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Van Doo killed in bombing; Private is first member of famed regiment killed in Afghanistan

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The Royal 22nd Regiment suffered its first death in Afghanistan yesterday in a clash with insurgents west of Kandahar city.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., on Montreal's south shore, died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb at 1:40 a.m.

There was a firefight between Canadian troops and insurgents after the explosion, but no other Canadians were injured in the exchange of gunfire or in the roadside blast, military officials said.

A military spokesperson said Longtin was on escort duty for a supply convoy and was returning to Kandahar Air Base when the convoy was attacked five kilometres east of the village of Masum Ghar.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died since Ottawa began its military mission in Afghanistan in 2002.

But Longtin is the first member of the famed Valcartier, Que.,-based Van Doos to be killed in a war that is particularly unpopular in Quebec.

The 2,300 members of the Van Doos began their six-month tour in Afghanistan at the end of July.

Col. Christian Juneau, deputy commander of the Canadian joint task force, said Longtin was evacuated by helicopter from the scene, but was dead on arrival at the military hospital in Kandahar.

"It's almost like losing a brother," Juneau said.

"We're a big family here, brothers in arms, and it's not just a statement that we take lightly in the military. So it really touches every one of us pretty deeply. But we'll mourn, we'll pay respects to the family and our fallen comrade and we'll carry on with the mission."

Yesterday's attack was the third attack on Canadians in about a week.

On Aug. 12, five soldiers were injured when their RG-31 vehicle hit a roadside bomb on the same road as yesterday's fatal blast.

And on Friday, two Edmonton-based soldiers were slightly injured when an armoured tracked vehicle was struck by a similar improvised explosive device.

The last time Canadians died in Afghanistan was on July 4, when five soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb while travelling in a light armoured vehicle just west of Kandahar.

Juneau said the military makes every attempt to safeguard its troops.

"We protect our soldiers the best way we can through training, providing them with equipment that is probably some of the best in the world," he said.

"But we cannot foresee every event, every type of explosive, every threat the enemy is throwing at us."

In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper expressed his condolences to the dead soldier's family while lauding Longtin's courage and determination, saying his sacrifice will help bring long-term stability and peace to Afghanistan.

"Pte. Longtin displayed resolve and courage in serving his country (and) his family and friends can be proud of him because he was playing a very important role in a very challenging environment," Harper said in a statement issued in Ottawa.

"In marking the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe raid, we pay tribute to the soldiers of our past. The sacrifices of soldiers like Pte. Longtin carry on this legacy today, helping to bring stability and peace to parts of the world plagued by turmoil and upheaval."

Longtin's death could have ramifications back home in Quebec where a recent poll indicated 70 per cent of the province's population do not approve of Canadian troops being involved in Afghanistan. Juneau said the debate over the mission is better left to the politicians.

"The important thing is to have the support of the population of Quebec as we do from Canada," Juneau said.

The last week has been a bloody one in Kandahar. In addition to the attacks on Canadian soldiers, there have been numerous attacks on civilians and police.

On Saturday, the Taliban released a statement from their leader Mullah Omar calling for Afghans to wage a jihad against foreign troops.

However, the attacks have not shaken the resolve of Canadian soldiers to continue their reconstruction mission, Chief Warrant Officer Pierre Marchant said.

"We will not be terrorized," Marchant said, although he was visibly shaken by the death of Longtin.

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean said she was saddened to hear of Longtin's death, adding in a statement that the young soldier wore the uniform of the Royal 22nd Regiment with pride and was convinced of the necessity of supporting the Afghan population.

Jean said her thoughts went out to Longtin's family.

"Today, all Canadians join together with them to grieve," Jean said.

Soldier's death colours Dieppe tribute

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: CANADIAN PRESS / Veteran Bill McCarthy of Iroquois Falls walks through rows of tombstones yesterday after a ceremony at the Cimetière des Vertus in Hautot-sur-Mer, France. Veterans are in France to mark the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe raid. ;

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SOURCE: Canadian Press

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WORD COUNT: 552

The emotional trip back in time yesterday for elderly veterans of the disastrous Dieppe raid was heightened with the news that another Canadian soldier had been killed in Afghanistan.

A tribute to the 913 Canadians who died in the Aug. 19, 1942, battle in the northern French port of Dieppe was just underway when the army's chaplain, Maj. Michel Dion, announced in his prayer of remembrance that a 23-year-old Quebec-based soldier had been killed west of Kandahar city.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, on Montreal's south shore, was Canada's 67th combat death and the first of the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Regiment — the Van Doos — to die in the war-torn country.

The ranks of veterans who took part in the bloody eight-hour beachfront battle in Dieppe have grown thin and, with fewer around to remember, the sting of Canada's worst military defeat has begun to dull.

But a veteran of Afghanistan who accompanied the old soldiers on this emotional pilgrimage said the recent casualties have reawakened Canadians to their history and introduced a whole new generation to the pain of war.

"My children know what it's like," said Maj. Steve Gallagher, a former battery commander with the 1st Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, based in Shilo, Man.

Gallagher, 42, who is now an artillery instructor at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, N.B., said his family was close to Capt. Nichola Goddard, the country's first female soldier killed in combat, who died on May 17, 2006.

"They (his children) knew Nichola, Capt. Goddard, very well," Gallagher said, adding that he's thought of Goddard at just about every ceremony of remembrance during the Dieppe pilgrimage.

"They used to walk with their dogs all the time."

In his visit to Dieppe's stony beach, the 23-year career soldier was stunned by the distance of open ground that Canadian soldiers had been ordered to cross under withering German machine-gun, mortar and artillery fire 65 years ago.

"They just did it and that's the way our guys are today," he said.

Drawing the link between the military sacrifices of past wars is something the Conservative government has done increasingly as the public has grown more uneasy about rising casualties in Afghanistan.

"It is a different world, but there is no question there is a link between what our soldiers fought for here and what they are fighting for in Afghanistan," Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson said after the day's second multi-nation tribute at the Canadian memorial overlooking the beachfront esplanade.

"The values we cherish as Canadians, those values have not changed in 65 years," Thompson said.

"The mission is a different mission. It is defined differently. It's a different world than what we were living in 65 years ago. Still, at the end of the day, we are accepting our international responsibilities."

It was the kind of sentiment that sat well with John Edmondson, a veteran of the Dieppe raid and former member of the South Saskatchewan Regiment.

Edmondson said he felt sorry for Longtin's family but soldiers are soldiers and are expected to lay down their lives.

Edmondson, one of those who made it out of Dieppe and went on to fight in the Normandy campaign, said the world is a dangerous place.

"If the (terrorists) weren't there, they'd be here and I'm waiting for the day something happens in Canada," he said.

"If we don't annihilate them they'll get to us."

The Canadian public has had many warnings about the danger posed by terrorism and "if they're not awake (now), they're stupid," Edmondson said.

