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Introduction

The Roads of Freedom - Les chemins de la Liberté JBC Professional Development Newsletter for Educators.

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the "The Roads of Freedom - Les chemins de la Liberté". In honour of the 65th Anniversary of D-Day, we are dedicating this newsletter to D-Day Veteran and Juno Beach President Garth Webb.

Our goal is to connect the teachers and history professionals from the 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 summer tours and to continue to support the Juno Beach Centre.

Please pass this newsletter on to colleagues in your school, district or organization and give us your feedback. There has been a suggestion that we call ourselves the JBC TTV ... Juno Beach Centre Teacher Tour Vets.

Let me know what you think. [Pam Calvert](#)

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Message from Juno Beach Centre President Garth Webb

June 2009

Dear Educators,

First and foremost allow me to congratulate your Executive for an excellent "Newsletter" in close support of the Juno Beach Centre. Your activities help to fulfill our dream of telling the story of Canadians in World War II.

Now a few words about JBCA's upcoming activities.

There will be extensive events at the Juno Beach Centre on June 6th 2009 intended to celebrate the 65th anniversary of "D-Day" and this will probably be the last important date with a turnout of veterans.

For the event Juno Beach Centre Association has selected a group of "12" veterans who represent a number of regiments and numerous battles fought in Normandy as well as Air Force and Navy representatives.

The group is called "Veterans' Voices" and their story will be on display as a Temporary Exhibit in the Lobby of the Juno Beach Centre. They will be introduced at the Veterans Affairs Memorial service with the Minister of Veteran's Affairs in attendance.

The schedule of activities will include events at Bernières-sur-Mer, Beny and Bretteville Canadian Cemeteries.

We truly wish you could all join us in the celebrations and in another dinner.

Best wishes to you all and we hope to continue hearing from you, let us know when you are planning your first reunion.

Garth Webb, President
Juno Beach Centre Association

Juno Beach Centre: Current and Upcoming Information

Remembrance Day 2008 at the Juno Beach Centre

Greetings from Marie-Josée Lafond
Médiatrice Historique et Culturel / Program Manager

Our Remembrance Day 2008 started in Courseulles with the local ceremony. Corporal Locke led everyone to the sound of the bag pipes and it was just a great moment for all of us.

At 3 PM we held the Juno Beach Centre's Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony with about 150 people in attendance. We started outside but did all the speeches indoors due to the inclement weather. It was a fantastic ceremony. Gordon Outhwaite's speech was perfect and very moving. In attendance, amongst others, were 25 Canadian students from Bear Creek Secondary School (Barrie, Ontario). They laid a wreath and a student read John McCrae's poem, "In Flanders Fields".

Garth Webb's D-Day Story

"I was an O.C (Officer Commanding) troops on an L.C.T. (landing craft tank). We landed at H+90 (ie 90 minutes after the first landing) I was G.P.O. (gun position officer) of "C" Troop (Charlie Troops) - 14th Field Regt R.C.A. (Royal Canadian Artillery). We occupied a gun position that was outside the village of Bernieres. The plan was that this gun position was nice and safe and we'd be shooting from there. We had three guys who had their guns blown up, and that was my first experience of occupying a gun position in a war."

"On the evening of June 6th 1944 Ken Bell dropped in to our position. Bell was one of Canada's most accomplished photographers. He documented Canada's participation in World War II while serving in the Canadian Army Film and Photo Unit; his war pictures are housed permanently at the National Archives of Canada in Ottawa. The picture was taken by Bell in front of G.C. my tank vehicle. Ken Darling and I are the only ones of the four still alive." From left to right Doug Allen – Garth Webb – Ken Darling



Alumni information (new initiatives, battlefield tours, etc.)

Congratulations to Jean-Pierre Frigon for winning the 2008 Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History.

A teacher of the JBC 2005 Normandie tour program for teachers is one of the six recipients of the Governor General Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History(2008). Indeed, Jean-Pierre Frigon, from Saint-Tite (Qué.), received the award for the historical calendar he produced with his students and for the commemorative tour he managed in Normandie with 28 students during

spring 2007.

The Awards ceremony under Her Excellency, the Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean, was on the November 17 at Rideau Hall. Because of the precious JBC support in Jean-Pierre's work, Mme Cooper and Mr Webb were among the Rideau Hall's guests.

