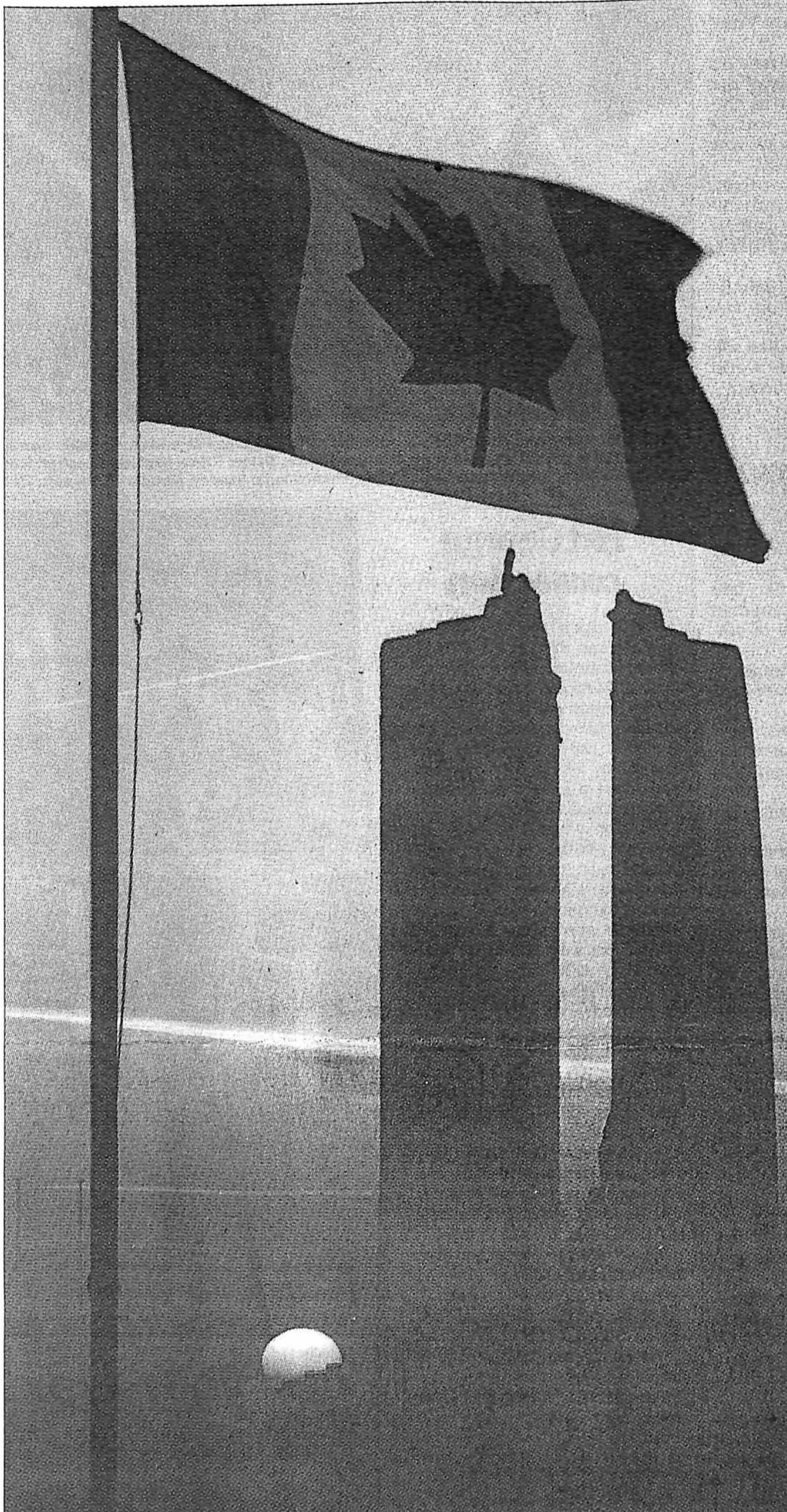


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As the morning mist lifts with the rising sun, the Maple Leaf flies in front of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial at Vimy Ridge, France, Sunday.

CP PHOTO

'It has been a bad day'

Roadside bomb kills six troops on worst day for Canadian military in Afghanistan

By JOHN COTTER
The Canadian Press
KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN

A devastating roadside-bomb explosion killed six Canadian soldiers on Sunday in the worst single-day toll for the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan.

Word of the deaths brought anguish to the victims' families in Atlantic Canada and cast a pall over troops who were trying their best to celebrate Easter out in the desert and at military bases in Kandahar.

"You can appreciate, clearly we are saddened by the loss of six of our best soldiers ... but we stay committed to the mission," said Col. Mike Cessford, deputy commander of Task Force Afghanistan.

"This is what we do. We are focused on rebuilding Afghanistan, on doing the right things for those kids who wave at us every day as we drive down the roads here."

The dead men were identified as Sgt. Donald Lucas, 31, of Burton, N.B., Pte. Kevin Kennedy, 20, of St. Lawrence, N.L., Cpl. Aaron E. Williams, 23, of Lincoln, N.B., and Pte. David R. Greenslade, 20, of Saint John, N.B.

Also killed was Cpl. Christopher P. Stannix, 24, of Dartmouth, N.S., who was a reservist from the Halifax-based Princess Louise Fusiliers.

The identity of the sixth victim was not released at the request of his family. Military officials confirmed he was also from Gagetown.



Sgt. Donald Lucas



Pte. Kevin Kennedy



Cpl. Aaron E. Williams



Pte. David R. Greenslade



Cpl. Christopher P. Stannix

Please see Soldiers page A6