Dignitaries and veterans from Canada, France and Britain took part in remembrance ceremonies throughout the weekend on the beach and at a cemetery where 707 Canadians are buried.

Nearly 5,000 Canadians and 1,000 British troops took part in the ill-fated raid, along with nearly 50 U.S. Rangers. In addition to the more than 900 Canadians killed, 600 were wounded and another 1,975 surrendered and spent nearly three years in captivity.

Bomb kills Cdn. soldier; First member of Van Doos regiment dies in action in Afghan mission

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The Royal 22nd Regiment suffered its first death in Afghanistan yesterday in a clash with insurgents west of Kandahar city.

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There was a firefight between Canadian troops and insurgents after the explosion, but no other Canadians were injured in the exchange of gunfire or in the roadside blast, military officials said.

A military spokesman said Longtin was on escort duty for a resupply convoy and was returning to Kandahar Air Base when the convoy was attacked five kilometres east of the village of Masum Ghar.

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The 2,300 members of the Van Doos began their six-month tour in Afghanistan at the end of July. Longtin had been stationed in Kandahar since July 30.

Col. Christian Juneau, deputy commander of the Canadian joint task force, said Longtin was evacuated by helicopter from the scene of the attack but was dead on arrival at the military hospital in Kandahar.

"It's almost like losing a brother," Juneau said. "We're a big family here, brothers in arms, and it's not just a statement that we take lightly in the military. So it really touches every one of us pretty deeply. But we'll mourn, we'll pay respects to the family and our fallen comrade and we'll carry on with the mission."

Yesterday's attack was the third attack on Canadians in a week.

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And on Friday, two Edmonton-based soldiers were slightly injured when an armoured vehicle was struck by a similar improvised explosive device, or IED.

The last time Canadians died in Afghanistan was on July 4, when five soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb while travelling in an LAV just west of Kandahar.

Juneau said the military makes every attempt to safeguard its troops.

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Longtin's death could have ramifications back home in Quebec where a recent poll indicated that 70 per cent of the population does not approve of Canadian troops being involved in Afghanistan. Juneau said the debate over the mission is better left to the politicians.

Veterans remember Dieppe raid at sombre ceremony; Death of soldier in Afghanistan heightens emotions at service

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Dignitaries and veterans from Canada, France and Britain took part in remembrance ceremonies throughout the weekend on the beach and at a cemetery where 707 Canadians are buried.

Nearly 5,000 Canadians and 1,000 British troops took part in the ill-fated raid, along with nearly 50 U.S. Rangers. In addition to the more than 900 Canadians killed, 600 were wounded and another 1,975 surrendered and spent nearly three years in brutal captivity.

Dieppe veterans remember horrific raid

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In addition to the more than 900 Canadians killed, 600 were wounded and another 1,975 surrendered and spent nearly three years in brutal captivity.

First Van Doo killed in Afghanistan

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"We protect our soldiers the best way we can through training, providing them with equipment that is probably some of the best in the world," he said.

"But we cannot foresee every event, every type of explosive, every threat the enemy is throwing at us."

In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper expressed his condolences to the dead soldier's family while lauding Longtin's courage and determination, saying his sacrifice will help bring long-term stability and peace to Afghanistan.

"Pte. Longtin displayed resolve and courage in serving his country (and) his family and friends can be proud of him because he was playing a very important role in a very challenging environment," Harper said in a statement issued in Ottawa.

The last week has been a bloody one in Kandahar. In addition to the attacks on Canadian soldiers, there have been numerous other attacks on civilians and police.

On Saturday, the Taliban released a statement from their leader Mullah Omar calling for Afghans to wage a jihad against foreign troops.

However, the attacks have not shaken the resolve of Canadian soldiers to continue their reconstruction mission, said Chief Warrant Officer Pierre Marchant.

"We will not be terrorized," said Marchant, although he was visibly shaken by the death of Longtin.

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean said she was saddened to hear of Longtin's death, adding in a statement that the young soldier wore the uniform with pride and was convinced of the necessity of supporting the Afghan population.

Jean said her thoughts went out to Longtin's family.

"Today, all Canadians join together with them to grieve," Jean said.

MORT AU COMBAT

SOURCETAG 0708200233
PUBLICATION: Le Journal de Montréal
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Nouvelles
PAGE: 6
BYLINE: RICHARD MARTINEAU
COLUMN: FRANC-PARLER
WORD COUNT: 388

Un soldat du Royal 22e Régiment est mort lors d'une attaque à l'explosif.

Il avait 23 ans. Il s'appelait Simon Longtin. C'est triste. Tragique, même. Mais ça fait aussi partie de ce qu'on pourrait appeler "les risques du métier".

PAS LES SCOUTS

Car soyons francs: l'armée, ce n'est pas les scouts ni les cadets de la forêt. Quoiqu'en disent certaines publicités (rappelez-vous le bon vieux slogan "Si la vie vous intéresse"), on n'entre pas dans l'armée pour faire des noeuds, creuser des puits ou grimper dans les arbres. Ce n'est pas un camp d'hébertisme...

L'armée, ça sert à une chose: faire la guerre. Et dans une guerre, il y a des morts. Des deux côtés. Il y en a même chez les civils, des gens qui ne sont pas armés, qui n'ont rien demandé.

Oui, c'est triste qu'un soldat québécois ait perdu la vie. Ses proches doivent être atterrés.

Mais la mort d'un soldat québécois n'est pas plus tragique que la mort de 66 soldats canadiens. Ou la mort de civils afghans.

C'est ça, la guerre. La guerre, ce n'est pas propre, ce n'est pas "scientifique", ce n'est pas "chirurgical". C'est sale, dégueulasse et chaotique.

Ce sont des kids de 20 ans qu'on arme jusqu'aux dents et qu'on parachute à l'autre bout du monde pour des raisons politiques qui souvent les dépassent.

RÉCUPÉRATION

Les pacifistes québécois vont probablement utiliser la mort du soldat Longtin pour faire avancer leur cause.

Ils ne le diront jamais, mais ça les arrange, cette mort. Ça fait leur affaire. Ça amène de l'eau à leur moulin. À la limite, on pourrait dire qu'ils l'attendaient. Rien de mieux qu'un cadavre bien frais et bien jeune pour choquer la population.

Je ne sais pas ce que vous en pensez, mais moi, la récupération politique des cadavres, ça me rend mal à l'aise.

Que l'on soit contre l'intervention canadienne en Afghanistan pour des raisons politiques, je le comprends. Je n'appuie pas cette thèse, mais je la comprends et respecte ceux qui y souscrivent.

Mais qu'on soit contre la mission canadienne parce que des soldats québécois risquent de mourir, ça, franchement, ça me dépasse.

On pense quoi ? Qu'on peut faire la guerre sans casser des oeufs? Qu'il suffit de se pointer là-bas avec des fusils à plomb et un drapeau du Québec pour que les Afghans se mettent à chanter Quand les hommes vivront d'amour?

