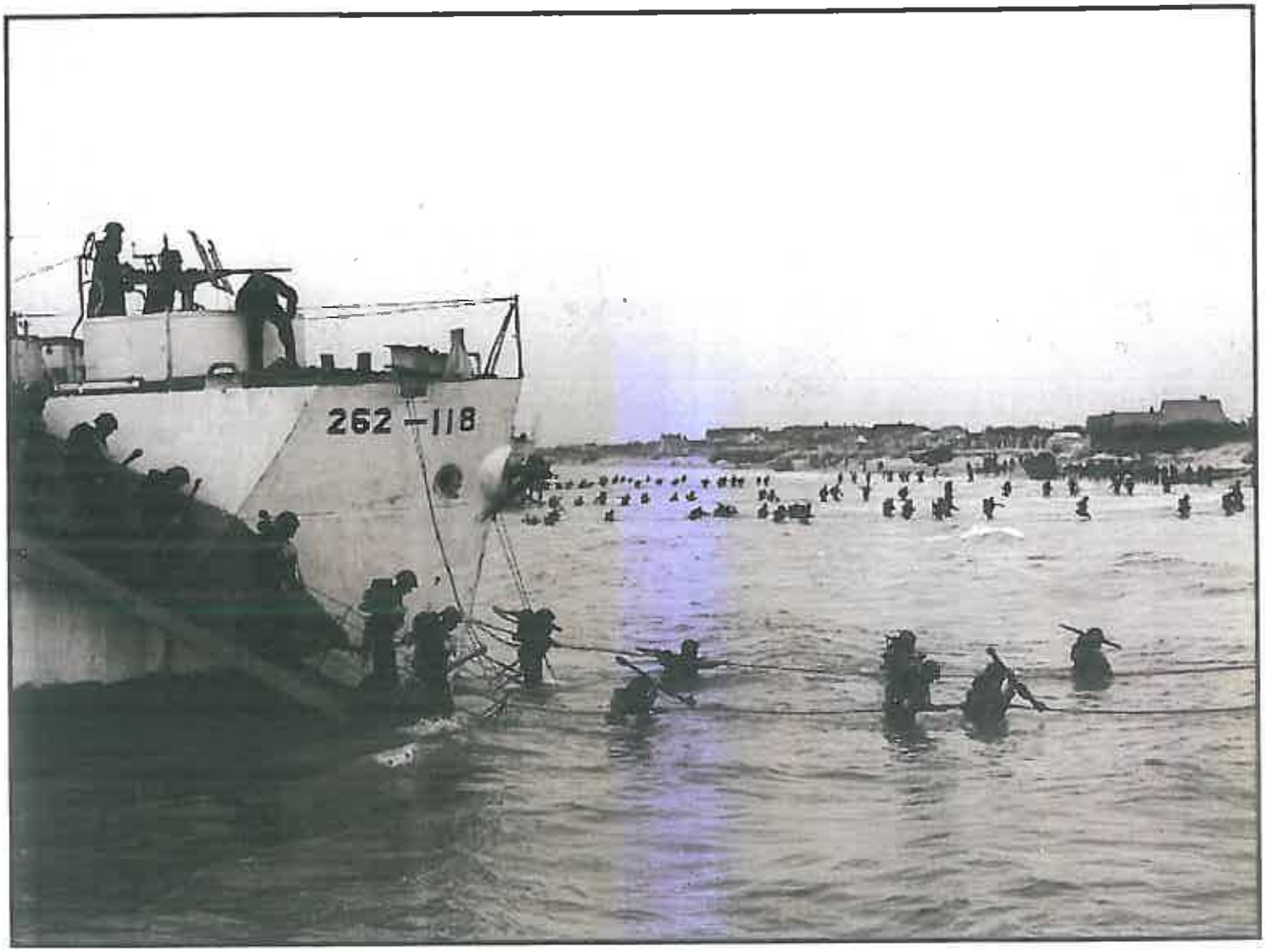
~Memories of June 6th, 2004~
Juno Beach, France



This compilation of photos and text has been prepared as a thank you to all the outstanding Veterans & their family members with whom we were fortunate to meet on our journey to the Juno Beach 60th Anniversary Ceremonies, 2004.
~Earl Grummett, Shawky, Kathie, and Shaddi Fahel

The Beaches of Normandy



~Memories of June 6th, 2004~

Shawky Fahel
173 Roger Street
Waterloo, ON
N2J 1B1

July 8, 2004

Dear Vets & Friends,

On behalf of my father-in-law, Mr. Earl Grummett, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, my wife Kathie and my son Shaddi, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Veterans, their spouses, and other members of their family for the wonderful few days that we shared together. You have enriched us with your insights and your shared experiences.

