

The
Maple Leaf
Legacy
Project



L'heritage
de la feuille
d'erable

UPDATE!

A Project in Remembrance of Canada's War Dead

Latest Numbers

The aim of the Maple Leaf Legacy Project is to photograph or obtain a photograph of every Canadian War Grave of the 20th Century.

As of July 24, 2006 the number of Canadian war graves or commemorations photographed on hand is:

95,149

On the above date

203

commemorations were added.

This project relies solely on the kind assistance of the hundreds of volunteers and sponsors around the world to get the photographs or to donate funds to help pay for the good work of the project. To date the project has been honoured with the assistance of at least

687

wonderful and generous volunteers from around the world who have contributed photographs or other services.

*For Canada, for Canadians,
for the fallen, lest we forget.*

We remember

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello one and all:



A couple of days ago, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife Lauren visited the war grave of Mrs. Harper's great uncle at Barlin War Cemetery, not far from Lens, Pas de Calais, France. As it happens, two of the MLLP volunteers, Fred Killick and Eric Reid, had been there and photographed all the Canadian war graves there, including that of Mrs. Harper's great uncle, James Teskey, of Okotoks, AB.

Now, two Canadians visiting a distant relative's war grave in France is not an unusual occurrence. It happens every day. But these two particular Canadians, well, that may be significant in more ways than one. All of a sudden, out of the blue, the Maple Leaf Legacy Project could, potentially, be thrown into the national spotlight as a residual effect of this visit. Not front page stuff certainly, but, in the background, people across Canada will take notice and investigate the role and, in many cases, the deaths of their relatives in the first and second world wars. Such an investigation will certainly lead them to the MLLP. This is a good thing.

Secondly, awareness of our cause at the very top of Canada's political decision-makers is now, potentially, very significant for the MLLP. Perhaps Mrs. Harper will consent to lending her name to our cause. Perhaps Mr. Harper will give a nod here and there to those who can help us finish the task in a timely manner, so that the advantage to Canadians will be effective sooner rather than later. Not everyone has the advantage of being able to visit their ancestor's graves in Europe, the far east, Africa, the middle east, the Caribbean or even some remote corner of our home and native land. This is the role the MLLP can and does do best, bringing an image of the grave home to the family where the loved one themselves could not be taken. Stay tuned on this subject.

On another subject, I am afraid my ability to get the images online is still being hampered by various hurdles and glitches to do with my computer and program conflicts. I do, however, have hopes of seeing the light at the end of the tunnel

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on this long journey. Perhaps, by the end of the summer I will be able to make a start on this missing key to our whole project. Fingers crossed.

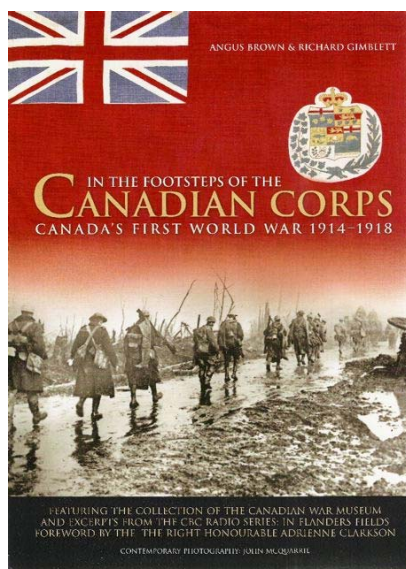
In April of this year, a new book was launched called 'In the Footsteps of the Canadian Corp' (see photo) which is a beautifully produced account of the Canadians in the Great War. It takes the reader on a tour of the battlefields, cemeteries and monuments of the western front with stunning photo-

graphs, current and contemporary, maps and paintings from the Canadian War Museum and an intelligent narrative by Angus Brown and Richard Gimblett.

