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Introduction

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

Welcome to our 3rd edition of the "Roads of Freedom – Les chemins de la Liberté".

We've got stories about Jacques Vico, Susan Harrison's Peace Garden, Dave Alexander's 65th Anniversary Battlefields Tour, and Phil Craig and John Cannon's part two of "The Letter"

Please send us your article, pictures, resources and feedback. There is so much that the JBC Teacher Tour Vets can share with each other!

Our goal is to connect the teachers and history professionals from the 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 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.

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

Message from Juno Beach Centre President Garth Webb

March 2010

Dear Educators,

The Newsletter for Educators is most important to the Board of Directors as it represents the extension of our Education program.

The Juno Beach Centre will continue with interest for all in 2010. The "2010 Educator's Tour" number six still has spaces available.

For May 2010 the JBCA is creating a Temporary Exhibit highlighting Canadians in Great Britain in the Second World War.

The 14th Field Regiment have purchased a 25 Pdr gun and there will be a "blessing" and dedication ceremony at the JBC on June 6th 2010 with Artillery representation from across the country as well as service personnel. The Calgary Highlanders will be present with a small military band.

For all the alumni of your group please keep us all informed by sending material to Pam Calvert describing any activities in your part of the country.

Best wishes

Garth Webb, MSC
President
Juno Beach Centre Association

Juno Beach Centre: Current and Upcoming Information

Until April 2010

The "Voices of the First Peoples of Canada" exhibit about the Nishnaabeg culture was conceived in collaboration with the First Nation Reserve of Curve Lake in Canada. It will be available to tour groups until April 2010. There is a secondary school presentation in the exhibit. See the link on our website for details:

Primary school educational activity:

http://www.junobeach.org/Centre/english/visitor_info/animations/animation_4.html

High School educational activity:

http://www.junobeach.org/Centre/english/visitor_info/animations/animation_2.html

Upcoming Events:

May to December 2010

The temporary exhibit in the main hall celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy.

May 2010 To September 2011

Learn about the British fighting alongside the Canadians during the Second World War.

The Witnesses of History - The Témoins de l'Histoire

Canadian soldiers praised

Frenchman stands on guard at site of Nazi massacre
By KATHLEEN HARRIS, NATIONAL BUREAU CHIEF
The Ottawa Sun

VILLONS-LES-BUISSONS, France -- A man who made the gruesome discovery of 20 Canadian soldiers murdered by the Nazis 65 years ago in a medieval French abbey has been honoured by the Canadian government.

Jacques Vico was just 18 when he came across evidence of the atrocities on his family's farm in Normandy. Since then, he has built a shrine to the fallen in a shady garden on the property, and has kept the legacy of the victims alive with special tributes, educational activities and ceremonies over the past 65 years.

Yesterday, he mourned the dead and praised all Canadian soldiers who volunteered service in the Second World War to battle oppression, racism and tyranny. "Canada took with great heart in the fight against this," he said. "Here, men are testimony to this great fight for freedom and the rights for others and every man."

Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson presented Vico with a framed certificate of appreciation in a sombre ceremony attended by Canadian veterans, politicians and youth, as well as French officials and citizens. Emotions ran high as the crowd laid ceremonial wreaths and heard about the horror of the 20 young soldiers and prisoners of war executed between June 7-17, 1944.

During the Battle of Normandy, the German-occupied abbey served as the headquarters of the 12th SS Panzer Division under Kurt Meyer. After the war ended, Meyer was brought to trial for the Abbaye d'Ardenne executions but denied involvement.

He was found guilty and condemned to death, but his sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. He served eight years in a New Brunswick prison, was released in 1954 and died of a heart attack seven years later.

Retired Maj. Gen. Clive Addy, president of the Canadian Battlefields Foundation, said battle brings out the very worst in humanity. War very easily erases the veneer of civilization of man. Both sides become savage at times, some more savage than others," he said. "This particular spot bears witness to those moments." Earlier yesterday, Thompson told veterans their only enemy now is the weather, as they paid tribute to fallen comrades under heavy rain at a war cemetery and a memorial. Stressing the importance of remembrance, he marked Canadian Forces Day by praising the younger generation for picking up the torch.

