

Canadian Confusion on Juno Beach

The Queen at home – but the Governor General abroad?

CBC Commentary fuels uncertainty

Analysis & Report by Fidelis

The recent commemoration of the 50th anniversary of D-Day was a moving and highly meaningful occasion to honour the memory of those who served King & Country in the dark days of the Second World War, both those who fell and whose glory is forever our debt, and those who bravely faced the enemy and survived the passage of time to a new century. Canada's participation in D Day belied its small population and our proud Regiments and Royal Canadian Navy fought alongside our allies in what was one of Canada's finest hours in turning the tide against Nazism and liberating Europe. Major General Richard Rohmer and the others on the committee deserve much praise for organizing events for veterans which they well deserved.

Initially there was confusion about and unseemly last minute additions to the number of veterans that the Government of Canada would invite or transport to Normandy. Sadly, a spectre of confusion also hung over the ceremo-

ny as to the relative participation of The Queen and the Governor General, which in some measure detracted from the solemnity and importance of the event itself. That the ceremony seemed to have been used by some to suggest our ties had been surreptitiously weakened with the Crown is both shocking and in very poor taste, given who and what our veterans fought for and the dedication and longevity of our Sovereign.

In the last thirty-five years, Canada, more than any other of The Queen's realms, has advanced the view, with the approval of Buckingham Palace, that the Governor General be accorded the full protocol and honours associated with a Head of State while traveling abroad. Monarchists can agree with this view, as the Governor General is representing The Queen of Canada, our Head of State – and as members of the Royal Family are also accorded full honours in many instances, so should her Governor General. There has been a recognition that Canada cannot, in most instances, be



Who is Canada's Head of State?

represented by The Queen internationally as there would arise great confusion as to the status and independence of this country. Most of the Realms, particularly Australia and New Zealand, have quietly followed Canada's lead in this way in recent years.

But what is troubling and concerning, and did not escape the notice of the

media and others, was that The Queen was attending a Canadian-organized ceremony on Juno Beach, to honour the Canadian veterans and the memory of those fallen. This ceremony was not organized by a foreign country nor our other allies. It was, just us – as in 1944, Juno Beach was Canada's responsibility

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and obligation to the Allied effort. Why then would the Governor General's Office or the Canadian Government be in any way confused about the status of our Sovereign at such an event?

Following a routine and happy announcement on May 10th by Rideau Hall that The Queen would attend the ceremonies at Juno Beach, at the invitation of the Government of Canada, as follows the form for such matters, a further news release issued closer to the date curiously referred to The Queen after the Governor General and His Excellency John Ralston Saul. Concern was expressed and eyebrows raised as the date approached as to how this event would unfold – particularly with the added complexity of a Prime Minister in attendance while he was in the midst of an election campaign.

On the day of the event itself, Canadian viewers watched as a seemingly clumsy circumstance arose where there neither the Governor General nor the Prime Minister greeted The Queen on arrival, but rather the host, Major General Rohmer, who was instrumental in the organization of the ceremony, and the Chief of the Defence Staff. While The Queen did arrive last, following the Prime Minister and Governor General, the lack of customary respect shown on greeting was followed by the absence of The Queen's Personal Canadian Flag or a Canadian Equerry, both glaring omissions. Surely, a member of the Canadian



Forces, or indeed a veteran, could have been honoured with a special appointment for this important moment.

What followed was a series of speeches, concluding with the Governor General. Oddly, at an event of this type the Sovereign could have been invited to speak by the Governor General, but this did not occur. Instead, we had no less than three speeches, each trying to cover the same ground. After this the media noted that The Queen would lay a wreath on behalf of "the Commonwealth"? For those familiar with such matters, it is unprecedented for The Queen not to lay a wreath on her own behalf on behalf of the nation itself; indeed, such was the wording on the card.

Following, the Master of Ceremonies, a Minister of the Crown, the Hon. John

MacCallum, awkwardly informed the audience that the "Governor General, His Excellency John Ralston Saul, The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh and the Prime Minister" would meet the veterans – in that order! Each dutifully proceeded (as instructed) on separate walkabouts, with The Queen left waiting until the Governor General finished her conversations so that she might be bid farewell and depart as she was next to attend a religious service at the British Ceremony at Bayeux. Surely, it would have been an improvement to have cut the speeches and organized the ceremony so that The Queen could have been on the saluting dais as the veterans paraded to the Beach, which occurred after Her Majesty's departure due to the heavy dose of speechifying and indelicate announcement of the ceremony.