This fine book also has a chapter addressing the subject of remembrance in which the MLLP is featured. An accompanying DVD is also being produced for release by Nov 11. As project director, I was also interviewed for this. Nice to see such coverage and promotion of the project in a published book rather than the usual magazines and newspapers. I think it really gives us a credibility level that other publications cannot quite reach. Thanks to Richard, Angus and photographer



The grave of James Teskey, great uncle of Mrs. Laureen Harper, wife of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Photo by Fred Killick and Eric Reid



John McQuarrie for their commitment and help on this. You should be able to get this book, in hard cover (\$35Cdn) or soft cover (\$25Cdn) in most large bookstores, but if you cannot, then drop me an email and I will arrange to get you a copy.

Finally, plans are moving forward for the April 2007 volunteers battlefield tour to mark the project's 10th anniversary and the rededication of the Vimy Memorial on April 9th. At the moment we have a full tour but if you are just hearing about this and would

like to add your name to a waiting list in case others drop out, please send an email to June Bates at junebug24@sasktel.net Dates for the tour are April 6-15, 2007.

Have a great summer folks. Remember, this is prime photography season so, if you have been putting off your photo assignments, please make a point to get them done sooner rather than later.

Regards,
Steve

Steve Douglas
Director
Maple Leaf Legacy Project

NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

This is the section that belongs to you - the volunteers, regional representatives, and people having an interest in commemorating Canada's fallen. Why not let everyone know what's going on in your part of the world by sending us photos, progress reports or news about events? Please send your submissions to dcrory@chebucto.ns.ca with "MLLP Newsletter" in the subject line. Here are a few items for this edition:

Here's some news from Ian Forsdike MBE, England who was part of an astonishing coincidence.

Sometimes, when the Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC) details are unable to expand on a headstone's location, it can be a little difficult to find a cemetery. Such was the case in the search for Pte. E. Freeman's place of rest, detailed as Keysoe (Brook End) Baptist Chapelyard, Bolnhurst and Keysoe, Bedfordshire (England). However, we weren't prepared for the response we got when we did find it.

Located in the wilds of North Bedfordshire, Keysoe is an ancient village and has a number of centres. Reached by a country road that winds through some prime Bedfordshire scenery, my initial research suggested I would find the chapelyard on Church Road. Logical enough. However, when we drove out there it was clear straight away that we were not at a Baptist Chapelyard. We subsequently asked a number of people, including a postwoman, who was not local, where we might find the Baptist Chapelyard. The postwoman, as it turned out, was closest, at least getting us onto the right lane. Further fine tuning at a building site put us back to a house which was said to be a converted Chapel building. Certainly it looked the part, but should we disturb the owner's peace with our quest?

As I noticed what looked like a path leading behind the property, my wife caught sight of the house owner and stepped onto his driveway. Asking if he knew where the chapelyard was, his response as to why we wanted to know actually sounded quite defensive. I stepped in and explained I was a volunteer with the MLLP and that we were looking for a CWGC headstone. He looked at me rather dumbfounded for a moment. "Quite extraordinary", he replied.

When pressed he explained that the chapelyard had been in disuse for many years, but as it was behind his house, the old Chapel, out of respect he tended it over the years on a purely voluntary basis. Just two weeks before our arrival, a CWGC van was seen travelling up and down the lane, looking just as lost as we had. Eventually it stopped at his house and the driver asked if he knew where the chapelyard was, as he had a CWGC headstone he needed to tend to. The owner was certain there was no CWGC headstone in the chapelyard.

When they proceeded into the yard together it was found that there was a family headstone to Pte Freeman, who, the CWGC man explained, had served with the 46BN Can. Inf., and had died in Mar 1917. The CWGC had taken responsibility for the upkeep of the plot, and the CWGC representative then proceeded to clean the headstone.

So when my wife and I arrived, asking for the location of the chapelyard and the whereabouts of a CWGC headstone, it was not defensiveness we witnessed but reserved astonishment. Like London buses, as they say here, nothing for ages then two at the same time!



Ian Forsdike at the grave of Pte Freeman following a curious search for the soldier's grave.

Ian Forsdike MBE, England

We received a nice message from one of our French volunteers, Jacky Emery, who wrote about a ceremony held in the small village of Vas in France in honour of an American pilot, Lieutenant Alvine Pollingue, who was killed on July 17, 1944. Lt. Pollingue is buried in the American cemetery of St. James and Jacky and his fellow volunteers laid flowers on his grave. In fact, Jackie wrote that the mayor of Vaas agreed to Jacky's request to have the local bridge that spans the River Loire renamed in honor of Lt. Pollingue.



