

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.

On September 4, 2005 the number of Canadian war graves or commemorations photographed on hand is:

90,775

On the above date

65

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

639

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



Greetings again from Ypres.

This is an exciting time for the Maple Leaf Legacy Project. After eight and a half long years, we are finally just about ready to launch our new web site complete with a searchable database. After a number of failed attempts to get this far over the past five years, we have finally been able to employ someone to put it all together thanks to a grant from the Nickle Family Foundation of Calgary earlier this year.

With a little luck, and a lot of hard work by many volunteers, we hope to have the new site launch on November 11, Remembrance Day. To begin with the names of the missing on the Vimy Memorial will be the first searchable names available on the site. Then over the months and years ahead all of the images in our archive will be put online. Accompanying the grave photos, where we have them, we will add photos and biographies of the men. So if you have such photos of any of Canada's war dead, please consider submitting a digital scan of the photo for permanent archiving for the benefit of future generations.

This database, when completed, will be the culmination of the tens of thousands of hours of work by many hundreds of volunteers around the world. But there are still many thousands of hours to go before that day.

In other news, congratulations are due for some of our volunteers. Matt Smith, Director of the Australian war graves project became a very lucky man this past September when he married the lovely Allison Blunt. These newlyweds honeymooned on New Zealand's south island, while another pair of newlyweds honeymooned in Italy, Greece, France and Belgium, among other places. Eric McGeer and his lovely bride, Sylvia Wayne from Toronto were married at the beginning of the summer. My sincere congratulations to both couples. May you all have many, many years of marital bliss and blessings.

Also sincere congratulations go out to Southern Ontario volunteers Gloria and Stan Pare who have recently seen the birth of their second child and a

continued on page 2

big 'Way to go!' to Grand Coulee, Saskatchewan volunteer June Bates who just last weekend completed the Royal Victoria half marathon. This is a warm up for June's second full marathon in California in January. Not bad for a granny!

Finally for this issue, I would like to put out an appeal for World War 1 items. I am looking for items used by the Canadian Army during the 1914-1918 war for a special project. I would consider buying

items or they could be donated. Please contact me if you have something I might be interested in.

That's all for this time. Be safe, be happy. Work to live, don't live to work.

Steve

Steve Douglas  
Project Founder & Director

## A TRIBUTE TO SMOKEY SMITH

Here is a heartfelt message from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson Governor General of Canada on the passing of Ernest "Smokey" Smith, Canada's last surviving Victoria Cross winner

August 3, 2005

Smokey Smith was a wonderful Canadian whose friendship I was delighted to have. Every Remembrance Day he came for tea (and Scotch!) and was a vivid reminder of our country's heroism in World War II. During this past year, he joined with me and our veterans to commemorate D-Day, the Italian campaign in which he had performed his outstanding act of courage, and finally to the Netherlands.

Like many others who serve our country, he took his place alongside his fellow comrades at arms to fight for freedom. It was a daunting task but he did it like his comrades without fanfare, without hesitation, with great pride and determination.

His courageous acts in 1944 at Cesena, Italy were extraordinary and stood out against the dig-



*Smokey Smith with MLLP Director Steve Douglas in 2002*

nity, bravery and perseverance of our Canadian Forces. He continued to make every effort to keep alive the memories of those years for subsequent generations.

Smokey Smith, Canada's last Victoria Cross hero, is no longer the enthusiastic and smiling presence among us, but his spirit carries on.

Adrienne Clarkson

## NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

This is the section that belongs to you - the volunteers and regional representatives. 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 [dcroy@chebucto.ns.ca](mailto:dcroy@chebucto.ns.ca) with "MLLP Newsletter" in the subject line. Thanks to the following representatives and volunteers who have already sent us material. Saskatchewan volunteer June Bates wrote to us about a unique, new monument in Regina that includes the name of every Saskatchewan person killed in the Second World War, Korean War and peacekeeping missions. It is situated next to an existing monument which honours soldiers killed in the First World War, and together both monuments contain more than 10,000 names. The document is of particular significance to June and her family as one of the names listed is June's uncle. Thanks to June for letting us know about this and for sending along the following story and her photos of the official dedication of the monument.

### Memorial Honours Our War Fallen Veronica Rhodes

As the Canadian, Saskatchewan and British flags flapped in the crisp autumn wind, Phase 2 of the Saskatchewan War Memorial was dedicated on the grounds of the Legislative Building Sunday.