The appearance of this event on television was one of confusion and one-upmanship, which compelled Peter Mansbridge and Jack Granatstein, who were commenting for the live CBC coverage, to suggest that there was something "sig-

nificant" about what had occurred and Canada's relationship with the Crown. The further remark that several scenarios with conflicting direction had been distributed throughout the week suggested that there had been varying points of view and issues as well as some disagree-

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Speech Given by the Queen to the Canadian Veterans at the Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The invasion of France in 1944 was one of the most dramatic military operations in history. It would have been difficult enough for a single nation to plan and execute such an enterprise; for a group of allies with little previous experience in co-operation, it was a major triumph. The operation itself was a resounding success, but it was only achieved with the sacrifice of many courageous and determined allied Servicemen, including a large number of your Canadian colleagues, who landed here with you on Juno Beach.

Britain had been directly threatened by the enemy but you came across the Atlantic from the relative security of your homeland to fight for the freedom of Europe. For Canadians, involved in the fight from its earliest months, the raid on Dieppe was a tragedy but, in retrospect, the lessons learned there proved to be life-savers for many thousands when you came to land in Normandy.

Malgré la distance entre le Canada et la Normandie, les liens entre Canadiens et Français sont très étroits. Les générations futures de Canadiens de toutes origines auront raison d'être fières de l'immense contribution de l'armée et des forces navales et de l'air canadiennes pour la libération de l'Europe.

The sixtieth anniversary of the Normandy Landings is a moment for thanksgiving, and a moment of commemoration. Today we honour all those who gave their lives in this campaign, and all of you who fought in this great struggle. I know that present and future generations join me in thanking all Canadians who took part in this great venture. On this anniversary day, I join all your countrymen and allies in saluting you, the heroes and veterans of a historic campaign.

D-Day 60th Anniversary Message from His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, 4th June 2004

"Soldiers, sailors and airmen of the allied expeditionary force! You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you."

With these words, General Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, rallied his forces on 6th June 1944, and so began the defining moment of World War Two: the Allied invasion of Normandy.

The sheer scale and ambition of Operation Overlord have become legend. The months of planning at home, of preparation by the French Resistance, all conducted in the utmost secrecy, culminated in the greatest sea and airborne assault in human history. Over 150,000 soldiers from Britain, the United States, Canada, France and eight other countries, carried in seven thousand ships, landed on the beaches across a fifty mile front between Caen in the East and Cherbourg in the West. A further 23,000 airborne troops parachuted or landed by glider into enemy territory to secure the key positions on the flanks of the beaches and defend them against counter attack.

The stunning victories achieved on the first day secured the vital foothold, and in their success lay the liberation of France and, from there, the rest of North West Europe. But we must never forget that these victories did not come without

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enormous cost. The Battle for Normandy raged for some eighty days with about three million men engaged, of whom some 250,000 lost their lives. The city of Caen, around which much of the fighting took place was virtually destroyed and over 15,000 French inhabitants in the region were killed.

Sixty years later, with old adversaries now reconciled, together enjoying peace, prosperity and better common understanding, it is hard to imagine the devastation wrought on France and the immense struggle that took place there to deliver it from the yoke of organised barbarism under which it had suffered. But the free Europe we know today could not exist, had not the tide of war been turned in Normandy in 1944.

It is thus that the eyes of the world return to Normandy in June 2004, to honour the survivors amongst those who embarked on that 'Great Crusade'. Old comrades will reunite on the beaches, at the drop zones and in the towns and villages they fought so bravely to liberate. We will remember their deeds, honour those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and thank them for the gift of freedom which they gave to future generations.

Above all, we should recall that so many of those who died were of the same age as both my sons are today. It is only that way we can begin to understand the real extent of the sacrifice that was made and of the heartrending suffering of the families in this country, and in France, whose loved ones were torn away from them in the course of doing their duty. And they are still doing it today on our behalf, so we owe these men and women our profound respect and everlasting prayers of gratitude.



As part of the D-Day commemorations, The Prince of Wales visited the Canadian Cemetery at Bény-sur-Mer on June 5th. Accompanied by The Governor General, he laid a wreath, and walked with Her Excellency amongst the graves of some of the 5,000 Canadians who died in Normandy.