"Our men and women continue to put their lives on the line every day. They do it every day to bring peace and stability to troubled spots around the world -- just as you men did 65 years ago. They are continuing a proud and worthy Canadian tradition that the people of France know very well," he said.

"When the world calls, Canada answers," Thompson said. "Because that is the Canadian way -- always has and always will be."

kathleen.harris@sunmedia.ca

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

Garden of Peace: Donald Fraser Memorial School, NB.

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow and now, they will bloom in Plaster Rock as well. Donald Fraser Memorial School students recently built a Garden of Peace as a symbol of hope for the future and in honour of the community's Fifty Fallen soldiers who are named on the village cenotaph.

"It's been a real community effort," Susan Harrison, teacher, commented as students worked on the garden with Veterans last week. "We've had a lot of support and involvement."

Harrison noted the Garden of Peace is part of the Fifty Fallen project undertaken by three classes at the school. In addition to her own students, members of Annette Fitzpatrick's and



Debbie Rioux's classes are also involved in the ongoing venture. Veterans George Carvell, Gerald Bucci and Fuzz (Eldred) Bucci have worked alongside the students throughout the project and, trowels in hand, were helping with the planting last week.

The Garden of Peace is located on the northern limits of school property at the front of the school and includes a raised bed with a giant stone placed in the centre. On the stone, there is plaque that states, "This Garden of Peace is dedicated to those who serve our nation and contribute to the great cause of Peace and Freedom. As you stand here, take a moment to reflect upon the price of freedom and consider your own role in the future of world peace."

Around the huge rock, students placed stepping stones they made, each one inscribed with the name of one of the community's Fifty Fallen soldiers. Between the stones, they planted poppies they grew in their classroom.

"It should look really pretty when the poppies are all in bloom," Harrison noted. "For the spring, we'll plant red tulips. All of the flowers we put in the garden will be red and white for the Canadian flag."

Harrison noted the Garden of Peace received support from the Department of Education's Innovative Learning Fund program. The garden project fulfills science and literacy elements of the curriculum with students learning about the life cycle of plants and writing about their seedlings' progress in their journals.

"It was very educational for the students to learn about the development of the plants from seeds," Harrison noted. "There are so many educational opportunities that are yet to come as they take care of the garden."

In addition to growing poppies, the students also nurtured marigolds to plant in the flowerbed that runs the full length of the front of the school. Harrison said flowers are usually purchased to plant there but this year, the students are putting in their own little blooms.

"I think that gives the students a sense of ownership," the teacher noted, adding they will respect property they helped to make attractive.

Making the stepping stones from a concrete mix was great fun for the students who are each researching one of the names from the cenotaph. Co-operative education student Danielle Spencer spent a lot of time helping the students with the stones, using stencils to indent each stone with the name of the soldier.

Harrison noted although the Garden of Peace received ILF funding, it also gathered community support along the way. From the lumber that encloses the bed to the giant rock to the sign, people have been eager to contribute.

"As the project has developed, people have become more aware of it and there has been a lot of interest," Harrison said, noting the sale of Fifty Fallen t-shirts and tote bags have helped its

visibility.

Although the school year is almost over, the Fifty Fallen project is not. The research into each fallen soldier will result in the publication of a book and a Wall of Honour is also planned. The garden will also develop over the summer and Harrison noted the public is welcome to stop and ponder its message of remembrance and peace.

"I feel this is a great addition to our community," Harrison said. "Even though these are young children, they have been able to contribute to their community and make it more beautiful."



Resources

The Letter - Part 2

This is the second of a two-part article by Phil Craig and John Cannon of the Georgina Military Museum, reflecting on 'War, Service and Sacrifice' ninety two years since the Armistice that ended WWI.