When I try to reflect on the week we spent together, I can't help but think of how lucky we are to have spent some time together. At times, we felt your pain, anxiety, hopes, fears, but above all, your triumphant, silent inner-souls that always beat the drums to the tune of "Pride", pride of being Canadian. Your sacrifice paved the road for my wife, my son and myself, along with my daughter and my "war bride" mother-in-law (who couldn't be with us), and I to lead the rich and good life that we enjoy today.

We, and all Canadians, will forever be indebted to you. Your sacrifices must never be forgotten. What an enriching trip. To everyone, I say it was an honour to meet and be with you. May God bless you all.

Sincerely,

"They shall not grow old as we
that are left to grow.
Old age shall not weary them
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and the waking up of the
morning we will remember you."

Shawky Fahel
Earl Grummett Kathie Fahel Shaddi Fahel

Beaches of Normandy, France



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My Trip
By Earl Grummett

I really had no intention of attending the 60th anniversary. I had been to the 40th and 50th, but my daughter talked me into it. Also, for added support, my son-in-law Shawky and grandson Shaddi came along. It was nice to have someone carry your luggage, look after your passport and keep you on the right path. It was amazing how many veterans had come over. I know we were outnumbered on our bus. On the way I talked all night to the fellow next to me (Jim Beattie).

In our travels through France, we went to Vimy Ridge. This was my third time there, but it is so impressive. I spoke to people on the bus and they all had different reasons for being there. I asked two of the fellows where they came from, they said, "Simcoe, ON". I asked, "Do you know So & So?" and they replied, "Oh yes". I said,



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"My sister married one of the boys" and one replied, "I was the best man at her wedding". Small world. So I had a picture taken with him and sent to my sister.

At our hotel we had a number of service men that participated in the ceremonies. Some of them represented the D-Day Regiment that we supported. I was in artillery and we supported The Winnipeg Rifles, Regina Rifles, and Canadian Scottish. On D-Day we fired from our landing craft to support their landing, as soon as the beach was cleared we then landed.

At the cemetery I met a fellow from our regiment. We sat together at the service and I also had my picture taken with the Governor General and Smokey Smith, the only living Canadian Victoria Cross winner.

My daughter and son-in-law had my name put on one of the kiosks so I was able to see that and take pictures of it.

The next day, some people wanted to go back to Juno Beach Centre. I had talked the driver into taking us to the place that we exited from the beach. There is a Churchill tank and a monument at the entrance, plus a number of flags on very long poles. I was able to show my relatives where we had landed. It had taken 5½ hours to get off the beach, the engineers had to bulldoze an exit through the sand dunes and clear the mines.

I also met a couple from Brantford, my hometown. He had grown up in the same neighborhood as I. They knew a lot of our neighbors from before we moved to Kitchener.

