

Canadian Battlefields Foundation Spring Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear CBF supporters:

It is with sadness that I advise you of the recent loss of three of our outstanding Directors, to whom I dedicate this issue.

Colonel Dr. Sydney

Wise, OC CM FRSC CD was our Co-Chair of the Education Committee. George Blackburn CM MC, a gunner historian, and the Hon. Edwin Goodman PC OC QC were all decorated veterans of the Second World War and long time dedicated Directors. May they rest in peace knowing the enormous impact their selfless service to us and to Canada has left on all who knew them.

As we launch our summer battlefield tours in 2007, and in commemoration of the 90th anniversary VIMY, it is well that we renew our pledge that is inscribed on the marble of our Fountain in the Canadian Garden at *Le Mémorial* in Caen: « Nothing shall ever blot you from the memory of time ».

Sixteen students from across Canada have been awarded bursaries for a Normandy tour in June. General Belzile represented the Foundation in France this year as the head of our ceremonies on 7 June in Caen. Again this year, we help to support the 25 selected members of the High School teachers' tour in August with Historica and Veterans' Affairs. The joint tour from Wilfrid Laurier University and l'Université de Montréal that we also support, visited the Canadian battlefields in Europe as well. A very busy summer indeed, all coordinated by our Education Chair, Professor Terry Copp of Wilfrid Laurier University.

I congratulate Shelagh Whitaker for the launch of this superb issue highlighting some of our alumni. I was quite impressed, as I read the letters of recommendation from across Canada for our bursary candidates, at how many Foundation alumni are the PhD signatories. We are indeed well on our way as the *Olympic Team* of Canadian historians and teachers of military history. I sincerely thank such organizations as the Royal Canadian Legion as well as Veterans' Affairs Canada, for their generous and continuing support. Without them and so many other caring contributors, organizations and dedicated teachers and volunteers, we could not achieve such remarkable results. How proud I am! How proud Syd, George and Eddy would be. Thanks all.

Clive Addy, President

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Thirteen years ago, the Canadian Battlefields Foundation pioneered the field of battlefield education by granting bursaries to Canada's most promising university students to walk in soldier's footsteps on the battlefields of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Italy.

The success of this ongoing program is evidenced in its alumni, many of whom have gone on to achieve doctorates and excel in teaching fields, and not a few to becoming leading historians in Canada. Three are profiled in this publication.

The 2007 program leaders of this well established and regarded tour in June are Dr. Geoffrey Hayes, University of Waterloo, and Lieutenant-Colonel David Patterson, Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College, who is an alumnus of one of the first CBF Battle study tours.

This pilot project has become the catalyst to a number of new CBF battle study tours --- four this year --- each with a dynamic and different focus. Every program is sponsored by the CBF allied to new co-sponsors.

The framework for this year's three Northwest Europe study tours was designed by prominent historians under the leadership of CBF Education Chair, Professor Terry Copp of Wilfrid Laurier University. The format remains for the most part constant in each tour.

Participants usually begin at WWI battle sites: the Somme, Vimy, the experience of the Newfoundland Regiment at Beaumont Hamel, Courcelette, and Ypres.

From there they enter the traumatic WWII

battleground of the Dieppe Raid of 1942. Continuing west, students are billeted for ten days at a central location near the D-Day beaches (often at a charming old mill, Le Moulin Morin, near Bayeaux), from which they can fan out each day to study the various sites of the D-Day landings and the Battle for France.

In all tours, participants are required to research and then present, at the grave site, a brief biographical sketch of a Canadian soldier who is buried or commemorated at a WWI or WWII site in Belgium or France. This is invariably an emotional occasion. Participants are additionally asked to prepare for each day's activities by completing the required reading, bringing assigned maps and other information with them each day and engaging in or leading discussions of each battle. The reading requirements are limited and focused, as the intent is to inspire consideration of new questions rather than arrive with other people's answers.

An innovative element in the programs is the staging of an historical Tactical Exercise Without Troops (TEWT). The group is divided into syndicates which plan a battalion level defence of the bridgehead based on the actual orders, maps and air photos issued in the year of the battle. The students must thus mentally propel themselves back 60 years to command an operation under the circumstances and pressures of that era.

Varying focuses differentiate each tour from the others.

The original 13-year-old CBF tour, now with over 150 alumnae, targets students of sound academic university standing and strong recommendations

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by their professors, who have indicated an interest in history, either as a career choice, or because of interest intensified by a parent or grandparent who was involved.

The recently introduced High School Teacher's Battle Study, now in its third year, focuses solely on helping teachers better present our history to young Canadians. The program is sponsored by Historica.ca, in collaboration with the Canadian Battlefields Foundation, the Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies and Veterans Affairs Canada, and is under the expert guidance of Prof. Terry Copp.