Two other teachers who were a part of the JBC 2005 Normandie Tour were among the nominees for the Governor General's Award For Excellence in Teaching Canadian History. Indeed, Kurtiss Kleissinger, from Regina Sask., and Clint Lovell, from Barrie Ont., were both selected in the group of 30 finalist teachers for the excellence they achieved in their teaching. This shows the great quality of the teachers selected each year by the JBC for its Normandie Teachers Tour.





China Study Tour

By Carole Whelan

Just as the Juno Beach organization is encouraging educators in the teaching of Canada's roles in World Wars I & II in Europe, there is a similar organization called ALPHA, the Association for the Learning and Preservation of the History of Asia (Toronto, Vancouver and Edmonton branches). ALPHA is dedicated to helping educators learn about the Japanese invasion of Korea and China in the 1930s.

For the first two weeks of July, along with thirty other Canadian teachers, I got to be a history student and to participate in the Peace & Reconciliation study tour where we visited four cities, each with a different study focus.

In Shanghai, we attended lectures by leading Chinese professors and human rights lawyers and studied how World War II treaties, international diplomacy and various court cases have allowed Japan to avoid accepting responsibility and neither apologize to, nor compensate, the many victims of injustice. The highlight in Shanghai was hearing the heart-wrenching testimony of a survivor of the Japanese sexual slavery system. Grandma Tan was called a "comfort woman" (what a cruel description!) who told of her capture and torture and fears at age 16. Grandma Tan was accompanied by her 40 year old son who admitted to us that he had just heard his mother's sad story only two weeks previous to our visit.

Next on our tour was the City of Nanjing. For seven weeks beginning in December 1937, Japanese soldiers butchered over 300,000 Chinese women, men and children. (I would highly recommend Iris Chang's book *The Rape of Nanking* for a readable description of this horrid, and now largely forgotten event.). The Nanking Massacre Museum was, ironically, built on a previously unknown massacre site; some of the bodies are visible where they were dumped. The two survivors of the massacre who talked with us had no difficulty showing their hatred and anger and demand for an apology.

The study group then flew to the City of Harbin in Manchuria where the focus was on Unit 731, one of the Japanese laboratories experimenting with biological and chemical warfare. There were, obviously, no survivors of the beastly dissections and inoculations of plague and other diseases, but we did hear stories from two men who, in 1974, accidentally handled one of the many Japanese chemical bombs still buried in the Chinese countryside. They talked of their chemically-induced illnesses and how their families' lives have been forever affected.

Our last city to visit was Seoul, South Korea, a Japanese colony from 1910. Once again we heard the sad stories of the Korean "comfort" women, many of whom were never reunited with their families. Some of the Korean comfort women now live together in the House of Sharing and they invited us to dine with them one evening and listen to their stories. Every Wednesday since 1992, these Grandmas have demonstrated in front of the Japanese embassy demanding an apology and redress; it was a privilege to join their demonstration on the final day of our study tour.

Beyond the lectures and museum visits, I did have the chance to experience Chinese and Korean culture—the food, the streets crowded with people and bicycles and automobiles, the Buddhist temples, early mornings in the parks where seniors practise their tai-chi and bring their birds to "converse", and the washroom squats. Bartering for souvenirs in the markets was a challenge for me, but fun. (It's great to actually want to buy souvenirs made in China and Korea!) Booming cities like Shanghai are an architect's dream. I climbed the 392 steps to Dr. Sun Yat Sen's mausoleum, took a gondola ride in the Purple Mountains overlooking Nanjing, stood on cliffs overlooking the mighty Yangtse River, lit a traditional Chinese lantern wishing good luck and happiness to family and friends, and attended a martial arts performance.

I am somewhat embarrassed to admit how little I knew of this horrid chapter in World War II history. I feel incredibly honoured to have been able to participate in this learning experience. It is sad to realize that so many in China and Korea are still victims of the Second World War and that so many others today throughout the world still suffer such human rights abuses. We are so very fortunate to live in a peaceful country like Canada.

Resources

The Letter - Part 1

This is the first of a two-part article by Phil Craig and John Cannon of the [Georgina Military Museum](#), reflecting on 'War, Service and Sacrifice' ninety one years since the Armistice that ended WW1. Part Two will appear in the next JBC Newsletter.