Pourquoi ça serait correct que des Ontariens meurent, mais pas des Québécois?

UN VOLONTAIRE

Simon Longtin savait pertinemment ce qu'il faisait quand il a accepté de devenir membre du groupe tactique du Royal 22e, il y a deux ans.

Ça ne rend pas sa mort plus facile à accepter. Mais le dépeindre comme une victime passive de l'obsession belliqueuse et de l'irresponsabilité du gouvernement Harper est une fausseté, un mensonge.

Simon Longtin n'était pas une pauvre victime. Il était un soldat. Il était soldat comme d'autres sont policiers, en toute connaissance de cause.

Personne ne l'a obligé à entrer dans l'armée. Personne ne l'a obligé à prendre les armes.

Il n'était pas un conscrit, il était volontaire, et c'est volontairement qu'il s'est rendu en Afghanistan.

Dire le contraire serait une insulte à sa mémoire.

Visitez le blogue de

Richard Martineau

martineau.blogue.canoe.ca

LE PLC DEMANDE LE RETRAIT EN 2009 ARMÉE CANADIENNE

SOURCETAG 0708200213
PUBLICATION: Le Journal de Montréal
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Nouvelles
PAGE: 4
DATELINE: PC
WORD COUNT: 155

PC — À la suite du premier décès en Afghanistan d'un soldat de la base de Valcartier, le porte-parole du Parti libéral en matière de défense, Denis Coderre, a réitéré hier la demande de son chef, Stéphane Dion, de retirer les troupes canadiennes dès 2009.

Après avoir offert ses condoléances à la famille, il a dit espérer que le premier ministre Stephen Harper profite du sommet de Montebello pour informer le président américain du retrait du Canada d'Afghanistan en février 2009.

Selon lui, le Canada a fait sa part pour la mission de l'OTAN en Afghanistan et il est normal que d'autres pays prennent la relève.

Le premier ministre du Québec, Jean Charest, a lui aussi émis un communiqué pour transmettre publiquement ses condoléances et a rendu hommage au soldat Longtin, au nom de tous les Québécois.

De son côté, le chef du Bloc québécois, Gilles Duceppe, un opposant à la mission militaire canadienne, s'est contenté d'exprimer "(ses) sincères condoléances" aux proches du !@MOTSCLES=AFGHANISTAN – SOLDAT QUÉBÉCOIS TUÉ – FORCES ARMÉES CANADIENNES

COMMÉMORATION ASSOMBRIE DIEPPE

SOURCETAG 0708200212
PUBLICATION: Le Journal de Montréal
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Nouvelles
PAGE: 4
BYLINE: PC
DATELINE: DIEPPE, France
WORD COUNT: 136

DIEPPE, France — (PC) L'hommage au 913 Canadiens morts le 19 août 1942 dans l'assaut des forces alliées sur Dieppe, en France, a été assombri hier par le décès d'un soldat canadien en Afghanistan.

La cérémonie venait à peine de commencer quand l'aumônier de l'armée, le major Michel Dion, a annoncé dans sa prière du souvenir que le soldat Simon Longtin du Royal 22e Régiment avait été tué à l'ouest de Kandahar.

Le 19 août 1942, près de 5000 membres de la 2e Division d'infanterie canadienne débarquaient sur les plages de Dieppe au cours de l'opération " Jubilee ". 913 soldats canadiens ont perdu la vie ce jour-là ou ont succombé par la suite à leurs blessures et près de 2000 ont été faits prisonniers de guerre.

!@MOTSCLES=AFGHANISTAN – SOLDAT QUÉBÉCOIS TUÉ – FORCES ARMÉES CANADIENNES

PROBLÈMES EN VUE POUR HARPER LES PROCHAINS DÉCÈS POURRAIENT NUIRE À L'IMAGE DU PREMIER MINISTRE AU QUÉBEC

SOURCETAG 0708200211

PUBLICATION: Le Journal de Montréal

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SECTION: Nouvelles

PAGE: 4

ILLUSTRATION: 1. PHOTO LE JOURNAL Des soldats canadiens effectuant une patrouille, il y a quelques semaines. 2. 3. 4. 5.

BYLINE: JEAN-MICHEL NAHAS LE JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL

WORD COUNT: 314

La mort d'un soldat québécois en Afghanistan n'améliorera en rien la cote de popularité de Stephen Harper au Québec, selon les experts, qui affirment que ce premier décès, qui ne sera sûrement pas le dernier, pourrait nuire fortement au premier ministre canadien.

Les spécialistes interrogés par le Journal admettent que l'annonce du premier décès d'un soldat de Valcartier ne sera pas catastrophique pour Stephen Harper dans l'opinion publique québécoise.

Par contre, ils s'entendent pour dire que les prochains morts du Royal 22^e Régiment en Afghanistan mettront le premier ministre dans l'embarras.

"Il est improbable que ce soldat soit le seul mort, c'est plutôt le début d'un nombre inconnu, dit Claude Denis, professeur de science politique à l'Université d'Ottawa. Les conservateurs risquent de souffrir à mesure que les pertes québécoises augmentent. "

Jours difficiles

Un autre politologue de l'Université d'Ottawa, Michael Orsini, annonce aussi des jours difficiles pour Stephen Harper, quand d'autres soldats de Valcartier tomberont au combat.

"Y aura-t-il d'autres morts? Je pense que oui, dit-il. Il faut être réaliste, la guerre, ce n'est pas rose. Et d'autres décès québécois, c'est clair que ce n'est pas une bonne nouvelle pour le premier ministre. "

Le décès de Simon Longtin est survenu moins d'une semaine après le remaniement ministériel de Stephen Harper qui a amené Maxime Bernier au poste de ministre des Affaires étrangères.

Stratégie insuffisante

Selon M. Denis, même cette nouvelle stratégie ne sera pas suffisante pour charmer les Québécois.

"Ce n'est pas un problème de communication, c'est un problème de fond qu'il y a entre le Québec et la mission canadienne en Afghanistan, affirme-t-il. Les Québécois sont fondamentalement contre cette intervention. "

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PROBLÈMES EN VUE POUR HARPER LES PROCHAINS DÉCÈS POURRAIENT NUIRE À L'IMAGE DU I

* * *

"Ce qu'ils ont dit..."

