

Annex A - Proposed Itinerary – Battlefield Tour 2020

Saturday, 18 April 2020

Depart Vancouver at 10:30 AM, fly CDG via Toronto Pearson.

Sunday, 19 April 2020

If you plan to get a Sim card, we found Orange is very affordable and will give you up to 20G so you can use your phone as a GPS. You can find Orange cards at the Relay store in any of the 3 terminals in the airport. Or you can pre-order from their website and have it delivered to your home. [orange sim cards](#)

Arrive Charles De Gaulle Airport at 8 :40am

Booking.com is quoting good prices. You might check there first.

EX: Pick up cars at Hertz car rentals

Renault Clio or similar

4 Passengers

1 Large Suitcase, 2 Small Suitcases

Manual Transmission, Air Conditioning, 17 km/liters

Included: Vehicle Licensing Fee and Road Tax, Total Sales Tax, Location Service Charge

One driver: age 25+

Drive to La Forêt d'Auvray – 316 kms, Toll roads

Check in to Normandy Chateau <https://www.vrbo.com/421125ha>

7 Bedrooms (6 En-suite Bathrooms + 2 additional) Normandy Self Catering Rental

L'Orangerie was built in 1703, originally part of the local historically important chateau and 8th Century Priory. It is a stunning base from which to experience the best that Normandy and the Suisse Normande has to offer.

Rest

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Monday, 20 April 2020

Drive to Juno Beach 75 kms

The Juno Beach Centre is Canada's Second World War museum and cultural centre located in Normandy, France. The Centre pays homage to the 45,000 Canadians who lost their lives during the War, of which 5,500 were killed during the Battle of Normandy and 359 on D-Day. Opened in 2003 by veterans and volunteers with a vision to create a permanent memorial to all Canadians who served during the Second World War, the Centre's mandate is to preserve this legacy for future generations through education and remembrance.

Tour Juno Beach, Ste Aubin-sur-Mer

Bény-sur-Mer Canadian Cemetery - France

Lieutenant Edward Frank Mantle

Return to house 75 kms

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Tuesday, 21 April 2020

Drive to Omaha Beach 104 kms, approx. 1h 45 m

Visit Omaha Beach Memorial Museum

The museum is located on Omaha Beach itself where the American naval landing took place on June 6 called Bloody Omaha. The 1200m² Omaha Beach Memorial Museum was founded in memory of all those young men who died in 1944 and whose memory we are duty bound to keep, that future generations may never forget at what cost our freedom came. Self-guided tour.

Return to Rouen 104 kms, approx. 1h 45 m

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Wednesday, 22 April 2020

Drive to Point 67 50 km, approx. 40 min

Nestled in a rolling valley where narrow farm lanes and secondary roads converge to cross the meandering Dives River, the village of St-Lambert-sur-Dives –approximately 20 kilometres south of Falaise–was of vital importance to the Allies and to the Germans during World War II. In August 1944 it was where German forces–numbering in the thousands–were trying to escape eastward through a narrow gap in the Falaise Pocket. It was also where Major David Currie of the South Alberta Regiment earned the Victoria Cross.

Referred to as Point 67, the hill overlooking the village of St-André-sur-Orne was the northern spur of Verrières Ridge, which in July 1944 was the key to the German defences south of Caen. On Aug. 18, 1944 the South Alberta Regiment moved through Trun where enemy soldiers were trying to surrender. Shortly after, Currie’s tank squadron arrived at an orchard overlooking the Dives. “In the distance, we could see rising clouds of dust,” Currie noted. “We were witnessing...the remnants of the German forces in France trying to escape the pocket. The columns were about three to four miles from our location and seemed to consist of every type and kind of vehicle.... The column stretched for as far as we could see....”

Currie, who was in command of a small force of tanks, self-propelled anti-tank guns and infantry, was ordered to cut one of the main escape routes from the Falaise Pocket. In the face of fierce opposition from enemy tanks, guns and infantry he and his men succeeded in seizing a position halfway inside the village. “During the next 36 hours the Germans hurled one counter-attack after another against the Canadian force,” states the citation for Currie’s VC, “but so skillfully had Major Currie organized his defensive position that these attacks were repulsed with severe casualties to the enemy....”

Bretteville sur Laize Canadian Military Cemetery - France

Sergeant Claude Everly Rogers

Bombardier Gordon George Sheldon

Sergeant Robert Dixon Spring

Return to Rouen 50 km, approx. 40 min

Optional Item - Visit Bayeux Tapestries – 85 km

The Bayeux Tapestry in the Bayeux Museum is an embroidered cloth nearly 70 meters long and 50 centimeters tall, which depicts the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England concerning William, Duke of Normandy, and Harold, Earl of Wessex, later King of England, and culminating in the Battle of Hastings

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Thursday, 23 April 2020

Optional visit to Jersey Channel Islands War Tunnels – car & ferry – approx. 4 hr each way

Visit St Malo – the fortress Island 2 hrs each way.

