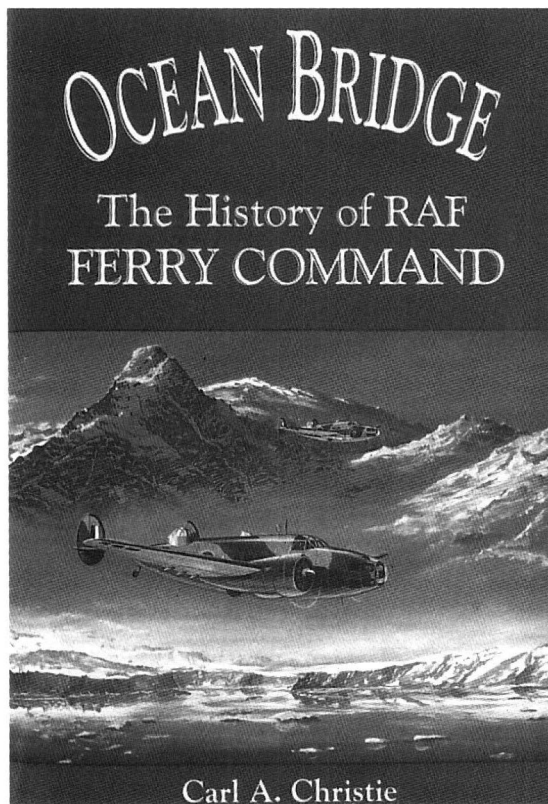


Dit is 'n mooi getuigskrif vir die Portugese, vir eie kerklike leiers, vir welsynroepe, vir die militêre personeel oral betrokke dat hulle die menslike, behoudende rol gespeel het wat hulle wel nagekom het toe hierdie geïnterneerdes as magtelose vreemdelinge tydens 'n internasionale oorlog in hulle land móés vertoef. Dis ook 'n verdere bewys van die hoë mate van Boeresteun wat by die Europese algemene publiek tydens hierdie jare in Rusland, Nederland, België, Frankryk en Duitsland byvoorbeeld beleef is.

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OCEAN BRIDGE; THE HISTORY OF THE RAF FERRY COMMAND

Carl A. Christie with Fred Hatch

University of Toronto Press, Canada : 1995
 458 pages
 illustrated, maps
 ISBN 0-8020-0638-8
 \$39.95 (cloth)

Ocean Bridge is undoubtedly the best military-history book I have had the pleasure of reading all year. It presents a fresh body of knowledge on a neglected topic of an otherwise much-described Second World War. The body of the work - an authoritative and well-referenced text of 306 pages - is vastly enhanced by an extremely attractive cover; four detailed maps; dozens of meaningful photographs; and a good, particular and accurate

index of no less than 43 pages! The fact that *Ocean Bridge* is printed on acid-free paper is an added bonus: it will literally be enjoyed by generations of future historians and aviation enthusiasts.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, the delivery of aircraft by air across the Atlantic seemed impossible. With German U-boats ravaging convoys in the Atlantic and blizardly winter weather, it was thought to be too costly in terms of both human life and money. However, despite initial reluctance, by the war's end, Royal Air Force Ferry Command crews flew almost ten thousand aircraft, mainly American-built, to operational squadrons in Europe and Africa and, in fact, practically every operational theatre of war. And, in so-doing Ferry Command laid the foundation for the network of international air routes and procedures that commercial travellers now take for granted. However, it was not without cost - some five hundred aircrew, as well as sixty passengers, lost their lives (Appendix B). The casualties, incidently, included Sir Frederick Banting, Nobel prize winner for the discovery of insulin, and a South African.

The book was first started many years ago by the late Fred Hatch - an historian attached to the History Directorate at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa - who undertook a study of various aspects of Canadian involvement in transatlantic operations as part of the preparatory work for the official history of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Carl Christie carried on with the work Hatch had been doing on Ferry Command, after the latter's retirement in 1980, and eventually yielded a 182-page manuscript entitled "Transatlantic Ferrying and Air transport Operations, 1940-45". However interesting and important the story was; all at the History Directorate realized that Ferry Command - having been essentially part of the Royal Air Force - it did not belong in the official account of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Christie - Senior Research Officer in the History Directorate - thus received permission to produce this separate volume.

A high standard of scholarship is maintained throughout the book, with a heavy emphasis on primary research. This was made difficult by the dispersed nature of the archival record of Ferry Command. Military records, the archives of the Department of Transport and the private papers of various prominent Canadians (including prime minister Mackenzie King) were consulted at the National Archives of Canada, in Ottawa. Research visits were made to the Public Record Office, in London (the repository of official British government documents); the Newfoundland Provincial Archives; the Harriet Irving Library of the University of New Brunswick; and the Provincial Archives of Manitoba. As overseas research trips are extremely expensive, most of the documents from other institu-

tions - including the Public Record Office - had to be read in copy form in Ottawa. The product is testimony to hard work and is a commendation to the institution which has produced it.