"Simon Longtin est décédé en faisant son métier et son devoir. [...] C'est un être cher qui disparaît dans cette terrible tragédie. "

Gilles Duceppe,

chef du Bloc québécois "Le soldat Longtin a fait preuve de détermination et de courage en servant son pays. Il manquera beaucoup à la famille des Forces canadiennes. "

– Stephen Harper, premier ministre du Canada

"J'offre mes sincères condoléances et je continue de demander le retrait des soldats canadiens. "

– Jack Layton, chef du NPD

"Nous offrons nos condoléances à la famille, et nous demandons le retrait des troupes canadiennes dès 2009. "

– Denis Coderre, porte-parole du Parti libéral en matière de défense !@MOTSCLES=AFGHANISTAN
SOLDAT QUÉBÉCOIS TUÉ – FORCES ARMÉES CANADIENNES

LE PREMIER À TOMBER SOLDAT QUÉBÉCOIS TUÉ AVEC LA MORT DE SIMON LONGTIN, LE ROYAL 22E RÉGIMENT PERD SON PREMIER SOLDAT EN AFGHANISTAN

SOURCETAG 0708200190

PUBLICATION: Le Journal de Montréal

DATE: 2007.08.20

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SECTION: Nouvelles

PAGE: 3

ILLUSTRATION: 1. PHOTO PC Le véhicule léger blindé (notre photo) que conduisait la victime au sein d'un convoi de ravitaillement a été soufflé par l'explosion d'un engin explosif improvisé dissimulé sur une route secondaire à une vingtaine de kilomètres de la ville de Kandahar. 2. TURKMÉNISTAN 20 km à l'ouest de Kandahar IRAN AFGHANISTAN PAKISTAN 3. STÉPHANE PERRAS En larmes 4. SIMON LONGTIN Fier de servir

BYLINE: JEAN-MICHEL NAHAS ET PC LE JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL

COLUMN: À la une

WORD COUNT: 438

Un premier soldat québécois du Royal 22e Régiment de Valcartier a péri à Kandahar dans l'explosion d'une bombe artisanale, hier matin, et il ne sera pas le dernier à mourir de la sorte, selon des experts.

Des spécialistes interrogés par le Journal affirment que d'autres décès comme celui de Simon Longtin, 23 ans, sont inévitables. Selon eux, de tels drames affectent le moral des troupes et nuisent à la popularité de Stephen Harper auprès de l'électorat québécois

Le jeune soldat résidant à Longueuil a perdu la vie vers 1h40, heure locale. Le véhicule léger blindé (VLB) qu'il conduisait a été complètement soufflé par l'explosion d'un engin explosif improvisé. La bombe était dissimulée sur une route secondaire, à une vingtaine de kilomètres de Kandahar.

Immédiatement après la violente déflagration, une fusillade a éclaté entre les insurgés et les Forces armées, mais aucun autre soldat n'a été blessé. Après l'explosion, Simon Longtin montrait encore de faibles signes vitaux. Il a été évacué par hélicoptère et des manoeuvres de réanimation ont été tentées, en vain. Son décès a été constaté à l'hôpital militaire de Kandahar.

Violences en hausse

Depuis quelques semaines, les violences sont en recrudescence en Afghanistan. Les derniers jours ont été particulièrement sanglants alors que les insurgés talibans semblent avoir répondu à un appel présumé du mollah Omar au jihad, une lutte sans appel pour la cause de Dieu. Depuis trois jours, des convois militaires ont été attaqués à trois reprises, incluant la funeste attaque d'hier.

L'émotion était palpable, hier, chez les collègues de Simon Longtin, qui faisait partie du 3e bataillon du Royal 22e Régiment. Le sergent Stéphane Perras était très près de la victime et il n'a pu contenir ses larmes lorsqu'il a évoqué le décès du soldat. "J'ai passé beaucoup de temps avec Simon et j'ai apprécié le temps que j'ai passé

LE PREMIER À TOMBER SOLDAT QUÉBÉCOIS TUÉ AVEC LA MORT DE SIMON LONGTIN, LE ROYAL

avec lui, a-t-il soufflé, ému. Quand j'ai appris sa mort ce matin, ce fut assez dur pour moi."

Le jeune homme a été décrit comme un soldat fier de pouvoir faire sa part. Ses parents ont d'ailleurs déclaré au major Casey McLean, commandant suppléant du 3e bataillon, que leur fils était très fier de servir en Afghanistan.

Douleur

Le lieutenant-colonel à la retraite Rémi Landry partageait hier la douleur des troupes québécoises "Je me sens près d'eux, dit-il. Ils viennent de perdre un camarade, c'est certain que le moral est moins bon dans le reste du groupe."

La mort de Simon Longtin porte à 67 le nombre de Canadiens – 66 soldats et un diplomate – morts en Afghanistan depuis 2002. Déjà deux autres militaires du Québec, Jason Warren de Québec et Ainsworth Dyer de Montréal, ont déjà perdu la vie.

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LA FAMILLE ATERRÉE

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SECTION: Nouvelles
PAGE: 3
BYLINE: JEAN-M. NAHAS ET CAROLINE ROY
COLUMN: À la une
WORD COUNT: 207

La famille de Simon Longtin vit évidemment des heures très difficiles depuis l'annonce du décès du soldat.

Très affecté par la mort de son fils, le père de Simon Longtin a refusé de parler au Journal. C'est sa conjointe qui a répondu à la porte de leur domicile de Longueuil. "On est désolés, mais on n'a pas de commentaires. Il faut nous laisser du temps", a dit la femme, les yeux rougis par l'émotion. La famille devrait réagir dans les prochains jours par voie de communiqué.

Triste nouvelle

D'autres proches du jeune soldat ont tout de même trouvé la force de commenter la triste nouvelle. Gilles Longtin, même s'il n'est pas de la famille immédiate de la victime, était atterré, hier.

"C'est un choc, je l'ai appris en matinée et j'essaie de joindre ma mère pour le lui dire ", souffle-t-il.

L'homme qui habite Longueuil ne s'est pas gêné pour condamner la présence des soldats de Valcartier en Afghanistan. "Je ne supporte pas du tout ce conflit, c'est une cause perdue d'avance", lance-t-il.

La grande-tante de M. Longtin, Jeanne Thériault, s'est aussi dite très peinée, lorsque le Journal lui a appris le décès du soldat. "Ça me fait de quoi. Mes deux frères ont passé de longues années dans l'armée, je sais que ce sont des missions dangereuses ", a-t-elle dit, émue. !@MOTSCLES=SOLDAT QUÉBÉCOIS TUÉ –
FORCES ARMÉES CANADIENNES

GRANDE TRISTESSE LES TROUPES QUÉBÉCOISES DEVRAIENT CEPENDANT SE RESSAISIR TRÈS VITE

SOURCETAG	0708200174
PUBLICATION:	Le Journal de Montréal
DATE:	2007.08.20
EDITION:	Final
SECTION:	Nouvelles
PAGE:	2
ILLUSTRATION:	1. PHOTO LE JOURNAL Selon le lieutenant-colonel à la retraite Michel Drapeau, " les troupes devraient être plus motivées pour la mission, afin que la mort de Simon Longtin n'ait pas été inutile. " 2. MICHEL DRAPEAU Plus motivés 3. CASEY MCLEAN Le moral demeure
BYLINE:	JEAN-MICHEL NAHAS LE JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL
COLUMN:	À LA UNE
WORD COUNT:	326

Le décès d'un premier soldat de Valcartier en Afghanistan affaiblira le moral des troupes québécoises, qui ont vécu hier un jour de grande tristesse. Malgré ces souffrances, les soldats devraient toutefois se ressaisir rapidement pour honorer la mémoire de Simon Longtin, selon les spécialistes.