In a separate development Jackie wrote that he accompanied a British family when they visited the grave of one of their family members, aviator Edward Wilkinson, who died at the age of 20 on July 16, 1944. Wilkinson is buried close to close to Alençon, in the village of Larré. Thanks for the update, Jacky!



Here's something a little bit different - the story of how a late night radio broadcast inspired new volunteers to answer the call.

Earlier this spring Diane and Dave Hofstadter of Oklahoma dropped into the bookshop that MLLP Director Steve Douglas runs in Ypres Belgium. The three got to talking about what a Canadian is doing running a bookshop in Flanders and not surprisingly, the conversation moved to Steve's work with the MLLP. Apparently this rang a bell with Diane and she remembered that late one night, a few years ago, she had heard a CBC radio interview with Steve that US public radio picked up and rebroadcast in her hometown.



Diane and Dave Hofstadter of Oklahoma, two recent MLLP volunteers

Diane thought the MLLP was a great idea and filed it in the back of her mind, thinking, "One

day I'll find out more about this." Then by chance, she and her husband Dave met Steve in the bookshop - an amazing coincidence. She offered to do any graves in her area and, as it happened, there was one grave in MacAlester, Oklahoma that needed doing. Diane and Dave, a retired colonel in the US Army and her daughter and her husband, visited the cemetery and got some fine shots of the lone Canadian war grave, which happened to be a local man who joined the Canadian forces. Nice story for sure which illustrates the many ways that volunteers are drawn to joining our ranks. Thanks Diane and Dave!

PRESS ITEMS**Remarks by the Honourable Greg Thompson Remembrance Ceremony
Beaumont-Hamel, France -- July 1, 2006**

Thank you, merci. Your Royal Highness, Honoured Veterans, distinguished guests:

Today is the first of July - Canada Day. Today, Canadians celebrate our nation's 139th birthday.

It is a sad irony that this day will always bring mixed emotions for Newfoundlanders. For many years before the Colony of Newfoundland joined the Canadian confederation in 1949, this date was known as Memorial Day in Newfoundland.

In the words of the Newfoundland and Labrador Commemoration Day Act, it states:

"...the deeds and sacrifices of those men and women of the province who took an active part in the World War of 1914-18 shall be kept in remembrance with honour and respect." Nowhere were their deeds more historic, nor their sacrifice greater than on this ground.

Here at Beaumont-Hamel, on the morning of July 1, 1916, the men of the 1st Newfoundland Regiment advanced over open ground into a relentless barrage of artillery and machine gun fire.

It lasted only 30 minutes. Just 68 of 801 would answer the roll the next day.

It would be two weeks before news of the disaster reached Newfoundland.

We can only imagine the darkness that fell across the island that day. In a population of barely a quarter-million, few families and even fewer communities were untouched by the tragedy.

Fathers, sons, brothers, friends, neighbours, a generation of future leaders - lost in 30 minutes.

It was a terrible wound, but the defiant call of this solitary caribou reminds us that no matter what the odds, the Royal Newfoundland Regiment would not let freedom go undefended.

As you can see, the earth here still bears the scars of this sacrifice. The Government of Canada continues to invest in preserving this rare example of conserved battlefield terrain, so that these scars of battle never fade from our memories.

Before us stands a new generation of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment - the men and women who give life to that brave legacy.

We can see reflected in your faces the same strength and resolve that surely marked the faces of those who stood for freedom here on this day 90 years ago.

We are proud to stand with you in celebrating the courage of your forebears, and to bow our heads with all Newfoundlanders in mourning for your great loss.

Merci. Thank you.

(from the Minister's Web page:<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca>)

ODDITIES OF WAR

Brothers Killed On the Same Day (Part 1) (courtesy of Milverton Associates Ltd.)

31-Mar-17

John, 21 and George CRAIGIE, 29, served in 7th Battalion (Central Ontario Regiment), Canadian Expeditionary Force. Sons of the late Arthur Craigie and of Mary Craigie, of Store Street, Stanley, Perthshire, Scotland, neither has a known grave and both are commemorated on the Vimy Memorial to the Canadian Missing.