This first detailed account of the origin, development and significance of RAF Ferry Command is highly recommended. It brings together a fascinating and relatively undiscovered topic; accurate, archival research; a tight, well-written text; a professional and very attractive presentation; and, all this, at an affordable price. *Ocean Bridge* is a must and will be thoroughly appreciated by aviation and military historians alike.

Major I.J.van der Waag, Documentation Service Directorate, Private Bag X289, Pretoria 0001.

THE EVOLUTION OF MODERN LAND WARFARE; THEORY AND PRACTICE

C. Bellamy

Routledge : 1990
314 bladsye
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prys onvermeld

Christopher Bellamy is 'n senior navorser verbonde aan die Sentrum vir Verdedigingstudies, Universiteit van Edinburgh. Sy akademiese opleiding sluit 'n MA-graad in Oorlogstudies aan die King's College in Londen in. Afgesien hiervan was hy ook 'n beroepsoldaat wat sy militêre skoling in die Koninklike Militêre Akademie te Sandhurst deurloop het. Hy het ook in die Britse Artillerie gedien. Bellamy is die skrywer van *Red God of War : Soviet Artillery and Rocket Forces* en *The Future of Land Warfare*.

The Evolution of Modern Land Warfare is gedurende die laaste jare van die Koue Oorlog tussen die VSA en die USSR geskryf. Die skrywer het van die veronderstelling uitgegaan dat die bestudering van Russiese en Oosterse krygsgeskiedenis dit vir NAVO-beplanners makliker sou maak om die aard van 'n toekomstige oorlog teen die Warskou-verbondslande te begryp en daarvoor te kon voorberei. Hy beweer dat die literatuur oor die evolusie van moderne oorlogvoering te Eurosentries is en dat sy boek 'n nuwe studieveld in dié verband open.

Die skrywer se doel is om 'n opsomming te verskaf van die belangrikste militêre denke en konsepte oor landoorlogvoering soos dit sedert die 19de eeu ontwikkel het. Die konsepte wat hy as die belangrikste ag is :

a. Die ontstaan van die operasionele vlak van oorlogvoering.

- b. Die ontwikkeling van die lug-land geveg (Airland battle).
- c. Die gebruik van mobiele magte wat voor die hoofmagte opereer.
- d. Die geneigdheid van state in die moderne wêreld om weg te beweeg van grootskaalse oorlogvoering en die herlewing van die konsep van beperkte oorlogvoering soos deur Frederick die Grote gedurende die 18de eeu toegepas. Met ander woorde kort, hewige konvensionele konflikte. Verder ook die belangrike rol wat guerrilla-oorlogvoering in kontemporêre konflikte gespeel het.

Volgens hom is die beste manier om bogenoemde aan te spreek, die bestudering van die krygsgeskiedenis van die Russe in die 19 de en 20 ste eeue en Oosterse oorlogvoering sedert die Middeleeue.

Bellamy bespreek bogenoemde konsepte onder die volgende temas:

- a. Basiese konsepte. Bellamy het 'n aantal konsepte wat in moderne oorlogvoering gebruik word, benut om sy boek mee in te lui. Aspekte soos die beginsels van oorlogvoering, manewrering en uitputting, vuur en beweging, tipes manewreringsoperasies, operasies op eksterne en interne verbindingslyne en die rol van hindernisse in moderne landoorlogvoering word bespreek. Dit het hom tot die gevolgtrekking laat kom dat die sleutelemente in moderne landoorlogvoering die volgende is :
 - i. Die impak van tegnologie op die slagveld.
 - ii. Militêre organisasies, hulle funksionering en die vermoë van state om hul in stand te hou en te bevoorraad. Hy noem dit die instansiese organisatoriese en logistieke vermoë.
 - iii. Die kuns van oorlogvoering en veral die ontstaan van die operasionele vlak van oorlogvoering weens die groter omvang van die gevegsone in oorlogvoering.
 - iv. C3I (Bevel, beheer, kommunikasie en inligting).
- b. Die invloed van tegnologie op oorlogvoering. Die invloed van tegnologie is binne die raamwerk van die invloed wat dit op die ander sleutelemente van oorlogvoering het, bespreek. Wat veral aandag geniet is die groter wordende doodmaak en trefafstandvermoë van wapens wat die omvang van die slagveld sodanig vergroot het dat tussen die taktiese en strategiese vlakke van oorlogvoering 'n nuwe vlak, die operasionele vlak, ontstaan het.