

BRIEFING NOTE: C&E HERITAGE THEMES 2018, 2019 & 2020

Submitted To: C&E Branch Advisor for the Branch Advisory Committee

Submitted By: LCol (Ret'd) Bob Taylor, Col (Ret'd) Jim Holsworth, C&E Heritage & Museum Committee

Information: President C&E Association, Colonel Commandant, Branch Adjutant, Branch CWO

Reference: AAR on 'Return to Vimy' Battlefield Study 1-10 April 2017

INTRODUCTION

Background. The C&E Heritage Program aims to *Preserve, Educate and Celebrate* our heritage, along four lines: collection and research, education and outreach, commemorative planning and museum development. The intent is to stimulate our community to 'get involved' in their history through commemoration of our people, units, missions and technologies. Current initiatives include oral history, unit histories, Graves of the Fallen, C&E Memorials, battlefield studies, youth education and interface with VAC for national events.

C&E Heritage & Museum (H&M) Committee has developed annual heritage themes, within the context of education of the military community and Canadian public, on the legacy of our heroes, investigation into their missions and telling of their stories. Themes will synchronize heritage initiatives, by suggesting unifying activities, but do not preclude the celebration of other milestones.

Heritage Themes. Successful annual themes to date include:

- **2015 – *Victory in Europe & the Pacific.*** The C&E Heritage program started with a de facto theme focused on commemorating the end of World War II, used for the opening of the museum extension.
- **2016 – *United Nations Operations.*** With the 60th anniversary of UNEF I, this theme recognized C&E contributions to peace support and humanitarian missions. UN topics were included in C&E Week.
- **2017 – *Canada as a Nation.*** With Canada 150 and centenary of Vimy Ridge, Hill 70 and other WWI battles, this theme included a battlefield study, museum displays, speakers and dedication of a C&E cairn at Hill 70 by C&E personnel in Europe.

Aim. To seek BAC direction on 2018 (in-year) activities and approval for deliberate planning to start on the proposed theme and heritage activities for 2019 and 2020.

DISCUSSION

Planned Heritage Themes. Lateness in planning has not allowed for significant theme activities in 2018, and attention has now shifted to planning events for 2019 and 2020. The following are proposed:

- **2018 – *Canada at Home.*** See Annex A. In addition to suggested local activities, 2018 will see the 115th Anniversary of RCCS, the 50th of the C&E Branch, the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day and the 75th Anniversary of the Italian campaign, Operation HUSKY.
- **2019 – *Canada's North.*** See Annex B. This theme focuses attention on the many C&E Branch achievements within Canada's north, including the NWT&Y Radio System, NORAD, and proposes a 'battlefield study' to visit key sites in Canada's north.

- **2020 – *The Liberation of the Netherlands*.** The Dutch Connection started with a special presentation by HCapt Liesbeth Langford and by LCol (Ret'd) Peter Sheremeta on the Dutch Signal Museum. BAC has already approved a C&E-led battlefield study to the Netherlands in 2020.

Funding. The C&E Museum Foundation, including the Ramsay Withers Heritage Fund, has agreed to lead fund-raising initiatives identified by the Association, Branch Fund and Museum Business Plans.

Communications. If approved, the following will be developed by the C&E H&M Committee:

- communiqué from Branch Leader to Regular and Reserve units and C&E leadership;
- communiqué from the President C&E Association to its membership and veterans' groups;
- postings on CMCEN.ca, RCSigs.ca and Branch, Signallers Club, Museum and unit websites, and
- feature articles in appropriate public-domain media such as military magazines.

CONCLUSION

Direction Sought. It is requested that the BAC:

- approve the 2018, and 2019 and 2020 heritage themes;
- communicate and encourage involvement in heritage activities across the Branch;
- direct for 2018 -
 - planning guidance and designated lead for C&E Reunion 2018,
 - acknowledge CFJSR lead on C&E participation in Op HUSKY events,
 - incorporate 'Canada At Home' theme into C&E Week 2018 for PD of domestic operations; and
 - confirm C&E participation in national Armistice Day ceremonies;
- direct for 2019 -
 - approval for a professional study of the North and to proceed with deliberate planning for Op MERCURY GOLD,
 - incorporate 'Canada's North' theme into C&E Week 2019 professional development,
 - examination of lessons-learned from pioneering in the north, as they apply to today, and case studies for Subalterns' and Sergeants' Indoctrinations,
 - assignment of a CAF lead to form a joint (serving / retired) planning committee and explore public support for Op MERCURY GOLD (potential exercise, PD, adventure training),
- direct for 2020 – the stand-up of a planning committee for 75th Anniversary of Liberation of The Netherlands 2020.



Annexes

Annex A – Outline of 2018 Activities

Annex B – Outline of 2019 and Northern Tour Proposal

ANNEX A – C&E HERITAGE THEME 2018 – 'Canada at Home'

Context. This theme is motivated by the incredible contributions by the C&E Branch to domestic operations. There is potential to celebrate our C&E heritage through the lens of our work on the home front.

