

# Loyal Edmonton Regiment

## NW EUROPE

Paris - Arras - Mons - Ypres- Brussels - Arnhem - Amsterdam

May 13/17-27, 2024 (11/15 days)



### Highlights:

- See most of the great historical locations of two world wars, and follow in the footsteps of our Canadian veterans through Normandy, Belgium and Holland, accompanied by a Military Historian.
- Visit the war cemeteries of Bénny-sur-Mer, Bretteville-sur-Laize, Dieppe, Essex Farm, Langemark, Tyne Cot, Adegem, Holten, Groesbeek and Reichswald.
- Explore the beautiful cities of Rouen, Caen, Bayeux, Honfleur, Dieppe, Arras, Ypres, Ghent, Arnhem and Amsterdam.



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## Welcome

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Barr, Honorary Colonel Doug Cox & The Regiment invite you to join the 2024 Loyal Edmonton Regiment Northwest Europe Battlefield Tour. This tour traces some key battlefields and areas the Eddies fought in during both World Wars.

Raised in Edmonton in 1915, the 49th Battalion CEF, which added the 'Edmonton Regiment' in 1916, fought in France and Belgium for the remainder of the War with two Victoria Crosses won by members of the Regiment, Pte Kinross at Passchendaele & Kerr at Courcellete. Returning to Edmonton in 1919, the 49th perpetuated the 1st Battalion Edmonton Regiment.

During World War II, the Regiment transferred to England, where it trained from 1940 to 1943. Re-designated The Loyal Edmonton Regiment in 1943, the Regiment then took part in the Invasion of Sicily, fighting up the Boot of Italy before being transferred to Northwest Europe to help secure the liberation of The Netherlands.

The Battlefield Tour will retrace the journey of the Regiment throughout both conflicts focusing on France, Belgium, and The Netherlands. Information, short narratives, and site guides will provide knowledge and insight, bringing the Battle Honours of the Loyal Eddies to life. Throughout the tour, there will be a balance between the war history and the opportunity to relax and enjoy the culture and surroundings of our different destinations.

Furthermore, at an additional cost, there is the opportunity to partake in the pre-tour option of Normandy and Caen. While not directly related to the Loyal Eddies, the Pre-Tour option consists of Normandy/Caen and is nevertheless important to Canadian military history and is intrinsically connected to the success of the Allies' defeat of the Axis powers in Europe during WWII.

## TOM LEPPARD, Military Historian



A native Calgarian, **Tom Leppard** has been passionate about Canadian history since childhood. He holds a graduate degree from the University of Calgary in Canadian military history, has published numerous articles and won several awards for history documentaries – most recently for the "Forgotten Fallen", which won two Tele awards in 2016.

A history teacher by calling until 2010, he was President of Valour Canada until 2016. Tom is currently enjoying golf and travel. He is married to Karen, has two children and is a dedicated grandfather.



Liberation of Holland © VND



Normandy Landing Beaches © L. Recouvrot, CRT Normandie

# Further notes from Loyal Eddies [HERE](#)

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Description here



## PRE TOUR OPTION

### Day 1 / Mon, May 13: DEPART CANADA

Departure from Canada for France

### Day 2 / Tue, May 14: ARRIVE PARIS

Morning arrival Paris, then panoramic City tour with the main sites, includes a visit to the Invalides ( tomb of Napoleon) – then check in and free evening

### Day 3 / Wed, May 15: PARIS – ROUEN – CAEN

Departure and we stop in Rouen, city of Jean d'Arc and famous for its half timbered houses – time for lunch before we head to the Coast, stop at Pegasus Bridge – then on to Caen – check in later in the afternoon and dinner (B,D)



### Day 4 / Thu, May 16: CAEN

This morning we travel to Juno Beach, visiting St.Aubin, Courseulles, Beny sur Mer cemetery, then visiting the Juno Beach Memorial, after time for lunch we head inland and visit Abbey d'Ardenne and finally Bretteville Sur Laize Canadian War Cemetery (B,D)

### Day 5/ Fri, May 17: CAEN

In the morning we visit the impressive Caen Peace Memorial, the greatest museum in Normandy – then afternoon travel along the beaches; visit Authie, Putot en Bessin and Bretteville sur l'Orgueilleuse; then we head to Arromanches with the Mulberry harbours , Long sur Mer battery and Omaha Beach (B,D)

### Day 6/ Sat, May 18: CAEN – DIEPPE – ARRAS

Morning departure and travel to Dieppe, and upon arrival visit the cemetery and Pourville ( South Saskatchewan Regiment ) – later in the afternoon on to Arras area – and reunite with the main group for dinner (B,D)

**Minor adjustments may need to be made to our programme due to the scheduling of local events and security arrangements for ceremonies.**

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 / Fri, May 17: DEPART CANADA

Depart for from Canada for France

### Day 2 / Sat, May 18: ARRIVE PARIS - ARRAS

Morning arrival Paris, then panoramic City tour with the main sites, includes a visit to the Invalides ( tomb of Napoleon) – then departure for Arras, check in and dinner (D)

