

Europe has many reminders of Canada's wartime efforts



Vince Egan
Travel

Thomson News Service

On Labor Day weekend, many Canadians' thoughts inevitably went back to the same weekend 50 years ago.

It was on the Sunday (Sept. 3 in 1939 as in 1989) that the Second World War was declared, and countless people's lives were never the same again. (Canada entered the conflict on Sept. 10, 1939).

It's surprising, somehow, that such a cataclysmic event has so few physical reminders today. Of those that do remain, England's are the most numerous and the most accessible.

Canadians, especially, can find places that are associated with our country and its participants in the 1939-45 war - and the 1914-18 conflict, too - scattered throughout England.

To wander through rural England is likely to be enjoyable under any circumstances, but the moment is heightened by discovering a link with our own lives and history.

LINKS TO CANADA

Here are some other interesting English sites with wartime links to Canada, as mentioned in The Canadian Guide to Britain by journalist Jefferey Simpson and historian Ged Martin (Macmillan; 360 pages; \$24.95):

-Aldershot, Hampshire, might rank low on any list of picturesque rural English towns, but it is the centre of a large area in which many thousands of Canadians were billeted, trained and (after VE Day) re-assembled for repatriation. Several military units maintain their own museums and archives in Aldershot.

-Near Guilford, one of the most attractive market towns of Surrey, was the home of former Canadian prime minister R.B. Bennett, who gave one side of Stag Hill to the local cathedral to commemorate the Canadian troops stationed in Surrey during the Second World War.

Canadians had also been billeted in Guilford in large numbers a generation earlier, and they were still there six months after Armistice Day when, in 1919, their

impatience drove them into brawls with each other and with demobilized British veterans. The violence was long remembered locally.

HEADQUARTERS

-Near the village of Lewes, East Sussex, stands a Georgian mansion that has been the home of the Gage family since the Reformation. Firlie Place, as it is called, became a Canadian headquarters during the Second World War, and (again) some of the Canadians were not exactly ideal guests.

Lord Gage, in his memoirs, recalled that troops of the First Division drank his best white Burgundy, laced with gin. But the men of the Third Division, who later suffered heavy casualties in the 1942 raid on Dieppe, were among the finest he ever saw.

-Newhaven, East Sussex, was the main embarkation point for the 5,000 men (predominantly Canadian) who engaged in the Aug. 19, 1942, attack on the German-occupied French port of Dieppe. Today's visitors can see a room dedicated to the Dieppe raid at Fort Newhaven on the harbor.

-Portsmouth, on the English Channel in Hampshire, has a history full of naval and military connections. From there, Royal Marine Commandos of the Second Canadian Infantry Division embarked for the disastrous Dieppe action. Almost two years later, in 1944, Canadian forces sailed from Portsmouth for the successful D-Day landings in Normandy.

Portsmouth was heavily damaged by German bombers throughout the Second World War, and has been extensively rebuilt. Nevertheless, there still remain some historic buildings in the narrow streets around part of the sprawling harbor.

STAGING AREA

-The New Forest in Hampshire was an assembly area for the Third Canadian Division preceding D-Day, June 6, 1944. A wooden cross and altar still stand on Mogshade Hill, Boldrewood, with an inscription recalling their presence.

-Just a mile west of the town of

Woking, Surrey, is Brookwood Military Cemetery, England's largest. A total of 2,732 Canadians are buried there, among the 5,044 graves. As well, there is a memorial of Portland stone that commemorates the more than 4,000 Commonwealth dead with no known graves; 199 were Canadian servicemen.

Other cemeteries in which large numbers of Canadians are buried are at Harrogate (Stonefall), North Yorkshire; Chester (Blacon), Cheshire; Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire; Cambridge, Cambridgeshire; Oxford (Botley), Oxfordshire; and Dishforth, North Yorkshire.

Near Runnymede, Surrey (where King John signed the Magna Carta in 1215), a monumental tower was built in 1953 as a memorial to 20,455 Commonwealth airmen (including 2,072 members of the Royal Canadian Air Force) who died between 1939 and 1945 and have no known grave.

TRAVEL NOTEBOOK

Here are notes on news of current interest to travellers:

-Via Rail has reduced the free personal baggage allowance of adult ticketholders by one-third, to 100 lbs. (45 kg); children's allowance is half the adult limit. The weight of any single piece must not exceed 75 lbs. (34 kg). The carrier's maximum liability for loss or damage to checked baggage is \$750 per adult, \$375 per child.

-The Eurail Flexipass will be available in three lengths for 1990: A "pass" good for five days over a 15-day period; another for nine days out of a 21-day span; and a third that will be usable for 14 days during a period of one month. Prices in U.S. funds will be \$198, \$360 and \$458, respectively. Other Eurailpasses will be priced six to 10 per cent higher next year than in 1989.

-Finnair has joined Air Canada's Aeroplan for frequent travellers, and is offering double mileage points until Oct. 31. Finnair currently operates two weekly DC-10 flights between Toronto and Helsinki, and will add a third next spring.

OUR LANGUAGE

by Jeffrey McQuain

In show-business slang, the verb *ankle* means "quit or leave a job." (No, I'm not pulling your leg about ankle.)

Scrutiny ("SKROOT-in-ee") refers to careful study or examination. Here's a little spelling tip: the end of scrutiny is tiny.

has a shift in stress is perfect, if I may change the subject.

Auspices ("AW-spih-sez") indicates guiding support or sponsorship. Be sure to treat this noun gingerly - the end of auspices is spices.

Something very serious or significant is momentous. There's a spelling clue for momentous that should become clear in a moment.

Q. Is there any difference between review and revue, or do those words mean the same?

A. In most cases, review is the preferred spelling. Save revue for a stage production combining music and comedy sketches. Review is three centuries older than revue, but if the stage spelling becomes more frequent in other senses, we'll have to review revue.

Q. Should you emphasize the first syllable of subject or the second syllable? I've heard both.

A. When using subject as a noun, as in "the subject of a sentence," stress the first syllable. It's correct, however, to stress the second syllable of the verb subject, as in "Don't subject yourself to abuse." Another word that

ASK KATHY:

SNACKING

Q: My kids come home from school and head straight for the bread and jelly. I know it's not a healthful practice. Do you have some suggestions for nutritious after-school snacks?

A: Usually, children eat whatever is accessible to them. They can't eat what you don't buy. If there are fresh fruits and vegetables available, they will be eaten. Help direct your children's choices further with colorful, eye-appealing snacks. An attractive relish plate sitting on the counter will be more of a temptation than a bag of carrots in the refrigerator. Apples, oranges, plums and melons are also tasty treats; and they're great for the child with a "sweet tooth." For a



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more filling snack, try cold chicken. It is nutritious and can be cooked ahead of time.

As you prepare these snacks, don't hesitate to recruit your childrer's help. If they are involved in the preparation, they are more likely to try a new food. For more suggestions, contact your local Diet Center at

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