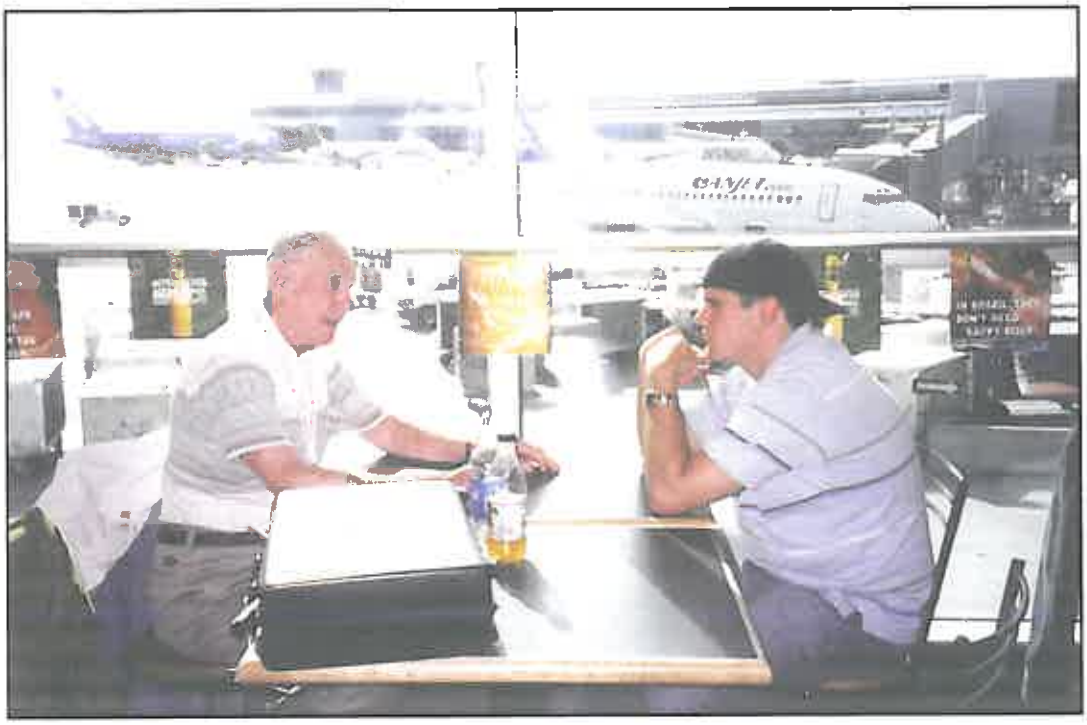
The climax of the whole trip was when we flew home. We were the last of our group to book our flight. We asked for four seats together, no such luck. While this was going on, I'm leaning on my cane, and they suggested I sit down on a comfortable chair. The result was that we ended up in business class, the fellow who had to use a wheel chair (Larry Beattie) was given a seat beside me and he was the brother of the fellow I had talked to on the way over.

At the end of the flight, the head attendant thanked the both of us for our part in the war.

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Left: It all started at Pearson Airport, Toronto, Ontario, awaiting to board a plane on June 2nd, 2004.

Below: A well-deserved pit stop for the crew and passengers at Vimy Ridge.



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Above and Below: Caribou Monument



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Above and Right: Some of the 13 Canadian tunnels that were dug out at Vimy Ridge, including Winnepeg Tunnel and Montreal Tunnel.





Left: A weapon left behind in Winnepeg Tunnel.

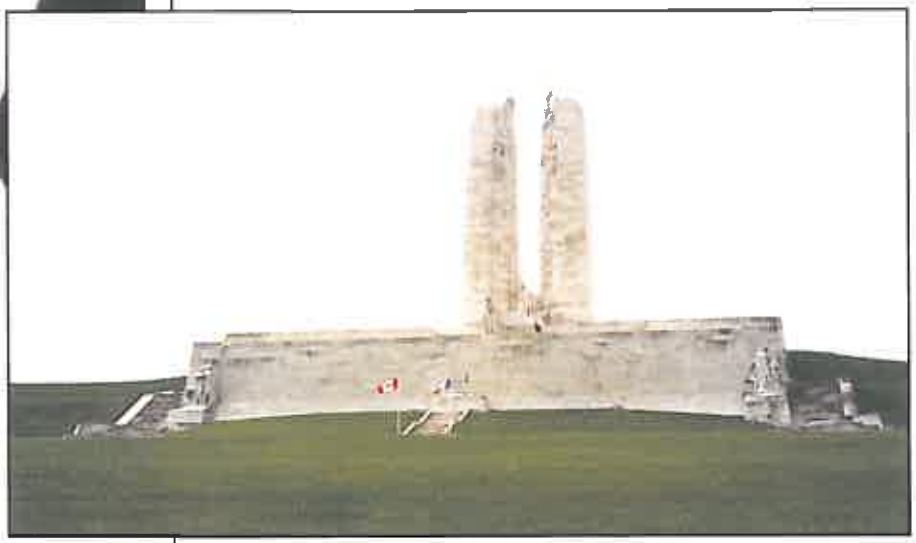


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To the valour of their countrymen in the Great War and in memory of their sixty thousand dead this monument is raised by the people of Canada.