Le lieutenant-colonel à la retraite Rémi Landry a été très affecté par le décès du jeune soldat Simon Longtin.

"Oui, c'est un choc, une grande perte et une tragédie, dit-il. Il ne faut pas penser que les soldats sont insensibles. Mais ce sont des professionnels qui sont entraînés au fait de la mortalité. "

Selon l'ex-militaire, le décès du premier soldat de Valcartier ne sera pas oublié rapidement par les troupes. " Dans deux semaines, ils vont encore y penser, croit-il. Ils vont sans doute se forcer pour leur mission en disant: "On donne un dernier coup de coeur pour Longtin." "

Prêts à affronter la mort

Un autre lieutenant-colonel à la retraite, Michel Drapeau, abonde dans le même sens. À son avis, les soldats sont prêts à affronter la mort. Et même si un décès est toujours tragique, les troupes devraient être plus motivées pour la mission, afin que la mort de Simon Longtin n'ait pas été inutile.

"Tous les militaires s'attendent à cela, souligne M. Drapeau. Ça n'enlève rien à la peine de la perte d'un camarade, mais l'esprit de corps s'en trouve accru. "

Grande douleur

La plus grande douleur est celle que vit la famille du jeune Longtin, selon le lieutenant-colonel. "Pour eux, c'est vraiment dur et c'est ça qui est terrible, affirme-t-il. Ils n'ont souvent pas de réconfort immédiat. La parenté est là quelques minutes, mais c'est court. "

Dans un point de presse, Casey McLean, major et commandant intérimaire des Forces canadiennes, a aussi indiqué que les soldats québécois gardaient le moral, malgré la mort d'un des leurs. "C'est un décès qui va affecter tout le monde, même nos membres, car c'est un de nos gars, dit-il. Mais le moral demeure, les gars

croient vraiment en la mission. "

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CANADIENNES

GRANDE TRISTESSE LES TROUPES QUÉBÉCOISES DEVRAIENT CEPENDANT SE RESSAISIR TRÈS

LE DRAME VÉCU SUR LE TERRAIN

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SECTION: Nouvelles
PAGE: 2
BYLINE: CAPORAL-CHEF MARTIN
FORGUES
COLUMN: À la une\Collaboration spéciale
WORD COUNT: 110

Le décès du soldat Simon Longtin a ébranlé nos troupes, en Afghanistan. Voici quelques commentaires de notre chroniqueur, le caporal-chef Martin Forgues, qui donne chaque samedi aux lecteurs du Journal de Montréal des nouvelles de nos soldats depuis Kandahar.

Malgré le choc inhérent à une telle nouvelle, il est important de se rappeler que Simon a fait son job [...]. Mes pensées vont à la famille et aux amis.

On ne peut pas se permettre de mettre le focus là-dessus. On doit faire notre boulot, même s'il est potentiellement dangereux.

"L'important, c'est que le moral des troupes reste toujours fort, et en ce moment, il l'est.

Tous doivent savoir que nous ne lâcherons pas et que nous tâcherons d'honorer sa mémoire en accomplissant notre boulot du mieux qu'on peut. !@MOTSCLES=SOLDAT QUÉBÉCOIS TUÉ – FORCES ARMÉES CANADIENNES

D'AUTRES QUÉBÉCOIS VONT MOURIR SIMON LONGTIN, PREMIER SOLDAT DE VALCARTIER TUÉ EN AFGHANISTAN

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PAGE: 1
WORD COUNT: 9

Front du 20 août 2007

Veterans commemorate Dieppe tragedy of 1942; Bloody beachside battle in France claimed the lives of 913 Canadian soldiers

PUBLICATION: Kingston Whig–Standard (ON)

DATE: 2007.08.20

SECTION: National/World

PAGE: B3

SOURCE: CP

BYLINE: Murray Brewster

PHOTO: The Canadian Press

DATELINE: DIEPPE, France

ILLUSTRATION: A young man dressed as a U.S. soldier chats with Joe Ryan from Mississauga, a Dieppe veteran from the Royal Regiment of Canada. A group of veterans are in France to mark the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe raid.

WORD COUNT: 609

The emotional trip back in time yesterday for elderly veterans of the disastrous Dieppe raid was heightened with the news that another Canadian soldier had been killed in Afghanistan.

A tribute to the 913 Canadians who died in the Aug. 19, 1942, battle in this northern French port was just underway when the army's chaplain, Maj. Michel Dion, announced in his prayer of remembrance that a 23-year-old Quebec-based soldier had been killed west of Kandahar city.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., on Montreal's south shore, was the 67th combat death and the first of the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Regiment – the Van Doos – to die in the war-torn country. The ranks of veterans who took part in the bloody eight-hour beachside battle in Dieppe have grown thin and, with fewer around to remember, the sting of Canada's worst military defeat has begun to dull.

But a veteran of Afghanistan who accompanied the old soldiers on this emotional pilgrimage said the recent casualties have reawakened Canadians to their history and introduced a whole new generation to the pain of war.

"My children know what it's like," said Maj. Steve Gallagher, a former battery commander with the 1st Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, based in Shilo, Man.

Gallagher, 42, who is now an artillery instructor at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, N.B., said his family was close to Capt. Nichola Goddard, the country's first female soldier killed in combat, who died on May 17, 2006.

"They [Gallagher's children] knew Nichola, Capt. Goddard, very well," Gallagher said, adding that he's thought of Goddard at just about every ceremony of remembrance during the Dieppe pilgrimage.

"They used to walk with their dogs all the time."

In his visit Dieppe's stony beach, the 23-year career soldier was stunned by its breadth and the distance of open ground that Canadian soldiers had been ordered to cross under withering German machine-gun, mortar and artillery fire 65 years ago.

"They just did it and that's the way our guys are today," he said.

Drawing the link between the military sacrifices of past wars is something the Conservative government has done increasingly as the public has grown more uneasy about rising casualties in Afghanistan. "It is a different world, but there is no question there is a link between what our soldiers fought for here and what they are fighting for in Afghanistan," Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson said following the day's second multi-nation tribute at the Canadian memorial overlooking the beachfront Esplanade.

"The values we cherish as Canadians, those values have not changed in 65 years," Thompson said. "The mission is a different mission. It is defined differently. It's a different world than what we were living in 65 years ago. Still, at the end of the day, we are accepting our international responsibilities."

It was the kind of sentiment that sat well with John Edmondson, a veteran of the Dieppe Raid and former member of the South Saskatchewan Regiment.