The memorial includes the names of every Saskatchewan person killed in the Second World



*Courtesy of June Bates*

War, Korean War and peacekeeping missions.

The second phase was built beside the first, which honoured soldiers killed in the First World War, and together include more than 10,000 names.

"It is the only memorial in Canada that lists all of the province's war dead in one location," said Lloyd Jones, chairman of the Saskatchewan War Memorial Committee.

More than 200 people gathered for the dedication ceremony. Lt.-Gov. Lynda Haverstock cut a special white ribbon with poppies on it to open the

### "Leader-Post", Regina, Saskatchewan October 3, 2005



*Dedication of the new Saskatchewan Memorial . Photo courtesy of June Bates*

memorial on the west lawn of the Legislative Building.

Each name on the memorial is cast in bronze and listed on nine stone pillars. Jones said he was pleased to see the committee's vision become a reality. The committee started raising money for the first phase of the memorial in 1988, which was dedicated on Nov. 7, 1995. Fundraising and re-searching began again in 2000 for the second phase of the memorial.

The entire monument cost close to \$1 million and every single dollar was donated, Jones said.

The committee was also kept busy tracking down more than 900 people who were not found in official records.

"Young people at that time left the province and enlisted in other provinces. Automatically they become a citizen of that province ... They get lost by being sort of transferred over to another province. We had to go out and locate all of the people who had left the province to seek employment elsewhere, to enlist elsewhere but to make sure they were here on our honour roll," Jones explained.

Each member of the committee received a Saskatchewan Centennial Medal from Haverstock at the end of the ceremony.

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Volunteer John Price of England reports that he is safe and sound following his encounter with hurricanes Katrina and Rita. John has been working and living in Metairie, Louisiana and he considers himself very lucky: he and associates are still alive; he still has most of his possessions; and, he is still employed, although he has had to relocate to South Carolina. Here is an abbreviated version of his October 10 e-mail message in which he shows just how lucky he was.

### Living through “Katrina” and “Rita” – Submitted by John Price

As you will gather, I am not one of the unfortunates who failed to survive the assaults of the two hurricanes. On Saturday, August 27, when the news reached us that there was likely to be a mandatory evacuation order issued, it was too late to do much more than stock up with water, batteries, food, etc. ... There were long lines of cars waiting for fuel...With less than half a tank, I was not in the best of shape to drive to the nearest major location. ...I decided to stay.

Sunday was spent preparing - Meanwhile, winds slowly increased in strength. By the time night fell, there was steady rainfall and strong winds. At 2124, I lost power, much earlier than I expected. In the early hours of the morning, I was awoken by series of crashes of sheet metal which continued throughout the storm. Glass was heard breaking and crashing to the ground. It was my neighbours' bedroom window. ...

Throughout the night, a local radio station had continued to transmit, inviting reports from listeners who still had active phones. One reported that

flooding was occurring in the complex of cemeteries at the north end of Canal Street. Most interments are above ground in tombs in New Orleans, and the macabre portrait of coffins and corpses floating around New Orleans was painted over the air. There are no Canadian graves in the New Orleans area. There are some memorials to British servicemen and citizens in New Orleans and at Chalmette.

The latter area was heavily flooded. However, all graves are in well-visited areas, and can be expected to be returned to an acceptable, if not former, condition.



Wind-borne debris punched five holes in my multi-paned bedroom windows. The sharp cracking sounds resulting from the impacts convinced me the windows were ready to collapse. I found and applied some masking tape to the cracked punctured panes - not

the safest of activities in the middle of a storm. My more valuable items were moved into the rear bedroom. The windows held. ... I don't remember when the rain stopped but the street was flooded, water being pushed southwards by the wind. The centre of the eye of the storm passed to the east at about 0900, but the concern continued to be the relentless buffeting of the trees and the occasional sounds of objects landing in the pathway alongside house. Most of this was roofing material.

Later still, it became apparent that the winds were less intense and were coming from the west. However, the water in the streets was rising, so I had to begin raising furniture off the floor as a precaution. About 1900, I found a mini waterfall had been created at the front doorstep. Soon after, water began entering via the patio door.

The water continued to rise throughout the night. Broadcasters advised residents to have access to an axe or hammer to ensure that they could break through the roof if flood waters became too high.