Visit St Lo – made famous in the D-Day film with the paratrooper on the church steeple.

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Friday, 24 April 2020

Drive to Dieppe 230 kms, Toll Roads, approx. 2 h30m hrs

A port on the English Channel, at the mouth of the Arques river, famous for its scallops, and with a regular ferry service to Newhaven in England, Dieppe also has a popular pebbled beach, a 15th-century castle and the churches of Saint-Jacques and Saint-Remi. The mouth of the Scie river lies in the Canton of Dieppe-Ouest at Hautot-sur-Mer.

Dieppe was occupied by German naval and army forces after the fall of France in 1940. In order to allow a better defence of the coast against a possible Allied landing, the Germans destroyed the mauresque casino that was located near the beach area. The destruction of the casino had only begun at the time of the Dieppe Raid.

The Dieppe Raid in the Second World War was a costly battle for the Allies. On August 19, 1942, Allied soldiers, mainly drawn from the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, landed at Dieppe in the hope of occupying the town for a short time, gaining intelligence and drawing the Luftwaffe into open battle. The Allies suffered more than 1,400 deaths, 907 Canadian, and 1,946 Canadian soldiers were captured – more prisoners than the army lost in the 11 months of the 1944–45 NW Europe campaign. However, no major objectives were achieved.

The port remained garrisoned by German forces until the conclusion of the Battle of Normandy. When the First Canadian Army approached at the end of August, the garrison withdrew, not desiring to enter into battle for the port.

Dieppe was liberated on September 1, 1944, by soldiers from the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division. On September 3, the entire division paused for reorganization, and a victory parade was held; contingents representing all major units of the 2nd Division marched 10 abreast behind the massed pipes and drums of the division's highland regiments. A memorial service was held in the nearby Canadian military cemetery to honour those killed in the Dieppe Raid.

At the Square du Canada, near the castle in a park at the western end of the Esplanade, there is a monument erected by the town commemorating the long relationship between Dieppe and Canada. The events recorded begin with the early 16th century, and culminate with the Dieppe Raid and the liberation of Dieppe by Canadians on September 1, 1944. The base of the monument is inscribed with the words "nous nous souvenons" ("we remember"). Above the monument, the Canadian Maple Leaf flag is flown side-by-side with that of France.

The castle, Château de Dieppe, which survived the 1694 bombardment, is now a museum and exhibition space, with a strong maritime collection. A rich collection of 17th- and 18th-century ivory carvings, including lacy folding fans, for which Dieppe was known, and the furnishings and papers of Camille Saint-Saëns. The castle's interior courtyard is picturesque.

Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery - France

Gunner Joseph Camile Dessureault

Bombardier James Charters (unknown grave)

Bombardier George Allen Northgraves (unknown grave)

Drive to house in [Alveringem \(BE\)](#) from Dieppe – 247 km, approx. 3 hrs

Settle in for the evening

Holiday home, 7 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom, (Sleeps 28)

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This is a luxurious 7-bedroom holiday home for 28 people located in Alveringem, Belgium, very close to the Flemish coast. It has a table tennis table, billiards table, foosball, Dutch shuffleboard, a slide, climbing tower, sandbox, and a gaming console. For the adults, there is a sauna and a bar. The tranquil surroundings offer opportunities for hiking and cycling. Diksmuide, Ypres and many other charming villages are just a stone's throw away.

***Bed linens will be rented but you need to bring your own towel!**

Alveringem is 25 km from Ypres, approx. 25 min

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Saturday, 25 April 2020

Day in Ypres, 25 km, approx. 25 min

Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is a war memorial in Ypres, Belgium, dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres Salient of World War I and whose graves are unknown. The tribute is the responsibility of the Ypres Last Post Committee, a voluntary organization founded in 1928. The cost of the operation, of necessity kept to a minimum, is defrayed from the income of an endowment fund established at that time; and to supplement this, a fund has been started in Vancouver. Two silver trumpets for use in the ceremony are a gift to the Ypres Last Post Committee by an officer of the Royal Canadian Artillery, who served with the 10th Battery, of St. Catharines, Ontario, in Ypres in April 1915. The ceremony of the last post is at 8.00 p.m. every day. It is not an entertainment but a serious ceremony. It is inappropriate to applaud

The Canadian Memorial at St. Julien stands like a sentinel over those who died during the heroic stand of Canadians during the first gas attacks of the First World War. It is one of the most striking of all the battlefield memorials on the Western Front. Rising almost 11 metres from a stone-flagged court, "The Brooding Soldier" surmounts a single shaft of granite - the bowed head and shoulders of a Canadian soldier with folded hands resting on arms reversed. The expression on the face beneath the steel helmet is resolute yet sympathetic, as though its owner meditates on the battle in which his comrades displayed such great valour. The statue is set in the middle of a garden surrounded by tall cedars, which are kept trimmed to perfect cones to match and complement the towering granite shaft