Edmondson said he felt sorry for Longtin's family, but soldiers are soldiers and are expected to lay down their lives.

"If the [terrorists] weren't there, they'd be here and I'm waiting for the day something happens in Canada," he said. "If we don't annihilate them they'll get to us."

Edmondson, one of those who made it out of Dieppe and went on to fight in the Normandy campaign, said the world is a dangerous place. The Canadian public has had many warnings about the danger posed by terrorism and "if they're not awake [now]; they're stupid," Edmondson said.

Dignitaries and veterans from Canada, France and Britain took part in remembrance ceremonies throughout the weekend on the beach and at a cemetery where 707 Canadians are buried.

Nearly 5,000 Canadians and 1,000 British troops took part in the ill-fated raid, along with nearly 50 U.S. Rangers. In addition to the more than 900 Canadians killed, 600 were wounded and another 1,975 surrendered and spent nearly three years in brutal captivity.

Canadian soldier killed; Pte. Simon Longtin the first member of Van Doos to die in Afghanistan

PUBLICATION: Kingston Whig–Standard (ON)

DATE: 2007.08.20

SECTION: National/World

PAGE: B1

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Martin Ouellet

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

ILLUSTRATION: Longtin

WORD COUNT: 351

The Royal 22nd Regiment suffered its first death in Afghanistan yesterday in a clash with insurgents west of Kandahar city.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., on Montreal's south shore, died when his light–armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb at 1:40 a.m.

There was a firefight between Canadian troops and insurgents after the explosion, but no other Canadians were wounded in the exchange of gunfire or in the roadside blast, military officials said.

A military spokesman said Longtin was on escort duty for a resupply convoy and was returning to Kandahar Air Base when the convoy was attacked five kilometres east of the village of Masum Ghar.

Sixty–seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died since Ottawa began its military mission in Afghanistan in 2002. But Longtin is the first member of the famed Valcartier, Que.,–based Van Doos to be killed in a war that is particularly unpopular in Quebec. The 2,300 members of the Van Doos began their six–month tour in Afghanistan at the end of July. Longtin had been stationed in Kandahar since July 30.

Col. Christian Juneau, deputy commander of the Canadian joint task force, said Longtin was evacuated by helicopter from the scene of the attack but was dead on arrival at the military hospital in Kandahar.

"It's almost like losing a brother," Juneau said. "We're a big family here, brothers in arms, and it's not just a statement that we take lightly in the military. So it really touches every one of us pretty deeply. But we'll mourn, we'll pay respects to the family and our fallen comrade and we'll carry on with the mission."

Yesterday's attack was the third attack on Canadians in a week. Last Sunday, five soldiers were injured when their RG–31 vehicle hit a roadside bomb on the same road as yesterday's fatal blast.

And on Friday, two Edmonton–based soldiers were slightly injured when an armoured tracked vehicle was struck by a similar improvised explosive device, or IED.

The last time Canadians died in Afghanistan was on July 4, when five soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb while travelling in an LAV west of Kandahar. Juneau said the military makes every attempt to safeguard its troops.

Afghan bomb kills Canadian; Victim becomes first Van Doo to die in mission to Afghanistan

PUBLICATION:	The Chronicle–Herald
DATE:	2007.08.20
SECTION:	Front
PAGE:	A1
SOURCE:	The Canadian Press
BYLINE:	Martin Ouellet
ILLUSTRATION:	Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., was killed early Sunday west of Kandahar City. (DEFENSE DEPARTMENT); Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., was killed early Sunday west of Kandahar city. (Defence Department)
WORD COUNT:	695

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The Royal 22nd Regiment suffered its first death in Afghanistan on Sunday in a clash with insurgents west of Kandahar city.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., on Montreal's south shore, died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb at 1:40 a.m..

There was a firefight between Canadian troops and insurgents after the explosion, but no other Canadians were injured in the exchange of gunfire or in the roadside blast, military officials said.

A military spokesman said Longtin was on escort duty for a resupply convoy and was returning to Kandahar Air Base when the convoy was attacked five kilometres east of the village of Masum Ghar.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died since Ottawa began its military mission in Afghanistan in 2002. But Longtin is the first member of the Valcartier, Que.,-based Van Doos to be killed in a war that is particularly unpopular in Quebec.

The 2,300 members of the Van Doos began their six-month tour in Afghanistan at the end of July. Longtin had been stationed in Kandahar since July 30.

Col. Christian Juneau, deputy commander of the Canadian joint task force, said Longtin was evacuated by helicopter from the scene of the attack but was dead on arrival at the military hospital in Kandahar.

"It's almost like losing a brother," Juneau said. "We're a big family here, brothers in arms, and it's not just a statement that we take lightly in the military. So it really touches every one of us pretty deeply. But we'll mourn, we'll pay respects to the family and our fallen comrade and we'll carry on with the mission."

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Juneau said the military makes every attempt to safeguard its troops.

"We protect our soldiers the best way we can through training, providing them with equipment that is probably some of the best in the world," he said.

"But we cannot foresee every event, every type of explosive, every threat the enemy is throwing at us."

In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper expressed his condolences to the dead soldier's family while lauding Longtin's courage and determination, saying his sacrifice will help bring long-term stability and peace to Afghanistan.

"Pte. Longtin displayed resolve and courage in serving his country (and) his family and friends can be proud of him because he was playing a very important role in a very challenging environment," Harper said in a statement issued in Ottawa.

"In marking the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe raid, we pay tribute to the soldiers of our past. The sacrifices of soldiers like Pte. Longtin carry on this legacy today, helping to bring stability and peace to parts of the world plagued by turmoil and upheaval."

Longtin's death could have ramifications back home in Quebec where a recent poll indicated that 70 per cent of the population does not approve of Canadian troops being involved in Afghanistan. Juneau said the debate over the mission is better left to the politicians. "The important thing is to have the support of the population of Quebec as we do from Canada," Juneau said.

The last week has been a bloody one in Kandahar. In addition to the attacks on Canadian soldiers, there have been numerous other attacks on civilians and police.

On Saturday, the Taliban released a statement from their leader Mullah Omar calling for Afghans to wage a jihad against foreign troops.

However, the attacks have not shaken the resolve of Canadian soldiers to continue their reconstruction mission, said Chief Warrant Officer Pierre Marchant.

"We will not be terrorized," said Marchant, although he was visibly shaken by the death of Longtin.

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean said she was saddened to hear of Longtin's death, adding in a statement that the young soldier wore the uniform with pride and was convinced of the necessity of supporting the Afghan population.

Jean said her thoughts went out to Longtin's family.

"Today, all Canadians join together with them to grieve," Jean said. "In marking the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe raid, we pay tribute to the soldiers of our past. The sacrifices of soldiers like Pte. Longtin carry on this legacy today, helping to bring stability and peace to parts of the world plagued by turmoil and upheaval."

