the popular, but incorrect notion that sound recordings do not possess qualities of per-
manency, has also been a negative influence. McWilliams explains that if cared for 
properly, sound recordings possess long-range preservation properties superior to 
modern printed materials which require costly and labour intensive measures, such as 
acid deacidification. Appropriate storage requirements for sound materials are dis-
cussed, including environmental conditions, handling and use, packaging, disc washing 
and repairing.

While the book is successful in fulfilling its objectives, the reviewer has a few minor 
regrets. Although McWilliams provides the reader with a good historical sketch of the 
development of sound recordings since the mid-nineteenth century, he barely touches 
on the recent developments in the industry, namely those in digital recording. A fuller 
discussion of this technology and its ramifications would have been very useful. In 
the section on tape equipment a number of solid recommendations can be found, but 
the author bemoans the scarcity of tape decks having the ability to play both \( \frac{1}{2} \)-track and \( \frac{1}{4} \)-track recordings, and mentions only the Revox A-700. In fact, \( \frac{1}{2} \)-track re-
corders with built-in \( \frac{1}{4} \)-track playback heads are now quite common. They include the 
lower priced semi-professional TEAC A-6100MKII, the professional TEAC Tascam 
series and the AMPEX ATR-700.

A bibliography and two directories, one of manufacturers and suppliers of sound 
equipment and the other of North American sound archives, are included in the book. 
The latter, however, is very disappointing as it consists of a mere nine entries, one of 
them Canadian. With little effort, one can list twice as many institutions worthy of rec-
ognition in the United States and, at the very least, another three or four in Canada. 
Nonetheless, McWilliams’ handbook is an indispensable item and should remain within 
arm’s reach to all established individuals in the profession and those beginning to organ-
ize collections of sound recordings.

Krzysztof M. Gebhard, 
Saskatchewan Archives Board


Ottawa: Ministry of Supply and Services, 1979. ix, 244 p. (Ministry of National 
Defence Occasional Paper No. 2) ISBN 0 660 504359 $5.95 pa., Other Countries 
$7.15.

This volume is a basic “no frills” reference tool of considerable value. The want of an 
introductory bibliographic aid to Canadian military history has long been felt by re-
searchers but finally from O.A. Cooke of the Directorate of History, Department of 
National Defence we have a compilation covering the first one hundred years of Con-
federation. Students and researchers interested in earlier periods will have to look else-
where although of course some titles do touch upon pre-1867 topics. The Canadian 
Military Experience is divided into five parts: Bibliography, Defence Policy and General 
Works, Naval Forces, and Forces, and Air Forces. Part four on Land Forces is by far 
the largest portion of the work with one hundred and forty pages devoted to the army 
and militia. This is as it should be for despite the importance of the RCN and RCAF, 
Canada’s land forces have been the largest and most studied of the Dominion’s armed 
services. The list of regimental histories alone should impress even the sceptic with Can-
da’s military heritage. Perhaps the most striking feature of this bibliography is the pre-
ponderance of official reports and histories. Canadians have been well served by their 
oficial historians, but what we do lack are civilian researchers interested in military 
subjects.

Only one caveat can be filed against Cooke’s patient efforts, and that is the lack of an 
index. Aside from this one oversight, archivists and other historical researchers will find 
The Canadian Military Experience a very useful basic reference tool.

M Stephen Salmon
National Ethnic Archives
Public Archives of Canada