Aim. To educate Canadians, and our military community, on the legacy of the C&E Branch in domestic operations, through commemoration of our heroes, investigation into their missions and telling of their stories.

Concept. Some activities will be coordinated centrally by the Association, Branch and Museum. The main impetus; however, will be the generation of local interest, under the “domestic operations” theme, by Regular / Reserve units and veterans groups. The intent is to stimulate heritage initiatives across our community and does not preclude the celebration of other significant milestones and achievements.

CENTRALLY COORDINATED ACTIVITIES

National Commemorations / Other (Non-Theme) Milestones

- 75th Anniversary of Italian Campaign Op HUSKY. C&E community has been invited by the RCA to send a participant in a battlefield tour through Italy and commemorative trek in Sicily.
- 11 November: Armistice, National War Memorial, Vimy Gate Service, Remembrance Day services.
- C&E Reunion for 115th Anniversary of RCCS and 50th Anniversary of Branch.
- 65th Anniversary of Korean War. National commemorations planned by VAC and KVA.
- 50th Anniversary of Wegner Point CFB Petawawa

Professional Development & Education

- Potential theme for 2018 C&E Week PD symposium including speakers, examination of lessons-learned from domestic missions. Potential case studies:
 - Op TRIBUNE: G8 Summit, ON
 - Op LENTUS 1301: flood relief, AB
 - Op LENTUS 1501: tornado relief, ON
 - Op SEISME: earthquake relief, QC
 - Op REMPART: forest fire relief, QC
 - Op LASER: H1N1 pandemic, ON
- Introduction of 2019 theme Canada's North through Op BOXTOP Alert hercules crash study;
- Publish case study support material on <https://CMCEN.ca>
- Incorporate domestic operational experiences into Subalterns' and Sergeants' Indoctrination
- Incorporate theme at Association / Branch Mess Dinners, unit and veteran group dinners.
- Continue 'Speaker Series' on Domestic Topics (EW in Oka, Olympic CCIS, Ice Storm, Y2K....)

Museum Activities & Heritage Programs

- Helping Canadians display in the Museum (digital input from community, communications plans, etc.)
- Publish and emphasize domestic memorials (part of Memorials Project) including geographic features named after Signalers and Communicators
- Interviews with serving or retired personnel in domestic operations (part of Oral History Project)

Focused Research / Develop the Archives

- Continue to accession, de-accession and catalogue Museum archives (to enable access and research)
- Republish articles on missions, or extracts from Semaphore to Satellite, related to domestic operations
- Seek historical accounts or stories from missions in Canada (Oka, FLQ, Olympics, NWT&Y) to

- enrich our C&E archives historical database, and any museum display
- Collaborate with RCMP, RKUSI, Queens and RMC for related lectures and research

LOCAL UNIT AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

For C&E Units / Staff Branches. Collaborate regionally between Regular, Reserve and Retired groups:

- Find and visit local graves (priority for Graves of our Fallen Project)
- Displays / banners at entrances / common areas in unit lines or messes
- Presentation, story or theme at mess gatherings or PD session
- Encourage individuals to write articles on domestic operations (for posting on CMCEN.ca)
- Unit adventure training to a sites in Canada (following the “Battlefield Study” concept)

For Veterans Groups / Associations

- Generating interest, enthusiasm and support for any number of local or regional activities
- Re-enactment groups (such as Vintage Signal Team) to use Canadian operations
- Mobile exhibits and outreach programs to schools (similar to Hamilton, 32 Sig Regt)
- Associations take on project to capture stories from domestic operations
- Recognize individual contributions to domestic operations

IMPLEMENTATION

Branch Initiatives. With BAC endorsement, initiate a Branch Leader communiqué, laying out the plan, requesting activity leads and giving the "Canada at Home Challenge" to all units. Solicit nominations for the Heritage Awards, by rallying interest across the C&E community to get involved, delve into our history and celebrate the C&E role in CCIS development and helping Canadians at home.

Industry and Academia. There is also potential to collaborate with industry and the academic communities on the shared history of in the development of Canadian information and communication technologies.

Activity Leads. Volunteers needed to coordinate tasks or assist the Museum staff.

Budget. Need to identify costs for each activities to be included in the Association & Branch Business Plans or Museum Business Plan, to enable the C&E Foundation to facilitate support and fund-raising.

References/Websites

Published articles for domestic operations: <https://CMCEN.ca>

Semaphore to Satellite

<http://www.cfc.forces.gc.ca>

http://www.rcsigs.ca/index.php/Graves_of_our_Fallen_Project

http://www.rcsigs.ca/index.php/CandE_Memorials_Project

ANNEX B - OUTLINE HERITAGE THEME 2019 – 'Canada's North'

Context. This theme is motivated by the contributions by the C&E Branch, and founding elements, in Canada's North. Celebrate, preserve and educate C&E heritage through the lens of innovation in three areas:

- history and evolution of NORAD (including radar lines);
- history of NWT&Y Radio and pioneering of the North; and
- related to both, the pioneering of Canadian CIS /IT with industry.