The Passchendaele Memorial is a Canadian war memorial that commemorates the actions of the Canadian Corps in the Second Battle of Passchendaele of World War I. The memorial is located on the former site of Crest Farm, an objective captured by the 4th Canadian Division during the assault of 30 October 1917

Godwaersvelde, France – On 14 July 1916, 31st Battery arrived in France, detrained and occupied billets in Steenvoorde (France)

Zillebeke, Belgium – First rounds fired in anger, 31st Battery engaged enemy trenches 58-61 on 27 Jul, 1916 from 2.57 A.M. to 4.A.M. with Good effect. 133 Rounds H.E. Expended.

Vlamertinghe, Belgium - We reached our new wagon lines about 3.00 pm and found there was no cover for either horses or men so tents had to be erected for the men.

Our batteries relieved the batteries of the 108th A.F.A. in the early morning of Oct 21 1917 and found the battery positions a sea of mud and many guns hopelessly mired while the roads leading into the battery positions were completely blocked with over-turned guns, wagons, dead horses and mules and other supplies.

Passchendaele, Belgium On 3 Nov 1917 our battery positions were very heavily shelled during the day and quite a large number of casualties inflicted. Lieut. McIlquham of the 31st Battery, C.F.A. was very severely wounded and passed away on 6 Nov 1917. He was awarded the Military Cross.

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Nine Elms British Cemetery - Belgium

Lieutenant James Maxwell McIlquham MC

Dadizele New British Cemetery - Belgium

Lieutenant Claude Melnot Wilson

Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery - Belgium

Gunner Leonard Duncan Haslett

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Sunday, 26 April 2020

Drive to Vimy Ridge 104 kms, approx. 1h19min

The Canadian National Vimy Memorial is dedicated to the memory of Canadian Expeditionary Force members killed during the First World War. It also serves as the place of commemoration for Canadian soldiers of the First World War killed or presumed dead in France who have no known grave. The monument is the centrepiece of a 100-hectare (250-acre) preserved battlefield park that encompasses a portion of the ground over which the Canadian Corps made their assault during the initial Battle of Vimy Ridge offensive of the Battle of Arras.

Canadian Corps Artillery Memorial in Thélus, France, honours First World War Canadian gunners. Artillery played a vital role on the battlefields of the First World War, and Canadian gunners were among the best on the Western Front.

Vimy Ridge, France – Apr 9th 11.27 a.m. 31st Battery report lieut. Robertson F.O.O. on top of the Ridge.

Vimy, France - On the night of the 15th/16th the 31st Battery moved forward to new position in VIMY and registered the following day.

Vimy, France - On 28 April 1917, One gun of 31st Battery put out of action by hostile fire.

Vimy, France – 31st Battery comes under tactical control 9th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery.

Barlin Communal Cemetery – France

Gunner Thomas Leroy Chambers MM

Gunner Charles Gregg

Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension - Pas de Calais – France

Major George Herbert Maxwell

Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont-Saint-Éloi, France

Gunner Lawrence Caffrey

Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez Pas de Calais - France

Lieutenant James Kay

Gunner Christian Jamsen Sorensen

Gunner Roland Francis Turne

La Targette British Cemetery, Neuville-St. Vaast, France

Bombardier Edward Hayes Smith, MM

Optional Item – Visit Louvre Museum annex in Lens

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Monday, 27 April 2020

Drive to Mons, Belgium 132 kms, approx. 1h 32min

On 23–24 August 1914, Mons was the location of the Battle of Mons—the first battle fought by the British Army in World War I. The British were forced to retreat with just over 1,600 casualties, and the town remained occupied by the Germans until its liberation by the Canadian Corps during the final days of the war.

Within the front entrance to the City hall, there are several memorial placards related to the WW1 battles and in particular, one has the inscription:

MONS WAS RECAPTURED BY THE CANADIAN CORPS ON THE 11th NOVEMBER 1918:

AFTER FIFTY MONTHS OF GERMAN OCCUPATION, FREEDOM WAS RESTORED TO THE CITY:

HERE WAS FIRED THE LAST SHOT OF THE GREAT WAR.

Optional Item - Take the train to London? \$120.00 one way or a Ferry to Dover at \$50.00 one way

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Tuesday, 28 April 2020

Drive to Cambrai 151 kms, toll roads, approx. 1h41min

Quarry Wood, France – 27 Sep 1918, directly after the barrage was completed, reconnaissances were made and the batteries, ... were moved forward to the vicinity of Quarry Wood.