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The Battle of Vimy Ridge

The Memorial stands on Hill 145, the highest point of the 14 kilometre long Vimy Ridge. In the First World War, the Ridge was a vital part of the German defence system. It was so well fortified that all attempts to take it by Allied forces during the first three years of the war had failed. Superb planning and training ensured that the Canadian Corps would achieve its goal. At daybreak on April 9, 1917, all four divisions of the Canadian Corps, fighting together for the first time, stormed the Ridge. Preceded by a perfectly timed artillery barrage, the Canadians advanced and, by mid-afternoon, had taken the whole crest of the Ridge except Hill 145, which they captured three days later. The victory was swift, but it did not come without cost. Out of 10,602 casualties, 3,598 Canadians gave their lives.

The victory at Vimy Ridge was a turning point for Allied forces in the First World War. Back home in Canada, the victory at Vimy Ridge entitled Canadians and brought honour and pride to the young nation.



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Above: Ernst Alawelia Smith (Smokey). The only Victoria Cross holder currently in Canada with Earl Grummett, 12th Field Regiment Artillery.
Top Right: John McCallum, Minister of Veteran Affairs.
Bottom Right: The Beattie Brothers (Larry and Jim). Grumpy sitting down and smiling.

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Top: Group photo of the Veterans prior to heading to the D-Day ceremonies
Left Corner: Mayor of Courselles-Sur-Mer, Jim Beattie, and Shawky.
Right Corner: Larry Beattie on the front line.

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Above: Our Prime Minister, The Honourable Paul Martin, mingling with Gunner (Grumpy Smiley) Larry Beattie.

Left: Larry "Grumpy" Beattie and Clarence Sutherland, The Lancaster Gunners.



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Above: The youngest celebrante, the Governor's Grandson, William with Clarence Sutherland and Earl Grummett.
Right: Who said there were no Aboriginals in the landing? I am glad the government has finally recognized our Aboriginal Veterans for their roles.



Remembrance and Renewal
Left: Colin Gibson with his wife Jeanette and Shawky moments before the celebration began.



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Above: The Queen mingling and congratulating the veteran survivors.
Below: Our Prime Minister, the Honourable Paul Martin, with his wife Sheila, Smokey, Claude Laverdure (Ambassador to France) and John McCallum (Minister of Veteran Affairs).



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Above: Prime Minister, The Honourable Paul Martin, after laying the wreath
Below: Shawky, Smokey, and Claude



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~Memories of June 6th, 2004~

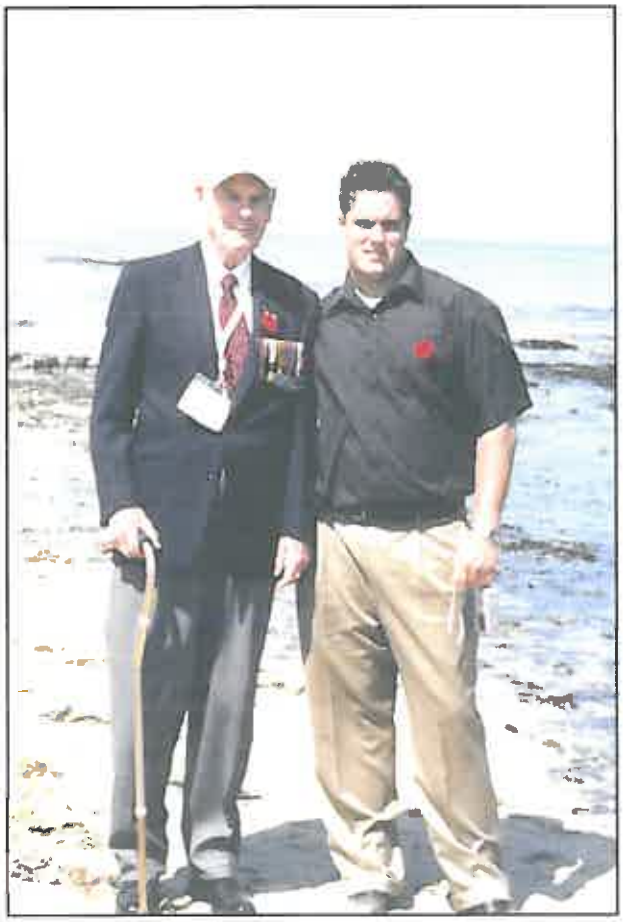




Above: After the laying of the wreath. The Prime Minister and his wife Sheila, Governor General, Adrienne Clarkson and her husband, John Ralston Saul.
Left: Governor General, Claude Laverdure, Canadian Ambassador to France and Veteran Earl Grummet at Beny-Sur-Mer cemetary.