The teachers' tour is structured to provide an in-depth understanding of the Canadian experience in the two World Wars. Its concentration on transcribing the battle site to the classroom has won enthusiastic praise from educators. Each day, the high school teachers are asked not only to examine each important chapter in our nation's history, but also to consider, how should the topic be taught? What ideas about these events should be introduced in the classroom?

Another innovative tour, devised with great success just last year, is the Laurier – Université de Montréal's Battlefield Study Tour. Eighteen students, nine francophones from U de M and 9 anglophones from Wilfrid Laurier, will meet in France to share the experience of walking, and studying, the battlefields of their forefathers. As historian Desmond Morton, again an

instructor this year, observed, "Our history is best learned when both French and English are listening and trying to understand together." Additional instructors are Dr. Michel Fortmann and Alexandre Carette of UdeM and Professor Michael Bechtold (both CBF Alumni) of Wilfrid Laurier. This is a credit course for UdeM students.

Dr. Lee Windsor, another CBF Alumnus, is leading the fourth tour this summer, this one to study the Italian Campaign, and targeting advanced graduate or doctoral students in the field. Lee, Deputy Director of the Milton F. Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society at the University of New Brunswick (UNB), is sponsored by the CBF. Six students from University of Calgary, Royal Military College, University of Waterloo and UNB, who are supported by their universities, will begin the tour at Canada's landing beaches in Sicily. They continue on to Salerno, Ortona then Cassino to study the brutal attritional winter battles of 1943-44 and the final spring breakthrough of the Hitler Line by the French and Canadian troops.

Shelagh Whitaker (editor)



General Addy, and Mr. Jacques Vico during the annual ceremony at L'Abbaye d'Ardennes.

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CBF Alumnae

Where Are They Today?

Brandey Barton, CBF 2003



History, but especially military history, has always been a passion of Brandey's. Since high school this passion has increased through her years of post secondary education

and through various experiences, including her 2003 Canadian Battlefields Foundation study tour to Sicily and Italy. It was, without a doubt, a life changing experience. She was surrounded by people who loved military history as much as she did and while this was something entirely new to her it was also exhilarating. Tracing the footsteps of the D-Day Dodgers through Italy gave her a great appreciation of the hardships and, more importantly, the sacrifices Canadian soldiers endured throughout the Italian campaign. It was while exploring a Canadian battlefield in Italy that she made the decision to pursue a Masters degree in history.

During the summer of 2004, the Foundation gave her the opportunity to work in Normandy as a guide in its Memorial Garden at Le Mémorial de Caen. "Having the chance to work and live in Normandy for the summer with fellow alumnus, Céline Garbay, was an experience that I will never forget. That summer I learned firsthand about the Canadian experiences in Normandy and was then able to pass this information on to visitors who came to our desk. One of the most rewarding experiences of that summer was

providing Canadian visitors with information on how they could attend the 60th anniversary D-Day ceremonies. Seeing the smiles on their faces when I ran into them on the beach made me all the more happy that I had been able to help them. Participating in the ceremony attended by the Governor General at Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery was probably one of the most moving moments of the summer for me."

After returning to Canada Brandey completed her masters degree in the spring of 2006 while also working at the Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS). Her master's research paper about the political decisions behind sending 1st Canadian Infantry Division to Sicily was nominated for an academic gold medal. A shortened version of the paper was published in the Spring 2006 issue of *Canadian Military History*. Currently Brandey is a PhD candidate at the University of Waterloo and is continuing her study of Canadian soldiers in Sicily and Italy. She continues to work at LCMSDS, looking after all book sales and subscriptions and submissions to *Canadian Military History*. "I continue to help promote Canadian Battlefield Foundation study tours through my work at the centre and am only too happy to give back to the Foundation. Many of my closet friends are CBF alumni and I would likely not be where I am today were it not for my study tour. I know many alumni who say their tour was a life changing experience and I am certainly no different."

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David Patterson, CBF 1997

As many have said before and after him, David Patterson's life was changed by his participation on the 1997 CBF Tour. He had applied as a mature student from Concordia University where he was taking night courses towards an honours BA in history. The tour, led by Marc Milner and Serge Durflinger, was a fantastic experience and at its conclusion David promised to stay involved with the Foundation.

The very next year David tagged along on the 1998 tour for a week and then helped Terry Copp run a couple of commercial tours in 1999 and 2000. That was followed by opportunities to help lead the 2000, 2001 and 2002 tours with Serge Durflinger, Marc Milner and Geoff Hayes, respectively. In the meantime David joined the board of the CBF.

A big part of David's involvement in the Foundation has been helping to develop the two new memorial sites in Normandy. David was instrumental in the creation of Point 67: the Tor Scot monument. David was the liaison with the town of St Martin-de-Fontenay and conducted a recce with the Regimental leadership. The second project at St Lambert-sur-Dives was a much bigger effort. After three years, the site was unveiled in June of 2003 by the principal benefactors: the Cleghorn family, Government of France, and the Foundation. Since then David has assisted the Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment with their commemorative activity in Italy.