09-Apr-17:

Olivier, 27, and Wilfred CHENIER, 28, both of the Royal Canadian Regiment, Canadian Expeditionary Force, who died during the attack on Vimy Ridge. Sons of Janvier Chenier, of Buckingham, Quebec, they are buried in adjacent graves in Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez.

09 April 17:

Arthur, 28, and BILL WEST, 26, both of the 14th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Quebec Regiment), Canadian Expeditionary Force, who died during the attack on Vimy Ridge. Sons of Abraham and Emiline West of Norfolk, Ontario, they are buried in adjacent graves in Nine Elms Cemetery, Thelus. A third brother, Louis West, 21, was also killed at Vimy Ridge on 7 September 7 1917. He is buried in Lapugnoy Military Cemetery.

11 April 17:

(William) Ernest, 20, and (William) George White, 33, both of the 10th Company, 4th Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps, Canadian Expeditionary Force, who died during the attack on Vimy Ridge. They were born in Buckinghamshire in England and were sons of Samuel George and Emily White 20 Lawn Rd., Uxbridge, Middlesex. Ernest is buried in Canadian Cemetery No. 2, Neuville St. Vaast and George lies in Givenchy Road Canadian Cemetery, Neuville St. Vaast. Brothers Bert (Hubert Samuel) and Harry (John Henry) enlisted at the same time. Bert, serving with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry was given a compassionate discharge as a result of his brothers deaths. Harry served with the 4th Field Coy Canadian Engineers until 1919.

23 April 15:

Arthur, 34, and Reginald LAWRENCE, 32, were born in Cheltenham and later emigrated with their parents to Canada. They died whilst serving with the 10th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Alberta Regiment), Canadian Expeditionary Force, at Kitcheners Wood, east of St Julien. The 10th Battalion and the 16th Battalion launched a counter-attack in an attempt to halt the German advance in the area after the infamous gas attack. Sons of Edwin and Fannie Lawrence, of 26, Victoria Mansions, Lethbridge, Alberta, they have no known graves and are commemorated on the Menin Gate Memoria to the Missing. Both are also commemorated on the Cheltenham War Memorial.

30 April 1916:

Cyril, 19, and Horace HILL, 22, died whilst serving with the 24th Battalion Canadian Infantry, Canadian Expeditionary Force. According to the diary of the local priest, Pastoor A. van Wallegem, the brothers together with other Canadian soldiers took shelter from a German artillery

bombardment in a shelter in the garden of a local estaminet in the village of Dickebusch (now called Dikkebus). A shell landed outside the entrance of the dugout and 12 soldiers died, one was wounded (possibly dying of his wounds afterwards) and only one got away unscathed. The two brothers were among the dead. Van Wallegghem surprisingly writes that they were twins and were 17 years old. Sons of Thomas and Hannah Maria Hill, of 159 Ville Marie Avenue, Maisonneuve, Montreal, they are buried in adjacent graves in Dickebusch New Military Cemetery.

(Continued next edition)

SOLDIER POETS

Rendezvous Alan Seeger

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.

It may be he shall take my hand
And lead me into his dark land
And close my eyes and quench my breath--
It may be I shall pass him still.
I have a rendezvous with Death
On some scarred slope of battered hill,

When Spring comes round again this year
And the first meadow-flowers appear.

God knows 'twere better to be deep
Pillowed in silk and scented down,
Where love throbs out in blissful sleep,
Pulse nigh to pulse, and breath to breath,
Where hushed awakenings are dear . . .
But I've a rendezvous with Death
At midnight in some flaming town,
When Spring trips north again this year,
And I to my pledged word am true,
I shall not fail that rendezvous.



Alan Seeger, born in 1888, was twenty-two when this photograph was taken while he was a student at Harvard. Six years later he had his rendezvous with death at Belloy-en-Santerre on July 4, 1916. Seeger spent two years in the French Foreign Legion; as an American citizen he could not join the French military, so he did the next best thing and joined the Legion, since the United States had not yet entered the war.

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