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ment up until the last minute. This was followed by an article in The Globe & Mail which also suggested that the ceremony had been used somehow to further separate Canadians from the Crown and the individual who wears it!

In fact, in 1994, The Queen as Queen of Canada and the UK (as the speeches made clear), dedicated the Canada Memorial in London's Green Park and invited then-Prime Minister Chretien to sail to Normandy in HMY Britannia to mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day. The then-Governor General (Mr. Hnatyshyn) attended the international ceremony on Utah Beach and at those Canadian events that Her Majesty was unable to attend, although members of the Royal Family did so. On the 40th anniversary in 1984, both The Queen and then Prime Minister Trudeau attended the international ceremony and The Queen subsequently received the President of France and presided at the Canadian commemoration at Bény-sur-Mer. This was merely a revisiting of other precedents over the years, notably those that the Sovereign has carried out in the UK and others such as the joint opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway by The Queen and then President Eisenhower.

Incredibly, those writing to Rideau Hall following the event received an inaccurate and poorly drafted letter referring to The Queen's participation as that of "The Queen of England", a misused title which would not have been correct since the beginning of the 18th century. A corrected response followed the prompt retraction of the original letter once it was drawn to the attention of Rideau Hall by the Monarchist League of Canada; but it still left the impression that The Queen

was attending different scenarios in multiple capacities. To suggest that The Queen felt no pride or feeling of recognition when the Canadian Forces paraded at the international ceremony at Arromanches would be both wrong and rude. While the Canadians had their own Beach in 1944, the level of cooperation and cohesion in Commonwealth forces was much greater than demonstrated by the Canadian Government in 2004. Otherwise, it might well have cost lives on D-Day itself.

Indeed, there is little doubt that the Governor General's role has changed and been enhanced over the past thirty years, particularly since the Governor Generalship of Roland Michener. And these changes seem to have been encouraged and welcomed by Buckingham Palace. Canada has been the leader in many ways in ensuring that the Sovereign's prerogatives are exercised in Canada – such as honours or heraldry – but that they are still recognized as The Queen's powers. And Canada has been able to be fully and distinctively represented internationally by the Governor General where appropriate. This has included not only State Visits abroad, but also funerals and other events attended by multiple world leaders. An understanding, at least in other countries, when Canada was sending the Governor General was that it was the highest level of representation we could send, and this has benefitted our profile and diplomatic standing in several circumstances. But unlike these scenarios, the event on Juno Beach was a Canadian one, where Canadian veterans wished to commemorate with their Sovereign present.

There is nothing nor has there ever been anything to preclude The Queen



Cree Veterans returned to Juno Beach for the D-Day Anniversary.

and the Governor General appearing together in Canada or abroad, any more than there is to prevent the Governor General and the Prime Minister from so doing. In fact, there are occasions which merit it by their importance, or magnitude. The commemoration of D-Day was one such time. There are several occasions where this has taken place in Canada, and it would have been thought odd otherwise. But a wise viceroy knows when to withdraw, in the presence of The Queen, out of respect for the Monarch she represents, and to avoid confusion as well as to ensure that there is as little as possible to prevent direct interaction between Sovereign and people. A similar dynamic exists within Canada where the Governor General and Lieutenant Governors could and often are invited to be at each and every event attended by The Queen or members of the Royal Family, but it is unwise to do so lest the protocol involved overwhelm the nature of the occasion.

While the Canadian commemorations leading to the 60th anniversary of D-Day, and those following it, certainly benefitted from the Governor General's participation, surely the Juno Beach commemoration was one where The Queen could have taken pride of place, given as Her participation was sought and valued by the veterans. During the international ceremony at Arromanches later that day, it is worth noting that unlike the other Heads of State, The Queen was not listed by the French Government as representing any one country: Her Majesty could clearly have been construed as representing any of four Realms represented at the ceremony: the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, all of whose prime ministers were present. Certainly the Governor General of Canada was as deserving in being seated amongst Heads of State as the Presidents of Greece or Slovakia, given the contributions of Canadians to the war effort. Even Luxembourg was represented by both Grand Duke Henri and Grand Duke Henri (his father who recently abdicated). It is certainly remarkable in view of the criticism and concern expressed about international travel by the Governor General that Juno Beach was not more sensitively handled by Rideau Hall. Canadians clearly have a discomfort with too high profile a role for the Governor General abroad, and the subtleties are not well understood. In this case, an overly assertive role accorded the

Governor General did not enhance what was an otherwise moving occasion.