Ottawa, May 1916, and Russell Cleveland Budreo enlists with the 207th Battalion and commences training at Rockcliffe. In January 1917, now transferred to 38th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force he heads east to Halifax - and the war.

In April 1917 America enters the war. Hundreds of thousands of Yanks pour into France in '17 but they are not yet ready for fighting. Then, just before Christmas 1917, Russia exits the war allowing Germany to transfer vast armies from Russia to the Western Front.

It's now 1918 and the conflict in Europe enters its fourth year. Both sides are exhausted, more so Germany. But in spite of food shortages and a hint of mutiny the German General Staff recognizes its numerical superiority and senses a glimmer of hope. There is still a chance for victory and they gamble on one last throw, committing everything to the 'Kaiserschlacht' or 'Kaiser's Battle'. It will be all or nothing.

At 4:40 AM on March 21st, 1918 the German Army launches 'Operation Michael' with a shattering bombardment from 6,473 guns and 3,532 trench mortars. Five hours later forty-three divisions of the German Second and Eighteenth Armies assault the Allied lines and drive them back, en masse, 70 kilometers in ten days.

Private Russell Cleveland Budreo, with the 38th Battalion was there.

Already the 38th had experienced some of the fiercest fighting of WWI. In April 1917 it was part of the offensive at Vimy Ridge, where after two and a half years of failed Allied attacks Canadian troops pushed the deeply entrenched Germans from their hill-top fortifications in less than a day. It was a stunning victory.

Later that year came the famous battle at Passchendaele, where Canadian storm-troops captured the obliterated little town north of Ypres, ending a horrendous four and a half month battle in the mud which cost 16,000 Canadian casualties.

It seems that whenever there was a tough assignment for the Allies they called upon the Canadians – and the Canadians succeeded.

But would they be successful now?

Russell's battalion was holding the line at Hill 70 near Lens, France. Five strong German attacks were repulsed over three days and no enemy troops broke through the wire. But during the night of March 24th they attacked again. The situation was desperate, and defensive fire was called for.

"Private Budreo was wounded at about 3:30 A.M. on March 24th, 1918 while in the front line known as Saturday Post, St. Pierre Sector. The enemy had attempted to raid our trenches and our Artillery laid down a close protective barrage, a shell from which fell short wounding Pte. Budreo. He was immediately evacuated but died at about 2:30 P.M. the same day at No.6 Casualty Clearing Station."
Death Certificate 1918



Pte. Russell Cleveland Budreo had given his life for his country. He was two months shy of his 28th birthday. A year earlier, before leaving for France, he wrote a letter to his new born son Amslie, to be opened on his 18th birthday in the event dad did not return from the war:

"Dear Son,

You will wonder why I am going away! Well, son, by this time you will have heard of the terrible war in Europe (and) how the Germans forced a war on Great Britain and her allies. Canada was asked to give 500,000 men to the cause, that is why I am going, not because I want to leave you and your mother.

Always be kind and good to your mother, she is the best friend you will ever have. Honour and love her always, and no matter what you may do or say, try and think if your mother would like you to do it. If you ever get in any trouble go to her, and you may be sure she will help you out.

When you grow up and go out into the world, you will meet with many different kinds of people, some good, and some bad. If they be down and out, always lend a helping hand. Be honest and true to everybody. Play the game fair, as you will always come out the best.

I don't want you to take this as a sermon, but just as a reminder that your daddy thought a lot of you and it would hurt very much if you should grow up different from what I think you will.

I'm not writing any more now, as you will know from your mother what we all thought of you.

Trusting you will grow up a strong and brave man, always ready to stand up for the right.

*I remain,
Your loving "Daddy"
1917*

In August 2008 Phil Craig, John Cannon and Bill Rouse of the Georgina Military Museum were honoured to leave a 'Card of Remembrance' on Russell's grave in northern France, signed by MP Peter Van Loan, MPP Julia Munroe, Chief Donna Big Canoe, Mayor Grossi and museum Curator Phil Craig, to thank him and others, for their service and sacrifice.