It's August 1914, the eve of WWI, and Canada with a total population of eight million has a permanent standing force of barely three thousand soldiers. By war's end four long years later almost 650,000 men and women would be in uniform, an incredible achievement for a country with such a small population.

The nationalistic headlines of summer 1914 brazenly championed the approaching conflict. In Toronto thousands jam the streets in front of The Star and The Globe newspaper offices greeting each new bulletin with a roar and shouting out their enthusiasm. It's as if the war couldn't come soon enough. Recruiting offices across the country were swamped with volunteers anxious to "join in the fun before it was too late".

Most never gave a thought to anything other than complete victory and a safe return home by Christmas. It was to be a great adventure. Veteran Leslie Hudd was quoted as saying, "We never thought about being killed, you know. It never entered my mind that I might not come back. We wanted to get there as fast as we could, because it might be over before we got there."

Those thoughts changed as the men were drawn into the reality of the conflict and the losses. By 1916, following the Battle of the Somme, a grim mind-set had replaced the earlier cheerfulness, "If it has my name on it then my time is up".

The American poet Alan Seeger, who had experienced bitter fighting on the Western Front with the French Foreign Legion, wrote as part of his poem 'The Rendezvous':

*"I have a rendezvous with Death
At some disputed barricade,
When Spring comes back with rustling shade
And apple-blossoms fill the air
I have a rendezvous with Death
When Spring brings back blue days and fair."*

Seeger had eerily foreshadowed his own death. He died in Spring 1916 at Belloy-en-Santerre, cheering on his fellow soldiers in a successful charge after being hit several times himself by machine gun fire.

It was sadly evident that the conflict was proving much costlier in lives than could have been envisioned. Anyone enlisting now would know that the odds on coming back were slim. It was a brave man who undertook to serve the nation. And yet they did.

One such man was Russell Cleveland Budreo. A printer by trade, Russell Budreo was born in Alliston, Ontario in 1890 and raised in Ottawa.

He enlisted in May 1916 and just before shipping overseas in early 1917 wrote a letter to his new-born son Emslie in the event of his not returning home. It was to be read when Emslie turned eighteen. Emslie's mother Florence added a cover letter, just after Russell had left for France.

*"Dear Son, This letter from your daddy was written shortly after he went away just to remind you of him, and in the hope that it might be of some benefit to you when you become older. This day is the first New Year's Day you have had in the world with your mother and dad. We have been very happy together and more so since you came to brighten our home."
Florence Budreo, 1917*

Next edition we retrace Russell Budreo's war service and share the message he passed on to his son. It is a letter any parent would be proud to have written. It is a letter any son or daughter would be honoured to receive.



**Russell Cleveland Budreo,
Service Number 246318,
Canadian Infantry 38th Battalion**

Book Review

JUNO BEACH titles in Mark Zuehlke's CANADIAN BATTLE SERIES.

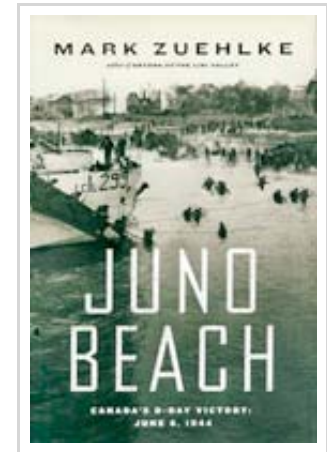
Mark Zuehlke is a popular Canadian military historian. In the CANADIAN BATTLE SERIES, he weaves together official military records, veteran's interviews and personal diaries to chronicle Canada's World War II experience in accounts that are both instructive and highly readable.

While Zuehlke focuses on what happened to individual Canadians in battle, he succeeds in conveying all the action by surrounding the personal stories with information about battle situations, with particular attention to tactical details. Around 400 pages in length, each of these books is well documented, with extensive notes and a bibliography. Additional features include well-captioned black and white photographs and maps, an index and appendices listing units, decorations, and ranking systems of both the Canadian and German armies.

JUNO BEACH: CANADA'S D-DAY VICTORY: JUNE 6, 1944

Zuehlke provides a detailed and comprehensive look at the pivotal contribution of Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen to the Allied Invasion. The book is divided into three sections. Part One: THE ROAD TO OVERLORD, first follows the preparation and planning that preceded the invasion, as well as providing a look at the contributions of Canadian sailors and airmen who supported the operation. Part Two: BATTLE FOR THE BEACH, deals with the landings, dramatically reconstructing the ferocious 'battle for the beaches' across the length of the Canadian sector. Part Three: BREAKOUT, deals with the move inland, where the Canadians encountered stubborn resistance from the Germans.