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Above: Our Prime Minster, The Honourable Paul Martin and Ray O'Brien from Kitchener
Top Left: Earl Grummett and Grandson, Shaddi Fahel on the beach.
Below: The Prime Minster congratulates Veterans.



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Above: Young gunner who also stayed at Hotel de l'Esperance in Lisieux with the Fahels. He learned a lot from Old Veteran Grandpa Grummett.
Below: Dieppe



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Above: Governor General, Adrienne Clarkson, her husband, John Ralston Saul with Clarence Sutherland reminiscing over "The Landing and Flying"





Above: Governor General, Adrienne Clarkson, her husband, John Ralston Saul, and on the right, Clarence Sutherland and Earl Grummett.
Left: 3 Generations. Daughter (Kathie), Father (Earl), Grandson (Shaddi), and Son-in-Law (Shawky).

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Left: Memorial that is located next to Canada House.

Below: *Remembrance and Renewal* by Colin Gibson, a Canadian sculptor.

Memorial Sculpture
"REMEMBRANCE AND RENEWAL"

The eight-foot bronze memorial sculpture titled "Remembrance and Renewal", that is located in the courtyard of the Juno Beach Centre, was created by Canadian sculptor Colin Gibson. When the sculpture is first viewed, the helmets provide a spark that rekindles remembrance. Under the helmets, five figures wrap into an encircled formation looking out. The massive forms undulate into one another accentuating the unity and camaraderie of the men.

The figures are posed to reflect distinct sentiments in keeping with their individual gesture. Their broad shoulders convey the weight of responsibility that was endured during the lengthy struggle while their features are somewhat abstract reflecting the reality that much time has passed and the living memory of the war is fading. It is we, the living, the inheritors of their sacrifice, who renew the remembrance by honouring them.