Russell's grandson Peter Budreo and his family live in York Region, where Peter serves as the General Manager of the South Lake Community Futures Development Corporation in Keswick. An exhibition of Russell Budreo's artifacts is on display at the museum now through January.

There were many Russell Cleveland Budreos. This Remembrance Day remember them all. NEVER FORGET

Brick Campaign Updates

Alberta High School Supports the Brick Campaign

Alberta High School makes a 2nd visit to the JBC

Seventeen Winston Churchill High School students from Lethbridge Alberta, two parent

chaperones, and two teacher supervisors, traveled to the battlefields of Europe over Easter 2009 to extend their education into the worldwide classroom for an historical and cultural trip. Students visited Vimy Ridge, Tyne Cot Cemetery (Battle of Passchendaele), the Juno Beach Centre Museum that recognizes to Canadian veterans of the Second World War, Beny-sur-Mer Cemetery (which houses the graves of more than 2000 Canadians), Versailles, Paris, Florence and Rome.

During the tour students explored the history of the French Revolution, World War I and World War II and the architecture and art of Italy. This tour related directly to our high school Social Studies curriculum at the 20 and 30 levels and respectively in the 20 and 30 IB programs. The students were away from April 9 through April 18, 2009.

In preparation for the trip, each student traveler was assigned the name of an Alberta veteran who died fighting in the Second World War. Their job was to create a biography of their soldier. Students took part in a special Remembrance Ceremony at Beny-sur-Mer Cemetery, made commemorative rubbing of their soldier's gravestone and placed a student designed cross at their soldier's resting place.

Students had the opportunity to work with Brett Clifton, a WCHS graduate, who went through a similar experience preparing for his high school trip in March 2007 for the 90th Anniversary and Rededication of the Vimy Ridge Memorial. One of our students, Kaitlin McKay, met and spent time with Wendy Bell of England, the daughter of veteran James Bell, who was buried at Beny-Sur-Mer Cemetery. In addition, Brandon Janzen, had the pleasure of hearing stories about the life of veteran Ernest Appleton from his sister in Lethbridge and in turn has brought home a rubbing of his gravestone for her.



It was very important to WCHS that they support the Juno Beach Centre Memorial Brick Campaign by purchasing memorial bricks that are mounted on kiosks near the landing site of our D-Day soldiers. Students raised \$1000 at a Remembrance Day ceremony to purchase four bricks. The goal is to continue to raise additional money to purchase enough bricks to represent nine local soldiers: Ernest Allen Appleton, Arthur Ernest Arnsdorf, James Bell, Stephen Bolokoski, Charles Edward Brewer, John James Faller, Nels Gustav Rudolf Nelson, Eldon Joseph Nason and Roy Wallace Varcoe.

The memories of these experiences will touch the lives of this travel group forever.

Teacher and Student Reflections on the Juno Beach Centre

OSCVI Students travel to Normandy to pay tribute to the war dead from their school...

I was able to experience something that I may never be able to experience again!" These words were spoken recently by Owen Sound Collegiate and Vocational Institute student Katie Adair in retrospect about the school's trip to Normandy this past spring for the 65th Anniversary of D-Day. Katie was a part of a group of 42 students, parents and teachers who travelled to the Juno Beach Centre in France to attend the commemorative ceremonies related to the 65th Anniversary of the Canadian invasion. The group also had the opportunity to visit some other important sites from Canadian military history including Vimy Ridge and Dieppe.

In preparation for the trip the students had an opportunity to delve into the school's past as more than 1000 former students of the school had volunteered for service during World War II. They discovered that five of the school's alumni had died either on D-Day or in the ensuing Battle of Normandy. Given that 65 years had passed since D-Day, the students accessed whatever sources they could put their hands on, to research and write stories about these servicemen that were published concurrently with the trip in the local paper, The Sun Times. They scoured old year books in the school's archives to discover some entries that had been made about these individuals during their school years at the OSCVI. Military service records were accessed through Archives Canada in Ottawa, regimental histories reviewed, micro – film copies of contemporary World War II newspapers accessed from the local library and interviews were completed with surviving family members.

