



1000-10 (Col Cmdt)

15 March 2021

C&E Branch

C&E BRANCH AND THE 2022 VICTORY TOUR BATTLEFIELD STUDY – NETHERLANDS 2022

1. Introduction. It is important that as a C&E Family we promote and support the Preservation, Celebration and Education of our illustrious history. In 2017, 100 members – serving and retired – from our community participated in the 100th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and visited many of the major battlefield locations from both World Wars. Many serving members who participated in this incredible trip were genuinely impacted by what they observed and experienced.



2. Battlefield Study 2020. Following on this successful and rewarding Study trip we were proud to launch a 'Victory Tour' in 2020 to commemorate the legacy of our predecessors in the Liberation of The Netherlands, by deploying sailors, soldiers, and aviators into this unique professional experience. We had a great plan! Unfortunately, a global pandemic got in our way and curtailed its execution. But we are intending to remount the Battlefield Study for 2022. Here's a short recap of our rationale and reasons for originally organizing this Battlefield Study.

3. Why a Battlefield Study? Our past C&E communicators 'got comms thru' as Canadians fought in, and over, the Channel along the coast of France and Belgium, and over dykes of the Netherlands. We liberated the Dutch and helped rebuild their lives. Canadian linemen connected the German commander for the surrender to General Foulkes. Your Museum holds the ceasefire message. Our RCAF colleagues supported all air operations playing a major role in Operation MANNA – delivering food to the starving Dutch population and participating in all the major air campaigns in support of the liberation including the Allied air campaign against the German Op Bodenplatte in 1945.

4. Battlefield Study 2022. The program remains superb: a 10-day Study trip in The Netherlands (Market Garden, Op VERITABLE and BLOCKBUSTER, Groesbeek and Holten War Cemeteries, and other commemorative events). This is not a wine tour! Everyone is expected to research the campaign and '*signalling stories*', and present their experiences upon return. There will be interaction between historians, retired and serving alike, and reading material on www.cmcen-rcmce.ca. Liesbeth Langford will be again invited to join us, as will our Royal Signals colleagues. We intend to install a memorial plaque at the home of Dutch Signals at their barracks in Stroe, NL. C&E personnel in Europe may also tag-on.

5. Conclusion. The Battlefield Study is all about our people: creating an esprit de corps and identity, as part of our professional preparation to go to chaotic parts of the world and do our business of communications, information operations, and cyber warfare. The examples of courage, initiative, and sacrifice by our forebears can only reinforce the commitment and motivation of our communicators today to enable command. Additional information on the Battlefield Study is available from the individuals listed below:

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