Zuehlke takes issue with historians who consider the Canadian performance disappointing because the ambitious June 6 goals were not reached, and argues that Canadian soldiers had a combination of independent spirit and kinship that was unique among the Allied forces and served victory at Juno Beach.



HOLDING JUNO: CANADA'S HEROIC DEFENCE OF THE D-DAY BEACHES, JUNE 7 – 12, 1944

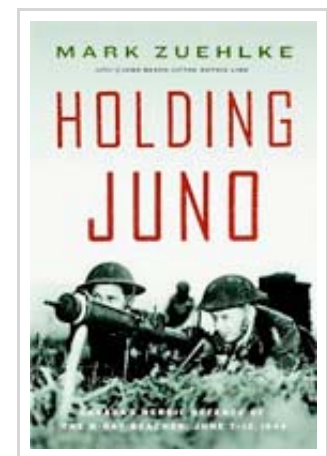
While the volume above covers only the first hours ashore, HOLDING JUNO carries the story through June 12, 1944. Zuehlke explores the less known days immediately following the invasion as the Canadians battled the Germans to protect their assigned beachhead. Well short of their D-Day objectives, the Canadian brigades are ordered to push inland while the German units arriving on the scene are commanded to push the invaders back into the sea.

Zuehlke follows the individual battalions, companies, and platoons, outlining the situation while keeping track of each tactical unit and providing accounts of the action through the eyes of troops on the scene. Attention is given to the German side of the lines, notably 12th SS Panzer Division, its members largely recruited from the ranks of the Hitler Youth, and infamous for its murder of Canadians taken prisoner.

Together, these two award-winning books provide dramatic detail and informed insight into Canada's important role in the Battle of Normandy.

Book reviews by Judy Foster

Judy is a retired Halton Teacher-Librarian who has produced an [annotated list of suggested fiction and memoir of servicemen and women in World War One](#). For a WORLD WAR TWO list in progress, please email jfoster121@cogeco.ca



Brick Campaign Updates

65th Anniversary Brick Blitz

Many students across Canada are actively raising money to purchase JUNO BEACH CENTRE Bricks

for WWII soldiers whose names are on their local cenotaphs. The [Brick Campaign document](#), financially supported by the Canadian Department of Heritage, was designed to support your Remembrance Day activities and to raise awareness of the contributions made by the soldiers from your community who died in WWII. Please consider undertaking this important JBC initiative in your school or district for the 65th Anniversary of D-Day.

For more information please contact the [Juno Beach Centre](#)

Grand Opening of Military Memorial Wall at École Secondaire Lacombe Composite High School

École Secondaire Lacombe Composite High School (ESLCHS) has a history of recognizing the contributions of the military to our way of life and of respecting and honoring our veterans. As a part of this philosophy, when the school underwent a multi-million dollar renovation, it decided to create, at its entryway, a military Memorial Wall. The school celebrated the grand opening of its Memorial Wall on March 11, 2009.

The idea for the Memorial Wall originated from a campaign, spearheaded by the ESLCHS Social Studies Department, for the purchase of bricks to honor and represent Lacombe veterans in the Juno Beach Centre in France. The entire school got involved in the project, with individual departments conducting fundraisers throughout the school year to support the cause.



Sgt. Wayne Forster, a Canadian soldier currently stationed in Afghanistan, cuts the ribbon to officially open the Memorial Wall at École Secondaire Lacombe Composite High. The Armed Forces flew Sgt. Forster to Alberta for the grand opening.

In addition to the purchase of bricks for the Juno Beach Centre, ESLCHS also purchased replica bricks to place on the Memorial Wall in its newly modernized entrance. The wall is black granite, with the replica bricks set in, and with engravings of, among other things, Canadian soldiers in the various fields of war in which Canada has been involved.

The grand opening of the Memorial Wall was and will always be considered a major event in the life of ESLCHS.

