



758 “ARGUS” SQUADRON

Royal Canadian Air Cadets

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758 “Argus” Squadron / 283 Woodbridge Squadron

2012 Trip to Great Britain & France

It is proposed that the Officers and Cadet Members of 758 “Argus” Squadron and 283 Woodbridge Legion Squadron participate in an international trip, providing an opportunity to experience and explore the culture and daily life of these nations. Additionally, this international trip will create an opportunity for learning about Canadian, Commonwealth and Allied military history through visits to locations of significance in Great Britain and northern France.

Lt. Ric Rangel-Bron, Training Officer for 283 Squadron, has taken Canadian Cadets on this tour in the past, and will lead our contingent, with the assistance of Squadron Officers from both squadrons, on this tour, which is divided into two plans based upon fiscal realities. Plan A is to tour southern England and the western shores and country side of France, where Canadians fought bravely during both world wars. Plan B will see the Squadrons remain in the United Kingdom, lodged in London and participating in trips around the UK. Officers and Cadet members of the Royal Air Force Air Transport Corps and Ministry of Defense Army Cadet Forces will join 758 and 283 Squadrons during various parts of the tour.

The duration of this trip will be sixteen (16) days, the majority of which will take place over the 2012 “March Break”. Whilst exact departure and return dates are still under review, it is proposed that the trip will run from 6 to 21 March 2012, inclusive.

The maximum number of cadets permitted to participate from 758 is 13 Members. Participation in this trip will be limited to Cadets that have been vetted through a selection process, which has been established through consultation with Detachment Advisers and the Squadron Sponsoring Committee.

The 758 / 283 contingent will be supervised by Officers and Civilian Instructors attached to both squadrons. Eight (8) “supervisors” (Officers and CI’s) will accompany the contingent, composed of at least four (4) serving Officers.

The proposed activities of this trip would include visits to locations of historic and cultural significance, including, but not limited to:

- Military installations (Royal Naval College, Horse Guards House);
- Historic sites (e.g. Buckingham Palace, Royal Observatory Greenwich, War Cabinet Rooms, St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower of London, Downing Street, the Eiffel Tower, Vimy Ridge, RNR Memorial, Dieppe, Flanders); and,
- Museums (e.g. Imperial War Museum, Royal Air Force Museum, IWM Duxford, Denis Servers' House, HMS Belfast, Victoria & Albert, National Gallery, St. John's Gate).

As previously stated, in addition to the activities in Britain, if we can afford Plan A, we will cross the English Channel to Normandy by ferry service as we travel to France, giving the cadets a feeling of what it was like to travel open water. Cadets will participate in walking tours of the legendary beaches of Gold, Juno and Sword, visiting famous Allied "strongholds" such as Longues-sur-Mer, Crepon, Saint Aubin-sur-Mer, and Lion-sur-Mer. The Cadets would pay tribute to our fallen Canadian heroes at the Canadian War Cemetery in Beny-sur-Mer. The Cadets would also tour the Juno Beach Centre in Courseulles-sur-Mer, which was opened in 2003 by Canadian Veterans. In addition to the Second World War locations, we will tour significant Canadian First World War locations such as Vimy Ridge and the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Memorial.

The cost for this trip will be borne by the participants and those participating cadets will be conducting fundraising activities to help off-set the cost. The squadron will not be subsidizing any of the cost out of the Squadron Operating Budget. It is expected that if cadets cannot come up with the full amount via Fundraising, they will pay the cost outright. Expenses will include airfare, lodging, meals, transportation and incidentals. Currently, we predict the cost per participant is approximately \$1657.89 each. Our goal is to reduce this amount, depending on the results of fundraising activities. If fundraising is lucrative, cadets may even be able to attend for free.

From Lt. Rangel-Bron's experience in planning a similar Squadron trip in 2008, we have developed contact with RAF counterparts and have informal agreement for rations and quarters (R&Q) at MOD Station Hammersmith during the stay in the UK. Currently, the daily charge for R&Q is £6.00 per person (approximately \$9.60 CAD). MOD Hammersmith is located in the west end London, just outside of London Transport Zone 1 (known as central London), on the subway line.

With MOD Hammersmith as our "base of operations", the contingent will take advantage of day trips in and around the British capital prior to departure to, and upon return from France.

For the portion of the trip to France, we are negotiating accommodation with the French Government student hostel organization, UNCMT. Accommodation would be in Theon and Beny-Sur-Mer, and includes meals.

Transportation in Britain will predominately be via public transport. "Britrail" passes will be purchased by participants prior to departure from Canada. (The Officer of Primary Interest (OPI) is responsible for the co-ordination of the trip will assist in the establishment of this and

other requirements.) Additionally, transportation by motor coach will be employed for transportation from the UK to France, then locally throughout France if Plan A is accepted. Key to the success of this trip has been the establishment of contacts in Great Britain and France. Due to Lt. Rangel-Bron's experiences, we have successfully established contacts with the RAF and MOD, securing pricing for R&Q whilst in the UK. The component in France is under negotiation, requiring the confirmation of accommodations and costs. We have rates from two coach operators, and our contacts within the RAF have provided us information for the commercial operator they utilize.

Group rates for travel and medical insurance are also being investigated.

IMPORTANT!!

There will be an **information session** for those cadets and parents who are interested in attending the trip at the Lions Hall on June 13, 2011 starting promptly at 7pm to roughly 9pm (we have the Hall booked until 10pm in case there are lots of questions).

This session will be conducted by Lt. Rangel-Bron from 283 and participating squadron staff. At that time, a fee schedule will be introduced and further clarification regarding the selection criteria will be explained.

Basic Criteria (detailed criteria to follow later):

If you do not meet ALL the basic criteria listed below, please do not attend the information session as there will be no negotiation on these points!!

- cadets must be a minimum of 15 years of age by January 1, 2012
- cadets must have successfully completed Level 2 by June 18, 2011
- cadets must currently have over 80% attendance and maintain that until the trip
- cadets must have participated in their mandatory tagging shifts (3 out of 4) in Fall 2010, Spring 2011, and Fall 2011
- cadets will be required to research and write an essay for evaluation (further info to follow later)

J. Reid
Major
Commanding Officer
758 "Argus" Squadron