Fortunately that wasn't necessary for me, for the water probably reached its maximum depth of about a foot at about 0500 on Tuesday morning. On Wednesday morning, the water had receded, so I went to inspect my vehicle, a Ford Explorer. I found that the wind screen looked like a Pennsylvania road map, and water had just seeped in through the driver's side door. At the second attempt the engine started, and I applied clear tape to support the windshield in an air conditioned area.

On Thursday morning, I drove to Texas, stopping at Baton Rouge to have the windshield replaced and to refuel. I stayed in Jacksonville, Texas, a small town about 30 miles south of the halfway point between Dallas and Shreveport. I can attest to the hospitality of the Texans toward evacuees.

With Hurricane Rita approaching the Texas shore on Friday, September 23rd, I decided to return to Metairie to survey the damage and re-habit my apartment. The flooding had initiated a great deal of mould growth during my absence. The apartments in the complex were determined to be uninhabitable.

The last two weeks have been spent rearranging stored boxes and tools in a rented storage unit to accommodate the remainder of my salvageable possessions. That has proved to be a job and a half, since no additional storage space was available because of the need of other residents to store their possessions while their homes are being repaired.

Needless to say, my storage unit (nor any of its neighbours)

did not suffer any damage from either hurricane. My employer has reassigned me to a location in South Carolina, since my workplace in New Orleans will need considerable preparation before the site can be considered to be operational. Although there are so very many who have lost much more,

I believe that there are many new opportunities to be grasped, although they may not appreciate it at the moment.

Katrina's clouds will be shown to have had the proverbial silver lining, if the mood of the people that I have met is any indicator of the future.

Kind regards,

John B. Price

## PRESS CLIPS

### Canadian vets mark 60th anniversary of V-J Day August 14, 2005 – Canadian Press



*Jubilant crowds in Toronto on V-J Day August 14, 1945. Courtesy of City of Toronto Archives*

Veterans were joined by Canadians in cities across the country Sunday to commemorate the end of the Second World War on the 60th anniversary of Japan's surrender.

The Victory in Japan Day services were on the same day that the ashes of Canada's last Victoria Cross winner Ernest (Smokey) Smith were

scattered in the Pacific Ocean.

Smith's family held a private service in Vancouver aboard HMCS Ottawa. It was the final ceremony after a week of nationwide recognition for the last Canadian to receive the Commonwealth's highest award for bravery.

On the other side of town, about 300 people, most of them in uniform, turned up at Victory Square for a VJ-Day commemoration service for other veterans.

It paid tribute to Canadians who served in Hong Kong, Burma and the Far East, as well as

members of HMCS Uganda, HMCS Prince Robert and the Merchant Navy.

Although the veterans being honoured in the ceremony fought over half a century ago, their memories of war were as clear as ever.

John Cotton first served in the navy in 1942. "I can remember the expressions on people's faces," Cotton said, recalling some of the difficult experiences he endured.

"I'm writing it all now," he said.

Air Force veteran George Dungey said the ceremony brought back memories.

"When you're sitting there (during the ceremony), your mind goes back to good friends that you've lost," Dungey said.

Cam Cathcart, with the Remembrance Day Observance Committee, said that while it's

significant for the country to have honoured Smith a day earlier the VJ-Day ceremonies included all veterans of the Second World War.

"It's the 60th anniversary of the end of the war, which is a celebration in itself," Cathcart said.

"It marks a turning point in the public's consciousness about the significance of the war being over. We still have a lot to do, a lot has happened since the end of the war but we're a richer nation because of what (the soldiers) did for us in the past."

The ceremony ended with a parade, with some veterans marching along and others being driven in army vehicles.

In Ottawa about 100 veterans who fought in the Far East marched past the National War Memorial to observe a war museum dedication.