Teacher and Student Reflections on the Juno Beach Centre

Remembrance Day at Juno Beach - November 11, 2008

By: Christa Culhane

I, along with three fellow colleagues from Bear Creek Secondary School in Barrie, Ontario, had the opportunity to travel to the Juno Beach Centre this past Remembrance Day. It was an experience that our students will not soon forget.

The trip was originally organized by a



teacher named Kevin Smith, who managed to gain support for this trip to travel in November and allow our students to be at Juno Beach on Remembrance Day. Our board's policy does not usually allow major trips to run during teaching days, as students will miss too much class time. However, Kevin, along with several other individuals at our school worked hard to advocate for this trip and were successful. Due to family commitments Kevin and his family relocated to London, Ontario, and he was unable to take part in this wonderful trip.



Having been a part of the 2008 Teacher Tour I was extremely excited to share my experiences from the summer with the students and to share in their experience this past November. I have never felt more proud to be Canadian as I did on this past Remembrance Day as I watched our students have a moment of silence in the morning at the Canadian war cemetery Beny-sur-Mer and while they participated in the ceremony at the JBC with the utmost respect and maturity. I know that many of them found it an emotional day and much more meaningful to be on the soil that Canadians had fought on. Below are some of the thoughts that students had about this trip.

"Juno Beach was a wonderful experience, the fact we were there for Remembrance Day makes it all the more special and significant.... I would do it again in a heartbeat." – Leanne Windsor

"Really brought history to life, the sacrifice, the pain and suffering were made real. The Juno Beach Centre was a touching memorial and the trip was life changing." – Kyle Fitzgerald

"The trip as a whole was amazing as we got to experience the terrain and visit the places where our freedom was fought for." – Scott Kaffer



"The Juno Beach Centre was definitely a once in a life time experience and to be given the honour to lay our school's wreath with another student was an amazing experience indeed. I have never been to a Remembrance Day ceremony that had such an effect on me." – Sara Czech

"We can see the results of their sacrifices, but we can hardly comprehend the rue magnitude of that sacrifice until you start to see first hand. The crash of the waves, the sight of open beaches or the humbling feeling of rows upon rows of white crosses.....This is an experience I will always remember and remember fondly, as we must never forget our past." – Kyle Nietvelt

We at Bear Creek would like to thank the JBC, especially Marie-Josée and Natalie, for making us feel so welcome and allowing us to have an active role in the Remembrance Day ceremony. They are memories we will cherish always.

Lesson Ideas

Websites of Interest

A Review by Christa Culhane

This Edition's Selection - [Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association](#)

As a history teacher I am constantly looking for new information or activities that I can work into my classes. Over the years I have a desire to include more on the role of Canadians at Hong Kong during the Second World War. I came across the website for the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association and found it a valuable site to aid in the teaching of Hong Kong. While this site includes several areas of interest, I would like to focus on the "**Teacher's Zone**" link in this review.

The Teacher's Zone provides teaching materials created by Canadian teachers for our Canadian students. Contributions have been made by teachers in British Columbia and Ontario. There are a few lessons/materials one can choose from already posted on the site. However, in terms for our francophone teachers there is only one lesson posted in both English and French. Teachers are encouraged to share activities, materials and classroom experiences on this website to promote interest of this subject in Canadian History for our students.

I chose to use a Hong Kong Teaching/Resource Guide and Hong Kong POW Activity Book created by Flora Fung of Oshawa Central Collegiate Institute Oshawa, ON with my grade 10 Canadian History students. The Resource Guide was extremely informative and I chose to use it as a web based activity with the POW Activity Book. My students all accessed the HKVCA site in class and navigated their way easily to the Teacher's Zone where they then completed the POW Activity Book. Many students found the activity quite interesting and it generated class discussions on our Hong Kong veterans and their experiences.

Beyond the teacher contributions, at the bottom of the page are links to additional ideas for further information in **Historical/Personal Accounts**, **Suggested Readings**, and **Showcasing the HK Story**. The latter provides The Battle of Hong Kong power point presentation enabled by generous funding from **Veterans Affairs Canada**. The CD Rom containing the presentation can be ordered free of charge from HKVCA.

The HKVCA site is an informative, easily navigational and useful site that is definitely worth checking out whether it is for teaching or personal interest.

Contact the Newsletter Executive

Please contact any of the newsletter executive about our 2nd newsletter. What would you like to see in the next edition? Please send us your article, pictures, resources and feedback. There is so much we can share with each other!

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