Aim. To educate Canadians, and military community, on the legacy of the C&E Branch in building Canada's north, through commemoration of our heroes, investigation into their missions and telling of their stories.

Concept. Some activities will be coordinated through the H&M Committee. The main impetus, however, will be the generation of local interest by Regular / Reserve units and veterans groups. The intent is to align heritage initiatives under the theme, and does not preclude the celebration of other significant milestones.

CENTRALLY COORDINATED ACTIVITIES

National Commemorations / Other (Non-Theme) Milestones

- 75th Anniversary of D-Day. RCA inviting C&E community to participate in Normandy battlefield tour.

For C&E Units / Staff Branches

- 11 Nov, Canada's North at Vimy Gate or other Remembrance Day ceremonies
- "Op MERCURY GOLD": a summer tour (battlefield study approach) of sites in Canada's north:
 - Whitehorse, Mayo, Dawson, Burwash Landing
 - Re-enact the original river boat trip into Mayo and/or Dawson
 - Bring 2 x PRC-138 (modern) or other HF sets (museum pieces from the era that work) and conduct a link. If the original message is archived in radio logs, re-send
 - Practice panning for gold
- Visit memorial sites dedicated to Signallers and Communicators
- Presentation, story or theme at TGIT/TGIF, special gathering or PD session:
 - CO CFS Alert for Hercules crash / Search & Rescue
 - HADCS development, deployment and support
- online submissions to <http://www.cmcen.ca> and submission to Legion or military magazines

For Veterans Groups and Associations

- Generating interest, enthusiasm and support for any number of local or regional activities
- Re-enactment groups to use Canadian operations (maybe the North)
- Mobile exhibits and outreach to schools by associations
- Associations take on project to capture stories from northern or at home pioneering
- Honour individuals, exploring the northern lakes named in honour of Communicators and Signallers.

Professional Development & Education

- 2019 C&E PD Symposium 'Communicating in the North' with speakers (JTF-N), lessons-learned
- Case Studies: NWT&Y presentation, NORAD, DEW lines, Mid Canada Line, North heavy drop,
- Incorporate operations in the north into Subalterns' and Sergeants' Indoctrination
- Incorporate at Association / Branch Mess Dinners, Unit and veteran group dinners
- 'Speaker Series' or vignette on northern topics (JTF-N, NORAD, NWT&Y Radio, CFS Alert)

Museum Activities and Heritage Programs

- Mobile NWT&Y display (photos, banners, paintings, loans from other Museums)
- Search for memorials (part of Memorials Project) including the northern lakes named after Signallers
- Interviews with pioneers of the north, innovators of technology (part of Oral History Project)

Focused Research / Develop the Archives

- Continue to accession, de-accession and catalogue Museum archives (enable access and research)
- Republish articles on missions or extracts from Semaphore to Satellite, related to Canada's north
- Seek historical accounts from missions in Canada's north (NORAD, NWT&Y, JTF-N today)
- Collaborate with RCMP, RKUSI, Queens and RMC for related lectures and research

LOCAL UNIT AND REGIONAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

C&E Units and Staff Branches. Collaborate regionally between Regular, Reserve and Retired groups:

- Find and visit local graves (priority for Graves of our Fallen Project)
- Displays / banners at entrances / common areas in unit lines or messes
- Presentation, story or theme at TGIF, special gathering or PD session
- Research unit history, write articles on unit or individual involvement in northern operations

IMPLEMENTATION

Branch Initiative. Initiated through a letter from the Branch Leader, laying out the plan, requesting activity leads and giving the "C&E Northern Challenge" to all elements. Supported by the Heritage Awards, the intent is to rally interest across the serving and retired community to delve into our history and celebrate the C&E role and involvement in Canadian IT pioneering and opening of the north.

RCMP and Canadian Ranger Patrols. There is great potential to collaborate with the RCMP and with Ranger Patrols on the shared histories from opening of the North to collaboration on security operations.

Industry and Academia. There is also potential to collaborate with industry and the academic communities on the shared history in the development of Canadian IT and pioneering of communication technologies.

Activity Leads. Volunteers will be solicited to coordinate individual events or assist the Museum staff.

Money. Need to identify costs for specific activities and include a budget in the Branch Fund Business Plan or Museum Business Plan, to enable the C&E Foundation to facilitate support and fund-raising.

References/Websites

Semaphore to Satellite

http://www.rcsigs.ca/index.php/Northwest_Territories_and_Yukon_Radio_System_Portal

http://www.rcsigs.ca/index.php/Graves_of_our_Fallen_Project

http://www.rcsigs.ca/index.php/CandE_Memorials_Project