David Patterson (second from left) and members of the Op AUGURAL team with the Canadian Ambassador to Ethiopia, HE Yves Boulanger, at the Addis Ababa Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery for Remembrance Sunday services 12 November 2006
(photo: David Patterson)

The tour in 1997 was also a watershed year for David in other pursuits. He accepted a post at the Canadian Land Force Command & Staff College in Kingston Ontario. David moved from Montreal to Kingston to take a position as the Director of the Militia Command and Staff Course. Since then David's job has evolved to include all aspects of Reserve training at the college.

Last year David had the great privilege to command the small Canadian Task Force assisting the African Union Mission in Sudan. The twelve-person team provides logistic and strategic planning support to the 7000-man AMIS force in Darfur, Sudan. It was David's first overseas mission.

After running many tours for other organizations, David decided to get into the business. In 2005, with business partner Mackenzie Brooks, an alumna of the 2002 Tour, he formed Fields of Fire Tours. The company conducts tours of Canadian battlefields in Northwest Europe and Italy much in the style of the CBF tours. This year they offer tours to Northern Italy, Normandy and the Spanish Civil War battlefields of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion.



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Andrew Godefroy, CBF 1997



In 1997, Andrew Godefroy, was at a crossroads in life. His passion was military history but jobs in the field were sparse. With many professors advising against further study

of Canada's military past and Godefroy feeling "unsure of whether or not a career in strategic studies and military history was a very smart or practical idea", he departed for France with the other eleven bursary recipients for the annual Canadian Battlefields Foundation tour.

The row upon row of headstones at the many cemeteries remains the most striking aspect of the tour for many CBF alumnae but it had special significance for Godefroy who was a young army officer at the time. "You kind of stop in your tracks when you see the headstone of a young man, perhaps with the same rank as you but in his late teens or perhaps just 20 years old, and know that he was doing the same job as you and ultimately paid for that privilege with his life." For Godefroy "to see so many graves of 18 and 19 year olds - people who forfeited their entire futures so that I could enjoy living in one of the best places on this Earth, well that humbles you."

That 1997 CBF tour, led by Marc Milner, solidified his resolve to pursue military history and Godefroy chose to attend the Royal Military College over other offers from UofT and McGill because of the dedicated war studies program. Godefroy eventually received both his MA and PhD from the prestigious Military College.

For Godefroy, the tour left an indelible mark on his life and career. On a personal level, he is still

close with many of the other bursary recipients. His outlook on life was altered as well, as Godefroy explains, "I never complained much about anything anymore, tended to be somewhat more thankful for that which I had, and made sure that I paused more often to appreciate the little things in life."

On a professional level, the experience completely refocused his passion.

Major Andrew Godefroy, CD PhD. is currently the head of academic research, outreach, and publication for the Directorate of Land Concepts and Designs. In addition, Andrew is the editor of the Canadian Army Journal, the Director of the Fort Frontenac Library, and an adjunct faculty member at the Royal Military College. He is the author of many books, book chapters, and scholarly articles. His most recent work includes *Maple Leaf in Orbit: An Official History of the Canadian Space Program, 1945-1995* (St. Hubert: Canadian Space Agency, 2007) and has written two chapters in *Vimy Ridge: A Reassessment*. (Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2007), 225-238.

Godefroy certainly credits the tour with focusing his own life but he feels even more strongly about the work of the Foundation: "Seldom is it so easy to recognize and appreciate a noble cause. Too often, privileged access to places and senior scholars are reserved for the well established and the well off. The CBF foundation truly understands that if you want the tree to grow you must attend to its roots. By targeting young Canadian students and opening their eyes to some of the greatest achievements of this nation, they have done a great service to our collective future." Godefroy's career to date and his continued passion is a clear example of that service.

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The Canadian Battlefields in Italy: Ortona and the Liri Valley By Eric McGeer with Matt Symes



The Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies in conjunction with the Canadian Battlefields Foundation is proud to present *The Canadian Battlefields in*

Italy: Ortona and the Liri Valley by Eric McGeer with Matt Symes. Dr. Eric McGeer is a Toronto based classics teacher who speaks fluent Italian and has traveled throughout Italy many times in search of the Canadian story. The design and layout were done by 2006 CBF alumnus and Laurier graduate student Matt Symes.

Ortona and the Liri Valley is the first in a series of three Italian campaign guidebooks that combine historical narratives with point to point tours. The 112-page guidebook has 91 photos, 12 paintings from the Beaverbrook War Art collection at the Canadian War Museum and it features 18 maps from Google Earth Satellite Imagery, which clearly illustrate the geographical problems faced by the Canadians in Ortona and the Liri Valley.

You can order your copy today from the LCMSDS by logging on to their website at www.canadianmilitaryhistory.com or contacting Brandey Barton by e-mail at bbarton@wlu.ca or by phone at 519-884-0710 ext. 2079



Above is an example of the Google Earth Satellite imagery available in the new guidebook on Italy. The ability to

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