



## BOOK RELEASE

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### *The Bitter Harvest of War* *New Brunswick and the Conscription Crisis of 1917*

Andrew Theobald

Volume 11 in the New Brunswick Military Heritage Series

In 1917, the Canadian Corps captured Vimy Ridge in Northern France, and the myth arose that Canada — as a nation — was born on its slopes. But the cost was tremendous: 10,000 Canadians were killed, wounded, or missing in three days. Shortly after, the Prime Minister asked for a “Union Government” of all parties to support conscription and called an election on the issue. Canada split along ethnic lines: English Canadians supported conscription while French Canadians rejected it. By the end of the year, Canada teetered on the brink of civil war.

As Andrew Theobald reveals, New Brunswickers were not spared the bitterness and divisiveness of the larger national debate over conscription. Virtually everyone supported the war — from Irish Catholics to rural Protestant descendants of New England Planters and Loyalists to Acadians — but by 1917 most felt that NB had done enough. However, federal politicians fanned the flames of ethnic tension, striving to win the fall election. Jingoistic English papers spread fear of looming Acadian dominance of provincial politics and hatred of the French as “slackers.” In the end, the Conscription Crisis of 1917 deeply fractured the ethnic harmony of the province, leaving a lasting and tragic legacy.

#### **About the Author**

Andrew Theobald was born in Saint John and raised in the Kennebecasis Valley. A doctoral candidate at Queen’s University, he earned a BA at Mount Allison University in 2000 and an MA at the University of New Brunswick in 2002. From October 2006 to June 2007, he held a Rabin Fellowship at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has published articles in *Acadiensis: Journal of the History of the Atlantic Region*, *Ontario History*, *Past Imperfect*, and *Middle Eastern Studies*. His book reviews have appeared in *The University of Toronto Quarterly* and *The Cambridge Review of International Affairs*. He has written entries for the *Encyclopedia of Prisoners of War and Internment* and the forthcoming *ABC-Clio Encyclopedia of the Arab-Israeli Wars*, and he has presented his work at a host of conferences held throughout Canada and Israel.

Theobald may trace his interest in military history to the military experiences of his family, his own service as a private in the Canadian Forces Reserve, the opportunity to attend a Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation Study Tour in the summer of 2001, and the recent explosion of fine scholarship in this ever-expanding field.

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***The Bitter Harvest of War: New Brunswick and the Conscription Crisis of 1917*** is volume 11 in the acclaimed New Brunswick Military Heritage Series. Published by Goose Lane Editions in cooperation with the Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society at the University of New Brunswick and the Canadian War Museum, this series is part of the New Brunswick Military Heritage Project.

### **Accolades for the New Brunswick Military Heritage Series**

“Welcome additions to the literature. They demonstrate the potential of collaborations such as that undertaken by the University of New Brunswick and the Canadian War Museum. ”  
— *Canadian Army Journal*

“An excellent addition to any province’s high school curriculum and/or libraries. The ease of reading and amount of information provided ought to pique the interest of students to inquire further into the numerous themes and events discussed in the text. In addition, the selected bibliographies provide a base upon which further research can be conducted. For a similar reason, the works might be considered for inclusion in university entry-level Canadian military history courses . . . Military, Canadian, political, international, and social historians will find the works fascinating . . . Archaeologists, engineers, geographers, and the general public could also find the works of interest . . . The authors of the books have done a great service to the place that has traditionally been known as ‘the Loyalist province.’”  
— *The Canadian Historical Review*

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### **Contact Information**

Review copies of *The Bitter Harvest of War: New Brunswick and the Conscription Crisis of 1917* are available by request. High-res cover files are available at [http://gooselane.com/gooselaneeditions/?page\\_id=6](http://gooselane.com/gooselaneeditions/?page_id=6).

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