29 Sep 1918, In addition the 45th had one gun knocked out and the 31st another.

Raillencourt, France – 30 Sep 1918, during the morning the C.O. Brigade reconnoitred positions for the batteries in the vicinity of Raillencourt and Sailly and at dusk batteries moved their guns to that vicinity.

3 Oct 1918, later it was learned that enemy had advanced to attack in three parties totaling some 400 men, that they had been caught in our barrage, very much cut up and many killed, leaving three prisoners in our hands.

3 Oct 1918, Lieut. Colonel Coghlan arrived back from England today. He will stay tonight at the wagon lines and tomorrow take over from Lieut. Colonel Ralston as Group Commander

Honourable Artillery Company Cemetery (Ecoust-St. Mein), Pas De Calais, France

Lieutenant Albert Alexander Allen

Wellington Cemetery, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

Gunner John Francis Blanchard

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Wednesday, 29 April 2020

Drive to Amiens 218 kms, tolls roads, approx. 2h25min

The Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial stands as an important symbol of remembrance and a lasting tribute to all Newfoundlanders who served during the First World War. At the heart of the memorial stands a great bronze caribou (the emblem of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment). Its defiant gaze forever fixed towards its former foe, the caribou stands watch over rolling fields that still lay claim to many men with no known final resting place.

L'ecleme, France - On 4 Nov 1916, about 12.10 p.m. a cartridge exploded in the breech of No.2 gun of 31st Battery, blowing off the breech block and ring, and setting fire to the pit. The 300 odd rounds of ammunition in the pit started to explode and continued to do so for about 5 minutes. There were four men in the pit at the time of the explosion. Gunner Letch and Gunner Grisdale were killed in the pit, the other two being slightly wounded. Sergt. Simmons behaved most gallantly.

Gentiles, France 10 Aug 1918, About midnight a bomb hit in the vicinity of the 31st battery killing Captain Bawden and wounding two O.Rs.

Athies Communal Cemetery Extension - Pas de Calais - France

Second Lieutenant William J Jephson

Bucquoy Road Cemetery - Ficheux - France

Gunner Peter Boyd Shaw

Albert Communal Cemetery Extension - Somme – France

Gunner Arthur Grisdale

Gunner Charles John Letch

Beaufort British Cemetery or Cerisy-Gailly Military Cemetery - France

Major Thomas Duncan Ringwood

Beaucourt British Cemetery Beaucourt-en-Santerre Picardie - France

Captain Richard Phillip Bawden

Optional Item - Take a day trip to Paris for \$120.00 round trip

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Thursday, 30 April 2020

Drive to Dunkirk 31 km, approx. 25 min

The Dunkirk evacuation, code-named Operation Dynamo, also known as the Miracle of Dunkirk, was the evacuation of Allied soldiers during World War II from the beaches and harbour of Dunkirk, in the north of France, between 26 May and 4 June 1940. The operation commenced after large numbers of Belgian, British, and French troops were cut off and surrounded by German troops during the six-week long Battle of France. In a speech to the House of Commons, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill called this "a colossal military disaster", saying "the whole root and core and brain of the British Army" had been stranded at Dunkirk and seemed about to perish or be captured. In his "we shall fight on the beaches" speech on 4 June, he hailed their rescue as a "miracle of deliverance".

Drive to Calais 100 km, approx. 1h30min

Opportunity to see the White Cliffs of Dover on a clear day.

Return to Alveringem 71 km, approx. 50 min

Annex A - Proposed Itinerary – Battlefield Tour 2020

Friday, 1 May 2020

Check out

Drive to Paris, CDG Airport 266 kms, tolls roads, approx. 2h40min

Drop off cars

Stay at [Hotel Hyatt Regency Paris - Charles De Gaulle Airport](#)

Double room with 2 single beds start at \$140 a night, on booking.com

Options – Catch the train into Paris Gare du Nord, approx. 35 min

In Paris you could take a hop on and off bus for a quick circle tour of the main sites like the Tour Eiffel, l'Arc de Triomphe, les Champs Élysées, Notre Dame...

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Saturday, 2 May 2020

Check out

Use Hotel shuttle to Airport 4.3 km

Depart Paris 1300 Arrive Toronto 1605

Depart Toronto 1800, Arrive Vancouver 1853

Annex B – Attendees – Battlefield Tour 2020

Leon Jensen	Catherine Gagnon	
Rob Garrett	Thomas Antrim	Kai Li
Mark Jackson	Laura Ritchie	Rob Wishnicki
Yves-André Langlois	Mackenzie Wilkie	Rob Hill
Doug Loney	Jim Barrett	Tom Moran
Kyle Hodgson	Yuriy Bolgak	Ken Keene
Brenda Woods	Laura Woods	Priscilla Wong