



Royal Canadian Logistics Service Association
Major EJG Holland, VC. Armoury
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1000-1 (Tour Director)

30 January 2023

Distribution List

NETHERLANDS 2023 RESEARCH STUDY PLAN – RCLS & RCE

Refs: A. Briefing Note for L1 Commanders – Op FAUST 2020 – 05 April 2019
B. 1000-1 (Tour Director) 01 February 2023 – Op FAUST Admin Instr (TBI)

INTRODUCTION

1. The RCLS Association, in conjunction with Senior Leadership of the RCLS and an Op FAUST Senior Steering Committee, have launched “Op FAUST Battlefield Study Tour 2023.” (Originally Op FAUST 2020 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands, cancelled due to COVID-19 and Op FAUST 2022 75th+2 Anniversary of the Liberation postponed due to Omicron to 2023) The tour is to commemorate the legacy of our predecessors in the liberation of The Netherlands and to instill a sense of *esprit de corps* within the RCLS and an interest in our History and Heritage among our membership.

2. We are bringing 31 fully subsidized serving members, regular and reserve, from across Canada and 22 other serving, retired and interested Canadians to our Main Effort, a ten day Battlefield Study in the Netherlands from 28 April to 07 May 2023. (There is room for up to 40 more interested people, at full-fare, up to 01 April 2023 – contact Tour Director if interested.)

3. The program has been put together by BGen (Retd) Dave Patterson and Field of Fire Tours, assisted by two Logistics Historians, Col (Retd) John Conrad and Maj (Retd) Gary Campbell, they will accompany us on the tour as our guides and Historians. We will start the 10 day Main Effort with the Dutch Military Museum on arrival and segue to Operation MARKET GARDEN, the Airborne assault on bridges across the Netherlands, and the Armoured Assault up the narrow corridor to Arnhem. On 01 May, we will visit the battlefield at select locations,

discuss the logistics and engineering implications of both the Airborne and Armoured assaults, and visit the Airborne Museum.

4. We will look in-depth during the remainder of the tour on Op VERITABLE, the assault on the Rhineland; Op BLOCKBUSTER, the capture of the Hochwald; and Op VARSITY, the crossing of the Rhine River and then the unique Operation FAUST, planned, coordinated and executed by First Canadian Army in support of starving Dutch civilians behind the NAZI German lines. We will also commemorate Netherlands Remembrance Day on 04 May at both Canadian Commonwealth Cemeteries, Holten and Groesbeek and that evening with the National Ceremonies; on 05 May, Liberation Day, we will join the National Parade with a marching and spectating contingent in Wangeningen. A very eventful but inspiring tour.

5. This is not a “Wine Tour!” every subsidized member will participate in the pre-study package, and our full-fare guests are encouraged to attend and participate (but are not compelled). All are expected to participate during the Battle Field Tours and discussions, there will be assignments both pre-deployment and post-deployment for collaborative and individual works, so the experience is captured by as many means possible. It will ensure that everyone gets the most out of this unique opportunity, and will have a chance to share it within the wider community.

6. We are also bringing a documentary Film Crew, led by Alyson MacLean of Vancouver, a War Correspondent and Documentary Film Maker who will produce a documentary on Op FAUST and Canada’s efforts to recognize the 75^{th+3} Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands.

AIM

7. To provide each sponsored member the opportunity to research each of the significant operations/activities that they will encounter during the Netherlands 2023 Battlefield Study.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

8. All participants will be provided with articles that provide an overview of the various operations that they will encounter during the Battlefield Study. These articles will be supplemented by an additional reading list that would allow them to do a more in-depth assessment should they wish to do so.

9. Over the course of the winter-spring several ZOOM sessions are planned. These sessions will include an introduction / overview presentation by BGen (Retd) Dave Patterson, Col (Retd) John Conrad and Maj (Retd) Gary Campbell – NL 2023 Tour Guides. This presentation will then be followed by a short presentation by a selected group based on research that they have done on the specific operation / event. Each member of the group will be expected to conduct research and contribute to the development of the presentation. The group will select one or two members of the group to make the actual presentation. This may be supplemented with information from RCLSA History and Heritage Chair, LCol Peter Boyle and any Administrative details from the Tour Director or our Command Team.