Slowly the historical puzzle pieces came together for the intrepid students as they were able to fashion stories about these men under the direction of their history teachers. In many cases the stories recounted the lives of these men during their school years, their enlistment and preparation for war and the tragic circumstances of their deaths. Evidently, Paratrooper Clarence Lapierre who had been a popular athlete at the school nicknamed 'Dude' was fatally wounded during his jump early on the morning of D-Day. Corporal Wilfred Slumskie of the 1st Hussars who played on the school's hockey team was killed during that fateful June day his tank squadron approached Le Mesnil Patry and was decimated by a strong German defensive position surrounding the village. James Ewing Cameron who returned to the school as an overage student during the Great Depression was killed while serving with the Queen's Own Rifles as they advanced on the industrial suburbs of Caen during Operation Atlantic.

In researching and writing his story, student Nick Moore discovered an incredible tale about Earnest Gilbank who only attended grade 9 at the OSCVI. Gilbank quit school to pursue a number of jobs during the Great Depression ultimately enlisting for active military service in 1943. He was detailed to be a replacement for Canadian Third Division as they undertook their invasion of Juno Beach on June 6th, 1944 and casualties mounted. Gilbank was assigned to the Regina Rifles and found himself on their front lines by the 9th of June just as the Reginas experienced a counter attack by a battle group from the fanatical Hitler Youth 12th Panzer Division. Nick discovered that Rifleman Gilbank had been taken prisoner while on outpost duty during the attack and was subsequently taken behind the lines and shot as a Prisoner of War. During an interview with a niece and nephew of Ernie Gilbank, Nick shared these findings with the Gilbanks who had never heard this story before! Military Historian Terry Copp confirmed the story which had also been documented in Howard Margolian's book, *Conduct Unbecoming*.

In honour of these former OSCVI students who were killed in Normandy, the student participants of the trip raised funds to purchase five Memorial Bricks at the Juno Beach Centre in Courseulles-sur-Mer, France. The bricks were unveiled during a special ceremony at the JBC by Juno Beach Association President Garth Webb on June 5th of this year. Mr Webb reminded the students about the importance of remembrance and explained to the group how the purchase of these memorial bricks helps support the only Canadian institution in the Normandy region that commemorates the efforts of the Canadians during D-Day and the Battle of Normandy.

June 6th was the highlight of the trip for the students as the group attended the Queen's Own Rifle's Commemorative Ceremony at Bernieres-sur-Mer early in the morning and were able to meet with two veterans who landed with the QOR at that same spot and time 65 years to the day. Veterans Orville Cook and Bill Betteridge graciously took time to describe their ordeal to the students as they were participants in the first wave to assault the beach on D-Day. The group moved on the Juno Beach Centre to take in a special ceremony entitled Veterans' Voices that highlighted the experience of 12 Canadian D-Day veterans. In the afternoon the trippers made their way to Beny-sur-Mer and Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemeteries where they honoured a number of fallen soldiers from the Owen Sound area including some of the above former students. In fact, Nick Moore was able to pay a special tribute to Earnest Gilbank when he visited his grave site at Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery. Later that day the OSCVI contingent attended the Official Canadian Government Ceremonies at the Juno Beach Centre.

To sum up the impact of this experience Katie Adair offered the following assessment, *"It really opened my eyes to see how lucky we are, how they fought for us, many making the supreme sacrifice for others in the future to live the lives we live now."*

Dave Alexander – 2007 Teacher Tour

Lesson Ideas

Websites of Interest

Canadian Cenotaph Research Projects for Teachers

This site is dedicated to supporting teachers and students who are researching and writing the stories of the WWII soldiers on their school and community cenotaphs. It is still in the developmental stage and submissions to the site would be greatly appreciated.

<http://sites.google.com/site/cenotaphresearchprojects/>

Contact the Newsletter Executive

Please contact any of the newsletter executive about our 3rd 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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