

BOYS AND GIRLS IN NO MAN'S LAND

English-Canadian Children and the First World War

Boys and Girls in No Man's Land examines how the First World War entered the lives and imaginations of Canadian children. Drawing on educational materials, textbooks, adventure tales, plays, and Sunday-school papers, this study explores the role of children in the nation's war effort.

Susan R. Fisher also considers how the representation of the war has changed in Canadian children's literature. During the war, the conflict was invariably presented as noble and thrilling, but recent Canadian children's books paint a very different picture. What once was regarded a morally uplifting struggle, rich in lessons of service and sacrifice, is now presented as pointless slaughter. This shift in tone and content reveals profound changes in Canadian attitudes not only towards the First World War but also towards patriotism, duty, and the shaping of the moral citizen.

SUSAN R. FISHER teaches in the Department of English at the University of the Fraser Valley.

This page intentionally left blank

SUSAN R. FISHER

Boys and Girls in No Man's Land

English-Canadian Children
and the First World War

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS
Toronto Buffalo London

© University of Toronto Press Incorporated 2011
Toronto Buffalo London
www.utppublishing.com
Printed in Canada

ISBN 978-0-8020-4224-9 (cloth)
ISBN 978-0-8020-1123-8 (paper)



Printed on acid-free and 100% post-consumer recycled paper with vegetable-based inks.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Fisher, Susan, 1948–

Boys and girls in no man's land : English-Canadian children and the First World War / Susan R. Fisher.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-4426-4224-9 (bound) ISBN 978-1-4426-1123-8 (pbk.)

1. World War, 1914–1918 – Children – Canada. 2. Children and war – Canada. 3. Children – Canada – Social conditions – 20th century. 4. Children – Canada – History – 20th century. I. Title.

D639.C4F58 2011 940.3'161 C2010-905770-8

University of Toronto Press acknowledges the financial assistance to its publishing program of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council.



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

This book has been published with the help of a grant from the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, through the Aid to Scholarly Publications Program, using funds provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

University of Toronto Press acknowledges the financial support for its publishing activities of the Government of Canada through the Book Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP).

*For my parents, whose fathers were Canadian soldiers
of the Great War*

This page intentionally left blank