At last, safe landfall in Dieppe; Veterans mark ill-fated 1942 raid

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald

DATE: 2007.08.20

SECTION: Front

PAGE: A1

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Murray Brewster

John Edmondson from Victoria, B.C., rides a jeep during a parade in Dieppe, France, on Sunday, where a group of veterans marked the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe raid, where Canadian troops took heavy casualties in an early attempt to invade Nazi-occupied Europe. (Paul Chiasson / CP); A trumpeter plays The Last Post during a heavy downpour during a ceremony at a cemetery in Saint-Aubin-le-Cauf, France, where two Canadian airmen, Pilot Officers John Edwin and Norman Monchier, are buried. The two were killed on Aug. 19, 1942, as part of the Dieppe raid and then buried by the townspeople. (Paul Chiasson / CP); John Edmondson from Victoria, B.C., rides a jeep during a parade in Dieppe, France, on Sunday, where a group of veterans marked the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe raid, where Canadian troops took heavy casualties in an early attempt to invade Nazi-occupied Europe. (Paul Chiasson / CP); A trumpeter plays The Last Post during a heavy downpour during a ceremony at a cemetery in Saint-Aubin-le-Cauf, France, where two Canadian airmen, Pilot Officers John Edwin and Norman Monchier, are buried. The two were killed on Aug. 19, 1942, as part of the Dieppe raid and then buried by the townspeople. (Paul Chiasson / CP)

WORD COUNT: 619

DIEPPE, France – The emotional trip back in time Sunday for elderly veterans of the disastrous Dieppe raid was heightened with the news that another Canadian soldier had been killed in Afghanistan.

A tribute to the 913 Canadians who died in the Aug. 19, 1942, battle in this northern French port was just underway when the army's chaplain, Maj. Michel Dion, announced in his prayer of remembrance that a 23-year-old Quebec-based soldier had been killed west of Kandahar city.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., on Montreal's south shore, was the 67th combat death and the first of the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Regiment – the Van Doos – to die in the war-torn country. The ranks of veterans who took part in the bloody eight-hour beachside battle in Dieppe have grown thin and, with fewer around to remember, the sting of Canada's worst military defeat has begun to dull.

But a veteran of Afghanistan who accompanied the old soldiers on this emotional pilgrimage said the recent casualties have reawakened Canadians to their history and introduced a whole new generation to the pain of war.

"My children know what it's like," said Maj. Steve Gallagher, a former battery commander with the 1st Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, based in Shilo, Man..

Gallagher, 42, who is now an artillery instructor at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, N.B., said his family was close to Capt. Nichola Goddard, the country's first female soldier killed in combat, who died on May 17, 2006.

"They (his children) knew Nichola, Capt. Goddard, very well," Gallagher said, adding that he's thought of Goddard, a former Antigonish resident, at just about every ceremony of remembrance during the Dieppe pilgrimage.

"They used to walk with their dogs all the time."

In his visit Dieppe's stony beach, the 23-year career soldier was stunned by its breadth and the distance of open ground that Canadian soldiers had been ordered to cross under withering German machine-gun, mortar and artillery fire 65 years ago.

"They just did it and that's the way our guys are today," he said.

Drawing the link between the military sacrifices of past wars is something the Conservative government has done increasingly as the public has grown more uneasy about rising casualties in Afghanistan. "It is a different world, but there is no question there is a link between what our soldiers fought for here and what they are fighting for in Afghanistan," Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson said following the day's second multi-nation tribute at the Canadian memorial overlooking the beachfront Esplanade.

"The values we cherish as Canadians, those values have not changed in 65 years," Thompson said. "The mission is a different mission. It is defined differently. It's a different world then what we were living in 65 years ago. Still, at the end of the day, we are accepting our international responsibilities."

It was the kind of sentiment that sat well with John Edmondson, a veteran of the Dieppe Raid and former member of the South Saskatchewan Regiment.

Edmondson said he felt sorry for Longtin's family that but soldiers are soldiers and are expected to lay down their lives.

"If the (terrorists) weren't there, they'd be here and I'm waiting for the day something happens in Canada," he said. "If we don't annihilate them they'll get to us."

Edmondson, one of those who made it out of Dieppe and went on to fight in the Normandy campaign, said the world is a dangerous place. The Canadian public has had many warnings about the danger posed by terrorism and "if they're not awake (now); they're stupid," Edmondson said.

Dignitaries and veterans from Canada, France and Britain took part in remembrance ceremonies throughout the weekend on the beach and at a cemetery where 707 Canadians are buried.

Nearly 5,000 Canadians and 1,000 British troops took part in the ill-fated raid, along with nearly 50 U.S. Rangers. In addition to the more than 900 Canadians killed, 600 were wounded and another 1,975 surrendered and spent nearly three years in brutal captivity.

Afghanistan celebrates independence day; Military parade commemorates end of British rule

PUBLICATION: The Guardian (Charlottetown)

DATE: 2007.08.20

SECTION: World

PAGE: B8

SOURCE: AP; CP

DATELINE: Kabul

WORD COUNT: 232

Afghanistan celebrated its independence from British rule Sunday with a military parade and a colourful display of national costumes on the grounds of a stadium once used by the Taliban for public executions.

Taliban leader Mullah Omar, meanwhile, called on Afghans to join his rebel group in its attempt to oust the government of President Hamid Karzai and its foreign backers.

Karzai told thousands gathered at Kabul city stadium that Afghanistan is once again threatened by a resurgent Taliban-led insurgency, and urged the people to focus on education as a way to improve the country.

The holiday marks Afghanistan's liberation from Britain in 1919, following the third Anglo-Afghan war.

"Again our land is under attack from our enemies," Karzai said, in reference to the Taliban-led insurgency. "They want to stop the development of Afghanistan."

Karzai delivered his independence day address in a stadium that once hosted public executions during the Taliban's rule, which ended with the invasion by U.S.-led forces in late 2001. On Sunday, it enjoyed a more colourful atmosphere, with a parade of Afghanistan's military forces and a display of the country's many national dresses.

Despite the presence of nearly 50,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan, including 2,400 Canadians, violence has risen sharply over the last two months.

Sunday brought word of the death of another Canadian soldier. Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., on Montreal's south shore, died when his light armoured vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb at 1:40 a.m. local time.

Hero's welcome in New Brunswick

PUBLICATION: The Guardian (Charlottetown)

DATE: 2007.08.20

SECTION: Canada

PAGE: A8

SOURCE: CP

DATELINE: OROMOCTO, N.B.

WORD COUNT: 126

The latest group of soldiers to return from Afghanistan were back with their families on Sunday, enjoying a hero's welcome home after a gruelling tour of duty in which 18 of their comrades were killed.

Ninety members of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, marched into Canadian Forces Base Gagetown in New Brunswick where they were warmly embraced by anxious family members who had been waiting at least six months for their return.