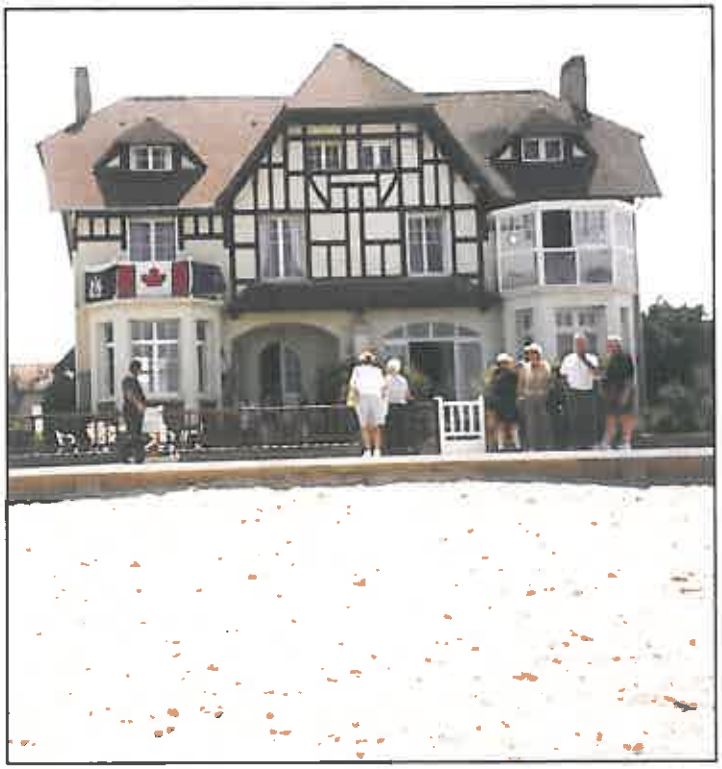
For Grandpa Father

Colin Gibson

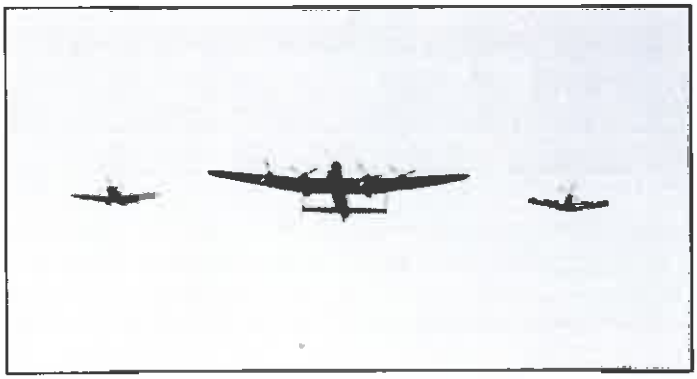
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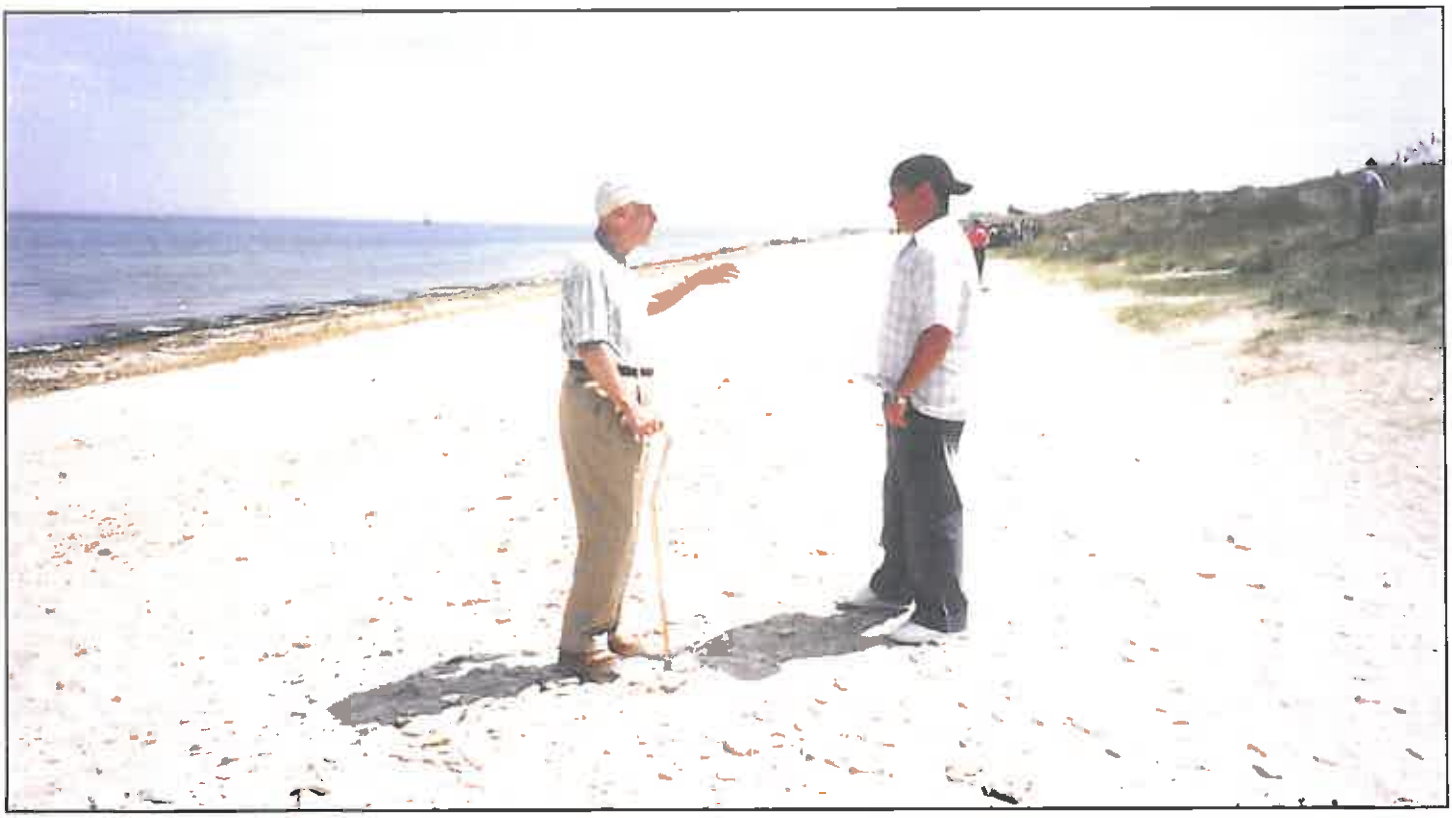


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Left: Canada House.
Bottom: The exact landing spot. Grandpa Earl explains to grandson, Shaddi about the landing and the history of the beach.
Below: The Lancaster accompanied by two Spitfires.