### Day 3 / Sun, May 19: ARRAS

A day dedicated to WWI we follow the battlefield trail along the Somme: Courcellette, Le Quesnel and Amiens and there will also be time in Arras itself (B,D)

### Day 4 / Mon, May 20: ARRAS

Visit to Vimy Ridge as well as Hill 70 are the main focus today – dinner on own today so one can enjoy the town and time away from the group (B)



### Day 5 / Tue, May 21: ARRAS – MONS – YPRES

Travel east, visit to Mons, city centre, Grand Place, sites related to the end of WWI – lunch also in town , later travel on to Ypres (B,D)

### Day 6 / Wed, May 22: YPRES

A full day in Flanders Fields: Essex Farm/John McCrae's dressing station Vancouver Corner, Kitchener's Wood and Langemarck German cemetery; in the afternoon we will visit Passchendaele Museum, Tyne Cot Cemetery – in the evening we will take part in the Menin gate ceremony (B)

### Day 7 / Thu, May 23: YPRES

Half day Ypres and then time at leisure – alternatively side trip to Bruges – dinner on own, chance to relax and time to break away a bit (B)

### Day 8 / Fri, May 24: YPRES – BRUSSELS – ARNHEM

Travel to the capital – tour of the city which is the seat of the European Parliament, time to visit the historic centre with the Grand Place – lunch on own – early afternoon travel to Eastern Holland (E,D)

## ITINERARY

### Day 9 / Sat, May 25: ARNHEM – AMSTERDAM

This morning Frost Bridge for a photo stop, then LER route : Apeldoorn, Barneveld, Achterveld etc – Hotel de Werend – and then on to Amsterdam, check in and at leisure (B)



### Day 10 / Sun, May 26: AMSTERDAM

Travel to Amsterdam where we have a canal cruise and time for a walk down the Damrak before checking into our hotel and farwell dinner (B,D)

### Day 11 / Mon, May 27: AMSTERDAM – CANADA

This morning we travel to the airport for our flight home (B)

## TOUR COSTS in CAD\*

\*based on a group size of 32-40 travellers and currency exchange rate applicable at the time of printing (March 2023)

### Sicily & Italy

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Per person, twin-share</b> | <b>\$4,890</b> |
| <b>Single supplement</b>      | <b>\$1,090</b> |

### Mainland Italy ONLY

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Per person, twin-share</b> | <b>\$3,950</b> |
| <b>Single supplement</b>      | <b>\$890</b>   |

## INCLUDED

- Accommodation in superior tourist class hotels
- Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Private air-conditioned coach transportation
- Comprehensive sightseeing incl. Military Historian, local guides and admission fees as per itinerary
- Return flights Rome – Catania – Rome incl. taxes (for Sicily & Italy tour)
- Special events and commemorations
- Gratuities for drivers and guides
- Local taxes and service charges

## NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare Canada – Paris; Amsterdam – Canada
- Travel insurance (please contact our office for a quote)
- Drinks with meals
- Hotel portorage
- Seat selections on domestic flights
- Items of a personal nature

## GROUP FLIGHT OPTION in CAD

We will offer a group flight option based on the tour dates (with/without Sicily):

May 16/19: Toronto/Vancouver – Rome

May 31: Venice – Toronto/Vancouver

Booking the group flights will allow you to pay for your airfare in the spring 2024 – along with the balance for the tour.

Our group flight details/airfares will be available at the end of June 2023. Based on the 2023 airfares, we are expecting the following costs:

**\$ 1790** from Vancouver / **\$ 1590** from Toronto

**incl. taxes and 1 piece of checked baggage**

(extra baggage and seat selections at additional cost)

Should you wish to make your own flight arrangements, extend etc., availability and costs change continuously. If you wish to secure specific flights at a certain cost, you will have to book/pay for your flights at the same time.



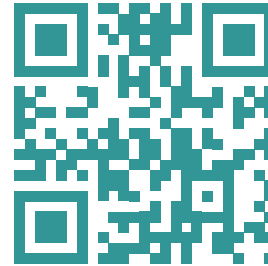
Bridge of Tiberius, Rimini

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3. Visit our website [sticanada.com/URLTBA](http://sticanada.com/URLTBA)



# FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

## RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

\$TBA pp deposit due at time of booking  
2nd installment of \$TBA pp due by June 30, 2023  
3rd installment of \$TBA pp due by October 31, 2023  
Balance due by March 16, 2024  
Tour documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

## TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

## CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI). The following scale of charges will apply when cancellation is received prior to departure:

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Until June 30, 2023        | \$TBA |
| July 1 – Oct 31, 2023      | \$TBA |
| Nov 1, 2023 – Mar 15, 2024 | \$TBA |
| Mar 16 – Apr 15, 2024      | 50%   |
| From Apr 16, 2024          | 100%  |

*NB: different payment/cancellation policies apply to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.*

## TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travels.

## RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND VACCINES:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents, visas and vaccines are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

## AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.



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