While the status of the Governor General's travels abroad and the request by the Canadian Government that Her Excellency be accorded "Head of State" status seems to have been confused in some eyes as taking this status away from The Queen, nothing could be further from the truth. Because The Queen has delegated authority and powers to the Governor General does not in any way diminish the fact that she could exercise these roles personally and directly in the future if circumstances required it. Canada is in a unique position, possessing as it does the world's senior-most ranking leader as its Head of State, and her representative who is also treated with the same courtesy due to the Sovereign. In the case when both are present, however, it is incumbent for the representative to be advised to act in a manner in which all good subordinates do – with respect for one's superior, in this case The Queen whom she normally represents with such devotion and flare.

Fidelis is a retired Ottawa insider.

LA CITADELLE OFFERING TOURS THROUGHOUT SUMMER

The official home and workplace of the Governor General at La Citadelle



delle in the Old Capital of Québec is, for the first time, opening to guided tours throughout the entire summer, from May 22 to October 31, 2004. These free one-hour tours, in French and English, begin at the Welcome booth near the Dalhousie Gate and are offered in cooperation with the Royal 22e Régiment Museum. Guides from the Museum will bring to life the roles and responsibilities of the Governor General through interpretation of the rooms in which she carries out her functions.

The residence, located inside La Citadelle of Québec, has witnessed such memorable historic events as the Quebec Conferences of 1943 and 1944. It was in 1872 that the Earl of Dufferin chose La Citadelle to re-establish a residence for the Governor General in the old capital, reviving a tradition that began with the settlement of New France and that continues to this day.

Tour hours (*may vary to accommodate official ceremonies*): June 24 – September 6: daily, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. September 7- 26: Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. September 27 – October 31: Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Members of the public can contact the Royal 22e Régiment Museum at (418) 694-2815 for any additional information on the tours. Information on the Governor General's residence at La Citadelle is also available at http://www.gg.ca/governor_general/Citadelle_e.asp

The Governor General Speaks

Address on the Occasion of a Bi-National Ceremony (Canada and France) at the Canadian War Cemetery, Bény-sur-Mer, June 5, 2004

Because of the valorous service of Canadians in two world wars, we have the geography of France written in our hearts – the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Caën, Falaise. They are central to our historical and spiritual heritage. It is a solemn privilege to represent Canada here at Bény-sur-Mer, in our cemetery, where so many of our fallen are buried so far from home, but so close to where they made their sacrifice.

That sacrifice brought freedom, but at a terrible cost. The June 6th invasion of Normandy and the brutal campaign that continued through August resulted in total casualties to Canadians approaching 20,000. About the same number of French civilians died during the Battle of Normandy. So we see that the grief and mourning of France and Canada are inextricably bound to each other. But so is a sense of national camaraderie, our joy at the restoration of peace, and a shared determination to maintain it.

Under these crosses lie children of Canada. There are other crosses and other Canadians elsewhere on French soil. Those who survived them, some of whom are with us today, have also left a large part of themselves in this country: lost friends and comrades, yes, but also a cache of memory, pieces of their innocence, and a strong measure of spiritual citizenship. It is unsurprising that so many of you, our veterans, despite advancing years, despite the physical hardships that come with those years, were determined to return. Here, you meet fellow combatants you may not have seen for many years. Here, you are likely to meet French citizens who have survived the same mighty struggle. And here, you will meet the descendants of those survivors, for whom the word "Canadian" is often synonymous with "liberation". This is a very real and abiding form of kinship. This is a genuine family reunion.

You, our veterans, know what it has been to be in battle and to have seen your friends cut down in their youth. Moments like this, in which we take ourselves back to the place of war and remembrance, are painful, yet necessary. Pain is never forgotten, and citizens of our two nations must therefore feel it with you. It must be present in our consciousness.

Our societies' greatest tributes are not given because of what one has received. Honour is the reward for what a person has given. Those who lie here gave their lives for us, for our ways of life, for the culture and freedom of France, for the diverse and peaceable kingdom that is Canada, for the security and civility of the whole world. They have given their lives in a faraway land for people they did not know. They have written their names in our hearts.