Beaches of Normandy, France



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Above: A plaque at Juno Beach
Below: Shawky and Clarence Sutherland at Dieppe



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Above: Earl Grummett in front of the Churchill Tank Monument
Below: The outcasts away from the rest of the gang at Grand Hotel de l'Esperance.



Beaches of Normandy, France

~Memories of June 6th, 2004~

THE RECORD



D-DAY CELEBRATIONS INSPIRE GRATITUDE

SHAWKY FAHEL
COMMUNITY EDITORIAL BOARD
JUNE 9, 2004

Shawky Fahel of Waterloo went to France to attend the D-Day ceremonies. He went with his wife, son, and his father-in-law who landed on the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944.

Beaches of Normandy, France



~Memories of June 6th, 2004~

D-DAY CELEBRATIONS INSPIRE GRATITUDE CON-

The 60th anniversary of the Normandy landing was honoured on Sunday On this day, it was a moment of simple truth as I watched several hundred old, but very sturdy, Canadian men descending together on a beach they had landed on 60 years ago as terrified young soldiers. Their private moment stood out. The day was filled with speeches from the Queen who told the veterans, "This anniversary is a moment of thanks, giving, and commemoration of honour to all that fought. I join your country's men and allies in saluting all of you on this historic day" Prime Minister Paul Martin saluted the vets by reminding us that against all odds they pressed ahead. "They pressed ahead against an entrenched enemy while men fell, they still pressed ahead and took the beach and its fortification."

They all came to reflect, to marvel, and to feel the tears. These men helped defeat tyranny and replaced it with the rebirth of freedom. The war has brought a complete transformation of Canadian economy and society. Those who stayed behind wanted to build that better world for which they fought — men like my 84-year-old father-in-law. Earl Grummet, who landed on June 6,1944, a member of the 12th Field Regiment, and a very proud recipient with the rest of the veterans of the French government of the French Legion Medal of Honour.

We walked over to the spot on the' beach where he landed and as I was taking a photo of him and his daughter (my wife) and my son, I couldn't help but think that he was younger than my 19-year-old son when he actually landed 60 years ago. These men fought for our freedom and reality that they passed down to the next generation. The veterans strolled on the beach and were left to themselves for a period of private reflections.

Some shook hands, others embraced, some collected stones and piles of sand, as I did. You could feel the emotion and recollections of that experience in the air. The smell of the sea this clear day was evoking memories.

I watched as our Governor General, who was still on the beach, listened intently to some stories my father-in-law was sharing with her and of Clarence Sutherland who was

Beaches of Normandy, France



~Memories of June 6th, 2004~

D-DAY CELEBRATIONS INSPIRE GRATITUDE CONT'D

displaying his two Distinguished Flying Cross medals. My father-in-law unveiled some secrets he had not shared with two of his deceased siblings over the past 60 years. They were stories shared for the first time and we, including his grandchild, listened intently

As I reflect on my overall visit of the past six days, my tours of Vimy Ridge, Hill 145, Dieppe, the Caribou Monument, Juno Beach Cemetery where 2,048 Canadians are buried, and all the ceremonies of this 60th year of the day in which Europe was liberated, I tried to feel the pain, the fear and the agony of the brave soldiers. It was an emotional time. Later, sitting in our hotel room, I turned to my son and asked him how he would describe his feelings of the past five days. He quickly grabbed a pen and jotted down the following:

"I often think I see him
as he bade his last goodbye
and left his home forever
to a distant land to die."

Winnepeg Rifles, Age 18



Those were the words on a tombstone at Beny-Sor-Mere. "1 read it three days ago and 1 still remember it," said my son. Finally, honour is the reward for what these men have given us. They should have our nation's enduring gratitude. They sowed the seeds for our freedom and peace. To all the fallen ones, we say the words of Lawrence Binyon:

"They shall not grow old as we that are left to grow.
Old age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and the waking up of the morning we will remember you."