## WEB LINKS

In keeping with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the V-J Day, here is a link to an interesting blog on the Veterans Affairs Canada web site. Veterans of the campaign in the Far East and their families share their thoughts about the conflict and there is also a link to post your own comments if you wish. Check it out at:

[http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=feature/yearofveteran05/vfe/vfe\\_blog](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=feature/yearofveteran05/vfe/vfe_blog)



## REFLECTIONS

Michael Joseph Quigley was one of over 233 men of the Newfoundland Regiment who died at Beaumont Hamel on July 1 1916. As it turns out, his service and sacrifice probably would have faded from memory if it had not been for the efforts of one of his descendants, Gene Quigley of St. John's Nfld. In a moving article published in the August 31 edition of the St. John's "Telegram", Mr. Quigley reflects on how his research revealed a story of a hero whose short life was quite average, but ended like so many others on that fateful day in 1916. Our thanks to the "Telegram" and Mr. Quigley and his family for sharing their story and also for permission to use this article in our newsletter.

*A Picture of a War Hero – Researching the story of a Newfoundland soldier who would never see home again. By Gene Quigley of St. John's Newfoundland.*

*"Michael Joseph Quigley was born April 26, 1885, the youngest of five children born to Timothy Quigley and Margaret Whitty of Torbay. He had*

one older brother, John, and two sisters, Mary and Margaret. Another brother, James Joseph, must have passed away at a young age because the family has little knowledge of him, and there is no reference to him in any pages of recorded history. Quigley's mother passed away when he was 10 years old. Undoubtedly, his two older sisters filled the void and played a huge role in rearing him...

"...With the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, young men across the world enlisted in the armed forces to fight for the Empire. Newfoundland was no exception. Quigley was one of these men. On Jan. 2, 1915, he went to the CLB Armoury on Harvey Road to enlist in the First Newfoundland Regiment....

"...On February 5, a little over a month after his enlistment, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Contingent, 244 strong, sailed out of St. John's aboard the sealing tender Neptune. That evening, the draft was put aboard the SS Dominion which was waiting in convoy off Bay Bulls. For Quigley and many of his companions, this would be the last time they would see Newfoundland. They arrived in Liverpool, England, on February 16 and joined the regiment at Edinburgh Castle as "C" company. While in England and Scotland, the First Newfoundland Regiment did its military training.

"By September, Quigley was one of nearly 1,100 Newfoundlanders who landed on the Gallipoli peninsula. While there, they were assigned to the 29<sup>th</sup> Division. It was here the regiment first engaged the enemy, and had its first casualties. They also experienced the deplorable conditions of trench warfare. In January 1916, when the strategy failed, the regiment along with other forces, was evacuated. By March, the regiment was sent to the Somme River area of France. The regiment was going to be part of a major assault on the enemy or what became known as the 'July Drive'.

"Shortly after 9:00 a.m. on July 1, 1916, Newfoundlanders went over the top to face the onslaught of the enemy. This was the only attack

at the time and the German guns were pointed directly at the regiment. It was all over in less than 30 minutes. The results were staggering. It took awhile to get the numbers, but the results were 233 men killed, 386 wounded and 91 missing. One of the missing was Michael J. Quigley of St. John's. It should be noted that Beaumont Hamel was part of the larger Battle of the Somme. On this first day of battle, the British suffered 58,000 casualties. No unit suffered heavier casualties, however, than the Newfoundland Regiment.

"It took a while for this news to reach Newfoundland. Eventually, a letter came to Quigley's sister, Mary Turner, stating that her brother was missing. Then, a few weeks before Christmas, another letter arrived. This particular letter gave the bad news that Quigley was not a prisoner of war and he was probably killed on that fateful day...

"...Quigley was indeed killed that infamous day but absolute proof was only received in April 1917. Quigley had been lying the mud of a shell hole for 14 months. ...



Michael Joseph Quigley  
Courtesy of Gene Quigley

"Quigley is buried in the Y Ravine cemetery in Beaumont Hamel, France. The location of his headstone is Plot 1, Row C, Grave 20. In addition to this, his name and date of death are engraved on the Turner headstone in Belvedere cemetery. It is interesting to note that I have often walked through that graveyard in my teenage years and noticed the name Quigley on the headstone, but never really thought it could be a relative of mine. In 1919, families who lost loved ones in the Great War received a Memorial Plaque and a scroll from His Majesty's government. This souvenir became unofficially known as the Death Penny.

"Quigley's plaque is located at the St. John's Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 1. His medals are unaccounted for but his picture is in fine form thanks to my cousin Lorraine Cowan. The photo was in her home when I first saw it in 1997. This year, The Year of the Veteran, I was speaking to Lorraine and I asked about the picture. She asked me if I would like to have it. I promptly answered "yes" and I am proud and honoured to have it.