TED'S TOP 32 PHOTO'S

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The Independent

Wednesday, May 11, 2005 — 60 Pages Vol. 128 No. 8 — 20,770 copies

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Dutch-Canada love-in continues

Even accident can't dampen spirits

For the second time since October of 1917, a group of Canadians faced danger on the Passchendaele Ridge in Belgium, just outside of the town of Ieper.

Around noon Monday, a Dutch OAD tour bus carrying 54 members of the Keeping the Memory Alive tour group slid off the road, into the ditch and came to rest at a 45-degree angle with the front wheel about a metre in the air.

But unlike the bloody First World War battle of 1917, when thousands of Canadians were killed, the local group emerged unscathed from the situation.

The coach was driving down a narrow road on the Passchendaele Ridge, ironically named the Canada Laan, (Canadian Lane) just after the group had visited the Tyne Cot British War Cemetery and was en route to the village of Passchendaele to look at other memorials.

As the coach negotiated the narrow road, the rear wheel of the bus caught the edge of the pavement, and with its soft shoulders along the road, the rear wheels of the pulled into the deep dra along the narrow road, eased over sideways, comin its right side at a 45-degree

After calling emergency driver instructed the pas remain still on the bus unt Passchendaele Fire Departm to assess the stability of the evacuating the vehicle.

Tour guide Martin Boo Georgetown was pleased wit things were handled.

"I have nothing but pi Marcel, our driver, for the wa dled the situation," said Booms

"He immediately took cont asked the passengers to sit tight of the fact the bus had quite a l It could have been so much w he was completely in control."

See TOUR, pg. 4

There is no doubt that two of the highlights of my career were spent during two trips to Europe (2005 and 2007) to visit the battlefields of the two world wars. I filed stories from my hotel room, giving the trips a local flavor. At one point, our tour bus almost rolled over. No one was injured but we had another story to tell.

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Raiders qualify for semifinals at RBC Cup
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Warm spring mix salad
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Noted author to discuss issue of bullying
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The Independent & Free Press
Weekend Edition

50 cents (+ GST) — Serving Georgetown, Acton and the surrounding areas — Friday, May 13, 2005 — 48 Pages — 20,770 copies

Visit to historic battle sites an overwhelming experience

The town of Ieper in Belgium has a history bathed in conflict over the centuries, the First World War being the most significant.

In those days it was called Ypres, and I feel a certain attachment to this place— I personally knew two First World War veterans who fought there.

One was Gilbert English, who I interviewed in 1992 when he was 102 years old, the other was Jim Noble, who lived in Limehouse when I was a kid.

Gilbert told me how he first saw action in Ypres in 1916. Though he was wounded at the Somme and out of action for seven months, he returned to see action at Mons in Belgium, where he was when the Armistice was signed in 1918.

Jim Noble wasn't so lucky. He was gassed at Ypres, and although he lived to be a fairly ripe old age, he hacked up phlegm all his life as a result of the gassing.

All at Ypres, now called Ieper.

Today, almost 90 years later, the farmers in the area still plough up shell casings and artillery shells as they plough their fields— an indication of the intensity of the shelling the soldiers endured, nearly 90 years ago.

And I saw it first-hand.

The next leg of the trip we saw an equally interesting place— Juno Beach. Three local veterans I've known for years landed at Juno Beach.

Both Bob McMenemy and Trevor Williams came ashore amid heavy fire on the morning of D-Day, June 6, 1944, while Tom Given landed D-Day plus six (June 12) and fought his way through France until he was wounded. All were members of the Highland Light Infantry.

Now only Tom remains.

I had the privilege of standing on Juno Beach with some of the children of McMenemy and Williams— Dave McMenemy and Hugh and Jane Williams— to share a special moment as they looked out to the exact place their fathers had come nearly 61 years ago.

Keeping the Memory Alive
Ted Brown ...In France

Members of the Keeping the Memory Alive tour left a row of Canadian flags atop the dyke that holds the sea back at the Scheldt Estuary in the Netherlands, while visiting the area earlier this week. Members of the tour had fathers ... in that area during the fall of 1944. (Right) Dave and Connie McMenemy of Georgetown laid a wreath ... memorial erected to the efforts of the Highland Light Infantry (HLI) at the Scheldt Estuary. Their late father-in-law, Bob McMenemy ... fought with the HLI 1944 ... Holland.

Georgetown's Shell Lawr was among the many Canadian veterans who rode along the route of the liberation troops in Liberation Day parade activities in the ... of Vorden, in The Netherlands Thursday. Following the parade, ... all taken to a reception, where they enjoyed a dinner a ... of the pe ... ave the coach after and Co ... the bus which slid off Passch ... the roa ... Ted Brown

November 3, 2110. Every so often, you run into people who, simply stated, make this job fun. I photographed Dave and Dale Cox for a Sideroads feature on their work in animation throughout the years. As I set up the photo, they made their portrait a genuine, whimsical moment.

This is one of my favorite snow boarding photos, taken at North Halton Golf Course, when the kids were allowed to use the slopes. The location was perfect, with a dark background to set off the kid on his snowboard, and show off the flying snow from the board.

July 2002 Never afraid to show her attitude, Halton Hills Public Library Chief Librarian Betsy Cornwall offered me a piece of her mind as we were photographing a promo for a new program. I made a sarcastic remark— she responded, in typical Betsy fashion.

Photo's by Ted Brown

Save your memories and save.

A handful of jewellery can mean a lifetime of memories.
Cash will never replace the sentimental value.
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