

# Canada Refuses To Give Cannon Demanded By Yank

By JOHN LeBLANC  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
OTTAWA (CP) — The United States will have to try a new invasion of Canada to get back a cannon supposed to have been used in the revolutionary war. Prime Minister St. Laurent politely but firmly let it be known Wednesday that the rust-clogged artillery piece—which may have been used at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775—stays in Canada despite an American congressman's demand that it be sent to the U.S.

The gun now stands near Quebec City's Plains of Abraham, where the British gained supremacy over the French for possession of Canada in 1759. And the prime minister—who represents a Quebec City constituency in the Commons—made it clear it is going to stay there.

His office made public Wednesday a letter in semi-serious vein to Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Democratic representative in Congress from Massachusetts, who had written to Mr. St. Laurent in June asking for the "return" of the cannon reputedly taken by the British at Bunker Hill.

Mr. St. Laurent wrote that a search has turned up no evidence that the ancient cannon at Quebec was fired at Bunker Hill, where the American colonies defeated the British in one of the early battles of their war for independence.

However, he noted that it seems to bear the official seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to have been cast in 1773 or 1774. That made it "an important relic of the history of our two nations."

Canadians, he said, would be as reluctant to give up the old gun as Americans would be to return trophies such as those now at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., including flags taken off British warships captured by U.S. vessels during the battle of Lake Erie in 1812. The U.S. invaded Canada then.

**BACKGROUND VAGUE**  
Officials here believe, in any case, that there is considerable doubt the gun at Quebec was used at Bunker Hill.

No one here is sure how the Quebec gun arrived there and got installed in the old Citadel near the spot of the decisive battle between the English and French for Canada.

One account is that it was brought to Quebec about 1775-76 by a British Army major named Tapp, who said he had got it from a seafaring relative who captured it from a ship. The story is vague.

At all events, Mr. St. Laurent said in his letter that "no evidence has been found which proves that the cannon was fired at Bunker Hill."



**GETTING READY**

Brenda Large of Charlottetown, P.E.I., right, learns from Miss L. McLeod, field worker for the Junior Red Cross Ontario Division, how to make a Santa Claus, a brick chimney and a Christmas tree with colored paper. Brenda was one of the 80 Junior Red Cross members who attended a 10-day Study Centre at the College Maitre Royal at St. John's, Que.

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