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## The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regimental Tour to Holland and Germany October 1 – 13, 2012

### Revised Itinerary – December 21, 2011

*Note: It is the responsibility of all participants to be in possession of the correct documentation to travel out of the country. Failure to do so will result in participants being denied entry/boarding and returned home at the expense of the individual. **Canadian Citizens require a valid passport** (the Canadian Government recommends that passports are valid at least 6 months beyond your return date). Non-Canadians must check entry and transit requirements. Please notify the group leader at time of booking if you will be traveling with a passport from another country so we can check requirements and advise you accordingly.*

#### Day 1 - Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup> (Departure for Amsterdam) D

**Vancouver & Toronto Passengers** depart for Amsterdam on **direct trans-Atlantic flights** via Air Transat

**Calgary Passengers** will travel via **1 way connecting flight to Toronto** to meet up with the Toronto contingent and board the Toronto to Amsterdam flight

**East Coast Passengers** will travel via **roundtrip connecting flights** to Toronto to meet up with the Toronto contingent and board the Toronto to Amsterdam flight

#### Day 2 – Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> (Amsterdam) B/D

Arrival at Schiphol International Airport in Amsterdam, meet your coach and driver and depart for central Amsterdam and check into **your hotel** for a **3 night stay**. Take time to freshen up after your long flight and rest. Explore the area of the hotel at your leisure and meet the group late in the afternoon for a **group welcome dinner**. Retire early for some much needed rest.

#### Day 3 - Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> (Amsterdam) B/D

After a late breakfast, meet your local, **English speaking guide** in the lobby of your hotel and embark on a morning **coach and walking tour of Amsterdam**. Besides all the key sites of the city, included in your tour will be a visit to the **Anne Frank House** and Dam Square and the National Liberation Monument, where every May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Dutch hold their poignant *Remembrance of the Dead Ceremony*. After the tour and lunch, spend the rest of the day at leisure, exploring this fascinating city, where many of the group will have spent their leaves while being stationed in Europe. Conclude your day with a **group dinner** in one of Amsterdam's fine restaurants.

#### Day 4 – Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> (Amsterdam) B/D

Much of today will spent at leisure pursuing whatever activities you desire. In the afternoon, re-assemble the group in the lobby of the hotel, board your coach to transfer to the canal docks where you will board your boat for a **cruise on the canals of Amsterdam**. You will see why the city is often referred to as the *Venice of the North*. Conclude this relaxing day with a **group dinner**.

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**Day 5 – Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> (To Nijmegen)** **B/D**

After a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, depart for Nijmegen. Stop en route in Arnhem, where you will enjoy a self guided visit of the **Arnhem War Museum**. During your stay, examine the many displays chronicling the occupation, the famous battle, part of “Operation Market Garden” and the liberation. After your visit, take a break for lunch in Arnhem and continue on to Nijmegen and check into the **Mercure Hotel - Nijmegen** for a **four night stay**

**Day 6 – Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> (Nijmegen)** **B/D**

After breakfast, board your coach for the one hour journey to **Doorn**, a town that was liberated by the QOR on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1945. Upon arrival, meet with the “**A**” **Team**, a group of young students who have spent countless hours maintaining the monument there. Join the students and civic officials in a wreath-laying ceremony commemorating the liberation. After the ceremony, enjoy lunch with the group and continue on to the town of **Zutphen**, where you will spend what remains of a delightful afternoon soaking the atmosphere of the mediaeval town centre. Even though it was bombed during the war because of its vital location, its town centre remained one of the best preserved mediaeval town in Europe. After your visit, return to Nijmegen and join the group for dinner in a local restaurant.

**Day 7 - Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> (Nijmegen)** **B/D**

Begin this day with a short trip to **Mooshof**, where Sergeant Aubrey Cosens of the QOR won the VC. After lunch, continue on to the **Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery** where 2,338 Canadians are buried, many who became casualties during the battle for the Rhineland and who were transferred here by order of General Crerar who decreed that no Canadian casualties of World War II be buried on German soil. (Possible wreath laying ceremonies in Mooshof and Groesbeek. (these arrangements to be confirmed by QOR Tour Organizing Committee) Return to Nijmegen in late afternoon and conclude the day with a **group dinner** in a local restaurant.

**Day 8 – Monday October 8<sup>th</sup> (Nijmegen)** **B/L**

Take a break today by boarding a boat in Nijmegen for a **half day river cruise**. (Pending availability due to scheduling) Enjoy the delightful scenery and leisurely **lunch** as you cruise this storied river. After the cruise, board your coach and return to your hotel. After dinner on your own, enjoy your final night in Nijmegen.

**Day 9 – Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> (to Soest)** **B/D**

After a leisurely late breakfast, check out of your hotel and depart for the **Soest Germany**. This stay will be a welcome trip down memory lane for those who were stationed here in the years after World War II. Late afternoon departure for **Lippstadt** where you will check into the **Welcome Inn** for a **3 night stay**...enjoy a **dinner** with the group at the hotel or at a restaurant near the hotel.

**Day 10 – Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> (Soest)** **B/D**

Today will be spent touring the local brigade area, beginning with a visit to the **Werl Cemetery** where more than 400 Canadians are buried, including 124 post-WWII soldiers and more than 300 of their dependants. During your visit, participate in a wreath laying ceremony commemorating the members of the members of the Queen’s Own Rifles buried here After lunch, continue on to **Fort McLeod** (near Deilinghofen GE) where the First and Second Battalions were stationed in the post-war period. At the end of the visit, be part of a dedication ceremony for a newly-erected cairn commemorating the years of service. **Dinner** is included this evening either at the hotel in Lippstadt or local restaurant near Fort McLeod

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**Day 11 – Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> (Soest)**

**B/D**

After breakfast, meet your local, **English speaking tour guide** in the lobby of your hotel and set out for **Soest**. Upon arrival learn about the history of the town with its town walls, mediaeval churches, like the Cathedral of San Patroclus, and picturesque, half timbered houses. After lunch continue on to visit **Fort York** and conclude your day with a visit and **group dinner** at Mohnesee.

**Day 12 – Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> (to Amsterdam)**

**B/D**

Check out of your hotel and board your coach for the four hour journey to **Amsterdam**, stopping en route for lunch. Upon arrival in Amsterdam, check into **your hotel** for a **one night stay** and spend the remaining part of the day enjoying the city for one last time, or buying some last minute souvenirs. At the end of the day, re-join the group for a **farewell dinner** and return to your hotel early to rest and pack for the journey home.

**Day 13 – Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> (Home)**

**B/L**

After breakfast transfer to **Schiphol Airport** – all passengers will return to Canada from Amsterdam via **direct flights** to either Toronto Calgary or Vancouver via Air Transat ... East Coast Passengers will return to Toronto and then make an onward connection to flights for Halifax or St Johns

**B - Breakfast / L - Lunch / D - Dinner - denote meals included in tour cost**

**\*Itinerary is tentative and subject to final confirmation\***