10. The intent is that the group's presentation will generate some further discussion among the participants but also position all participants with more background information for the visit to the actual sites of these operations during the Study. These presentations do not have to be lengthy (10-15 mins) but should focus on some aspects of the operations that the research group believes might be of interest to our RCLS, RCEME and RCE participants e.g., Replenishment and lines of communication, mobility, recovery operations, bridging and mine warfare, personal conflicts, communication and mis-communication, intelligence failures, terrain, weather, geography, or any other information the group may wish to highlight. Some reference material for these operations is now available on the www.rclsa-asrlca.org website under Netherlands Battlefield Study link and more detail will be added in the coming weeks.

COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS

11. Topics / timing for these virtual sessions are as follows:

a. **15 February 2023– Battlefield Study Introduction**

- (1) Welcome address to Battlefield Study & Tour 2023– Col Cmdt, Cmdre (Retd) Lyn Bisson;
- (2) Introduction to Battlefield Study 2023 - Maj (Retd) John Page;
- (3) Itinerary Outline – Col (Retd) John Conrad;
- (4) Outline of Special Events – Maj (Retd) John Page;
- (5) Joining Instruction Update – LCol Marie-Josée Beaulieu

b. **01 March 2023 - Operation MARKET GARDEN**

- (1) Planning Team Host – Maj (Retd) John Page
- (2) Introduction/Overview – Maj (Retd) Gary Campbell
- (3) Presentation – Group 4 – Maritimes – Lead 14 MSS Greenwood

c. **15 March 2023 – Operation VERITABLE / BLOCKBUSTER**

- (1) Planning Team Host – Maj (Retd) John Page
- (2) Introduction/Overview– Col (Retd) John Conrad
- (3) Presentation – Group 1 Western Canada – Lead 39 Svc Bn Vancouver

d. **29 March 2023 – Operation VARSITY**

- (1) Planning Team Host – Maj (Retd) John Page
- (2) Introduction/Overview – BGen (Retd) Dave Patterson
- (3) Presentation – Study Group 2 – Southern Ontario – Lead 32 Svc Bn Toronto

e. **12 April 2023 – Operation HUNGER WINTER / FAUST**

- (1) Planning Team Host – Maj (Retd) John Page
- (2) Introduction/Overview– BGen (Retd) Dave Patterson
- (3) Presentation – Study Group 3 – Ottawa – Lead HMCS Prevost London

f. **26 April 2023– Final Admin Brief and Coord, Intro Commonwealth Cemeteries for RCLS, RCEME and RCE Sacrifices**

- (1) Planning Team Host – Maj (Retd) John Page
- (2) Admin Points – LCol Marie-Josée Beaulieu,
- (3) Presentation – Intro to Commonwealth War Graves - Maj (Retd) John Page

TIMINGS

12. All presentations will begin at **1900 hours Eastern Time**. All participants will be provided with a ZOOM link joining instruction in advance scheduled presentations. LCol Peter Boyle – RCLS Assoc History & Heritage Chair – will facilitate the ZOOM meetings.

SUMMARY

13. The focus of this effort will be to provide the sponsored members with greater background information on the main operations that occurred before and during the actual liberation of the Netherlands Jan-May 1945. This initiative will provide more meaningful dialogue and exchanges during the Battlefield Study.

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John B. Page
Major (Retired)
2023 Tour Director

Date Prepared: 30 January 2023

Annexes:

Annex A – List of Groups

Annex A
 To 1000-1 (Tour Director)
 30 January 2023

Study Package Groups

Study Group 1 – Western Canada

Name	Unit	Sponsored/Not	Remarks
Celia Spruyt	19 MSS Comox	Sponsored	
Max Brown	39 Svc Bn Vancouver	Guild Sponsored	Army Cadet
Mike Morrison*	39 Svc Bn Vancouver	Sponsored	Tour RSM/Gp lead
Angelo Mathais	39 Svc Bn Vancouver	Sponsored	
Louis Chu	39 Svc Bn Vancouver	Sponsored	
Stephany Clement	4 Wg MSS Cold Lake	Sponsored	
Jordan Gibson	4 Wg MSS Cold Lake	Sponsored	
Jonathan Ferguson	26 Fd Regt Brandon	Unit Sponsored	
Will Watkins	39 Svc Bn Vancouver	Not Sponsored	Lead for 39 Svc Bn
Don Wilson	39 Svc Bn Vancouver	Not Sponsored	
Lorna Wilson	39 Svc Bn Vancouver	Not Sponsored	
John Halldorson	39 Svc Bn Vancouver	Not Sponsored	
Mike McManus	39 Svc Bn Vancouver	Not Sponsored	
Kevin Brown	39 Svc Bn Vancouver	Not Sponsored	Max' Dad
Alyson Maclean	39 Svc Bn Vancouver	Guild Sponsored	Videographer
Teyana Maclean-Teo	39 Svc Bn Vancouver	Guild Sponsored	Videographer

Study Group 2 – Southern Ontario

Name	Unit	Sponsored/Not	Remarks
Sandra Harding	31 Svc Bn Windsor	Sponsored	
Christina Christopher	31 Svc Bn London	Sponsored	
Edward Zhing*	32 Svc Bn Toronto	Unit Sponsored	Group Lead
Mathieu Belanger	32 Svc Bn Toronto	Unit Sponsored	
Patrick Philippeaux	32 Svc Bn Toronto	Unit Sponsored	
Mario Montalvo	32 Svc Bn Toronto	Unit Sponsored	
William Legend	32 Svc Bn Toronto	Unit Sponsored	
Yuvraj Aujla	32 Svc Bn Toronto	Unit Sponsored	
John Conrad	Field of Fire Tours	Not Sponsored	Historian/Guide
Daniel Conrad	John's brother	Not Sponsored	
Helene Tanguay	Field of Fire Tours	Not Sponsored	Admin
Roch Giguere	Field of Fire Tours	Not Sponsored	Admin

Study Group 3 – Ottawa & OUTCAN

Name	Unit	Sponsor/Not	Remarks
Katherine Tremblay	Op PROTEUS Jerusalem	Sponsored	
Michelle Olsen	CDLS Washington	Sponsored	
Marie-Pierre Renaud	CDLS Washington	Sponsored	
Cheng Jiang*	HMCS Prevost	Sponsored	Group Lead
Fern Marino	HMCS Prevost	Sponsored	
Steve Donovan	33 Svc Bn Ottawa	Sponsored	
Wayne MacLeod	33 Svc Bn Ottawa	Sponsored	
Mario Roy	33 Svc Bn Ottawa	Not Sponsored	
Marie-Josée Beaulieu	CMP Ottawa	Not Sponsored	Tour CO
John Page	33 Svc Bn Ottawa	Not Sponsored	Tour Director
Maryanna Hemming	33 Svc Bn Ottawa	Not Sponsored	John's Wife
Ernie Beno	BGen (Retd) RCA Kingston	Not Sponsored	Tour Sponsor

Study Group 4 – Maritimes

Name	Unit	Sponsor/Not	Remarks
Rob Holland*	14 MSS Greenwood	Sponsored	Adj + OC RCE
Philip Drost	14 MSS Greenwood	Sponsored	RCE
Jordan Vadala	14 MSS Greenwood	Sponsored	RCE
Andrew LaVallee	14 MSS Greenwood	Sponsored	RCE
Robert Yates	CFSME Gagetown	Sponsored	RCE
Brad Haskins	CFSME Gagetown	Sponsored	RCE
Jenna Hickey	4 ESR Gagetown	Sponsored	
TJ Pisani	4 ESR Gagetown	Sponsored	
Robert Doyle	37 Svc Bn St John's	Sponsored	
Aaron King	37 Svc Bn Saint John	Sponsored	
Veronica Gibson	37 CBG Moncton	Not Sponsored	Tour DCO
Pat Buzzell	RCASC Maritimes	Not Sponsored	RCASC
Gary Campbell	Field of Fire Tours	Not Sponsored	Historian/Guide

- Denotes Study Group Lead