story. The authors ambitiously wanted to describe the political, economic, social and intellectual context in which Canada conducted its war effort, but the treatment of these themes is limited. A modest attempt is made in this direction in a final chapter about the home front, but it reveals very little about how the war affected ordinary Canadians. The discussion of this aspect of the war effort, including political developments, takes second place to the military operations, and therefore adds little to a broader understanding of the war years.

However, the text is made more interesting by the inclusion of a large number of photographs, most of them published for the first time. The authors have footnoted their work but not in as detailed a manner as might be expected in a book of this nature. Douglas and Greenhous based their account largely on secondary sources as suggested by their notes; the brief annotated bibliography could have been more extensive.

In all fairness to the authors, they were not attempting to be definitive in this work, but rather, they wanted to provide the reader with an overview of Canada's total contribution to the war. They are not fully successful in this, but they do underline the need for more research and writing on all aspects of Canada at war. As the authors correctly point out, the war touched every Canadian in some way, but before a comprehensive synthesis of the war years can be written, more study is required on other aspects of wartime Canada, such as politics, the economy, the intellectual environment, the home front and propaganda, and the vast and complex subject of reconstruction and post-war planning.

Glenn T. Wright
Public Archives of Canada