An Important Collection of War of 1812 Documents is Now Available Online

Library and Archives Canada have just digitized 566 reels of microfilm that contain 381 linear feet of documents of Record Group 8 I (the old C-series), one of the primary record collections relating to the British and Canadian war effort in 1812-1815 as well as Revolutionary War and post-1815 military subjects. These records were left behind when the British army evacuated most of its garrisons in Canada in 1871 and, thankfully, acquired by the national archivist.

A complete archival description is at the link below. To the historian of the war, RG 8 I is invaluable as it contains after action reports, orders, strength returns, weapons data and veritably information on every aspect of the British and Canadian units of the war, and their aboriginal allies, as well as some naval subjects.

Of particular interest to Americans will be volumes 694A and 694B, which are the Entry Book for the military prison at Quebec and which contain the following information on about 1,900 American prisoners of war imprisoned there: name, how and when captured, rank, when entered in prison and discharged, place of birth, age, height, stature, complexion, hair and eye colour, marks, wounds or scars, items supplied to prisoner, date of discharge.

As the description below notes, there is a very large index available for most of the collection, it can be consulted here

http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/006003-110.02-e.php?q2=23&interval=50&sk=0&PHPSESSID=vm5b6nj9iehc4djm4fetuq65i0

It will cite the volume number and you then go to the microfilm conversion list, see

http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-909.002.07-e.html

Once you have the relevant reel number and you can consult the volume on line at.

http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/006003-110.02-e.php?q2=25&interval=50&sk=0&PHPSESSID=vmlr30ulr4gj1ouhseh9lsia83

This process is also very well explained on the LAC site.

The digitization of this major record collection is a great day for all serious students of the War of 1812 and Library and Archives of Canada should be congratulated and praised for this very worthy initiative.

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