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P R O G R A M

The 60th Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy
Commemorative Ceremony at
Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, Reviers, France
Saturday, June 5, 2004

Remarks
Prayer
Act of Remembrance
Last Post
Silence
Reveille
Lament
Laying of Wreaths
Blessing
National Anthems



Canada

Beaches of Normandy, France

~Memories of June 6th, 2004~

Appreciation Page

There are several people who worked hard "behind the scenes" that we would like to thank for making the trip to Juno Beach as organized, flawless and captivating as it was. Without you, we could not have focused on the finer details that made the trip so enjoyable and successful. A special thank you to Ria and Floris for an excellent job done guiding and driving the entire week.





***Memories of June 6th, 2004* was prepared and edited by Stephanie Hewson**

Message from Stephanie:

Hello. I am a third year marketing co-op student from Conestoga College who is currently employed by Shawky Fahel at JG Group of Companies. As one of my assignments, I was given the opportunity to prepare this compilation for those who visited Juno Beach this past June. Throughout my life, I have (regrettably) not had a lot of exposure to the history of wars in which Canada has participated. I would like to thank Mr. Grummett, Shawky, Kathie, and Shaddi Fahel for sharing a unique perspective of the 60th Anniversary of the Landing, their wonderful photos and vivid historical experiences with me.

I am, and always will be, a very proud Canadian citizen and I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to all Veterans for making that feeling possible.

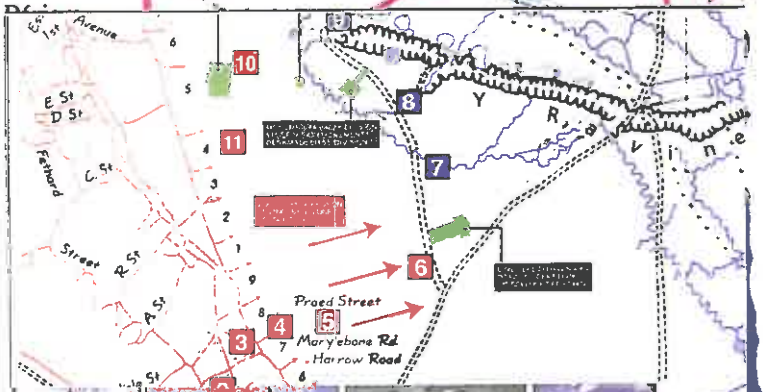
Stephanie Hewson



Beaches of Normandy, France

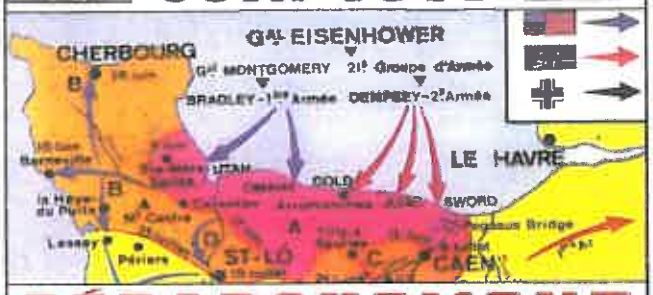
~Memories of June 6th, 2004~







JUIN 1944



DÉBARQUEMENT EN NORMANDIE



ARROMANCHES



They have built a harbour
Amidst the billowing seas.
They have built a harbour
Pon sunken wrecks.



And, on a misty night,
You can make out through the spray,
Indistinct at twilight,
The pontoons that form a way.

Arromanches,
In the heart of the storm
Your harbour stayed firm.

The break-waters smashed
The fright'ning, oncoming surge,
As armoured-cars rushed over
Floating bridge.

Long lines of lorries,
In a deafening roar
Raised stinging sand-eddies;
The battle still to the fore.

Arromanches,
Whose heart keeps on beating
Whilst battles keep thund'ring!

See these children laughing
And playing in the sun,
Today's sun
Dries yesterday's tears.
When Arromanches falls asleep
Bathed in the heavenly light,
A feeling of eternity
Blows on the rocks.



Arromanches,
I hear your heart beating
In history's heart leaping!

Jean















Beaches of Normandy, France