Even as the Gagetown troops were heading home with their families, reports were coming out about the latest Canadian casualty in the war-torn country.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, a member of the famed Van Doos based in Valcartier, Que., was killed when his light-armoured vehicle encountered a roadside bomb while conducting convoy escort duty.

Veterans commemorate Dieppe tragedy of 1942

PUBLICATION: The Guardian (Charlottetown)

DATE: 2007.08.20

SECTION: Canada

PAGE: A8

SOURCE: CP

BYLINE: Murray Brewster

DATELINE: DIEPPE, France

ILLUSTRATION: A young man dressed as a U.S. soldier chats with Dieppeveteran from the Royal Regiment of Canada, Joe Ryan, from Mississauga, Ont., following a parade in Dieppe, France, Sunday. A group of veterans are in France to mark the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid. Canadian Press photo

WORD COUNT: 379

The emotional trip back in time Sunday for elderly veterans of the disastrous Dieppe raid was heightened Sunday with the news that another Canadian soldier had been killed in Afghanistan.

A tribute to the 913 Canadians who died in the Aug. 19, 1942 battle in this northern French port was just underway when the army's chaplain, Maj. Michel Dion, announced in his prayer of remembrance that a 23-year-old Quebec-based soldier had been killed near Kandahar.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., was the 67th combat death and the first of the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Regiment – the Van Doos – to die in the war-torn country.

The ranks of veterans who took part in the bloody eight-hour beachside battle in Dieppe has grown thin and with fewer around to remember, the sting of Canada's worst military defeat has begun to dull.

But a veteran of Afghanistan who accompanied the old soldiers on this emotional pilgrimage said recent casualties have reawakened Canadians to their history and introduced a new generation to the pain of war.

"My children know what it's like," said Maj. Steve Gallagher, a former battery commander with the 1st Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, based in Shilo, Man.

Gallagher, 42, who is now an artillery instructor at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, N.B., said his family was close to Capt. Nichola Goddard, the country's first female soldier killed in combat, who died on May 17, 2006.

"They knew Nichola, Capt. Goddard, very well," Gallagher said, adding that he's thought of Goddard at just about every ceremony of remembrance during the Dieppe pilgrimage. "They used to walk with their dogs together."

In his visit to the stony beach, the 23-year career soldier was stunned by its breadth and the distance of open ground that Canadian soldiers had been ordered to cross under withering machine gun, mortar and artillery fire 65 years ago.

"They just did it and that's the way our guys are today," he said.

Drawing the link between the military sacrifices of past wars is something the Conservative government has

done increasingly as the public has grown more uneasy about rising casualties in Afghanistan. "It is a different world, but there is no question there is a link between what our soldiers fought for here and what they are fighting for in Afghanistan," Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson said following the day's second multi-nation tribute at the Canadian memorial overlooking the beachfront Esplanade.

Canada suffers 67th military death in Afghanistan; Pte. Simon Longtin of Quebec is first Van Doo to die in conflict

PUBLICATION: The Guardian (Charlottetown)

DATE: 2007.08.20

SECTION: Canada

PAGE: A5

SOURCE: CP

BYLINE: Martin Ouellet

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

ILLUSTRATION: Pte. Simon Longtin

WORD COUNT: 614

The Royal 22nd Regiment suffered its first death in Afghanistan on Sunday in a clash with insurgents west of Kandahar city.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., on Montreal's south shore, died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb at 1:40 a.m..

There was a firefight between Canadian troops and insurgents after the explosion, but no other Canadians were injured in the exchange of gunfire or in the roadside blast, military officials said.

A military spokesman said Longtin was on escort duty for a resupply convoy and was returning to Kandahar Air Base when the convoy was attacked five kilometres east of the village of Masum Ghar.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died since Ottawa began its military mission in Afghanistan in 2002. But Longtin is the first member of the famed Valcartier, Que.,-based Van Doos to be killed in a war that is particularly unpopular in Quebec. The 2,300 members of the Van Doos began their six-month tour in Afghanistan at the end of July. Longtin had been stationed in Kandahar since July 30.

Col. Christian Juneau, deputy commander of the Canadian joint task force, said Longtin was evacuated by helicopter from the scene of the attack but was dead on arrival at the military hospital in Kandahar.

"It's almost like losing a brother," Juneau said. "We're a big family here, brothers in arms, and it's not just a statement that we take lightly in the military. So it really touches every one of us pretty deeply. But we'll mourn, we'll pay respects to the family and our fallen comrade and we'll carry on with the mission."

Sunday's attack was the third attack on Canadians in a week.

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And on Friday, two Edmonton-based soldiers were slightly injured when an armoured tracked vehicle was struck by a similar improvised explosive device, or IED.

The last time Canadians died in Afghanistan was on July 4, when five soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb while travelling in an LAV just west of Kandahar.

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In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper expressed his condolences to the dead soldier's family while lauding Longtin's courage and determination, saying his sacrifice will help bring long-term stability and peace to Afghanistan.

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"In marking the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid, we pay tribute to the soldiers of our past. The sacrifices of soldiers like Pte. Longtin carry on this legacy today, helping to bring stability and peace to parts of the world plagued by turmoil and upheaval."

Longtin's death could have ramifications back home in Quebec where a recent poll indicated that 70 per cent of the population does not approve of Canadian troops being involved in Afghanistan. Juneau said the debate over the mission is better left to the politicians. "The important thing is to have the support of the population of Quebec as we do from Canada," Juneau said.

The last week has been a bloody one in Kandahar. In addition to the attacks on Canadian soldiers, there have been numerous other attacks on civilians and police.

On Saturday, the Taliban released a statement from their leader Mullah Omar calling for Afghans to wage a jihad against foreign troops.

However, the attacks have not shaken the resolve of Canadian soldiers to continue their reconstruction mission, said Chief Warrant Officer Pierre Marchant.

"We will not be terrorized," said Marchant, although he was visibly shaken by the death of Longtin.

Veterans commemorate Dieppe tragedy

PUBLICATION: The Telegram (St. John's)

DATE: 2007.08.20

SECTION: International

PAGE: D2

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Murray Brewster

DATELINE: Dieppe, France

ILLUSTRATION: Dieppe veteran with Les Fusiliers Mont Royal, Paul Dumaine from Saint-Sophie, Que., waves to the crowd from a jeep along with fellow veteran of the 14th Army Tank Regiment, Ray Gilbert (rear) from Calgary during a parade in Dieppe, France, Sunday.
– Photo by The Canadian Press

WORD COUNT: 595

The emotional trip back in time Sunday for elderly veterans of the disastrous Dieppe raid was heightened Sunday with the news another Canadian soldier had been killed in Afghanistan.

A tribute to the 913 Canadians who died in the Aug. 19, 1942, battle in this northern French port was just underway when the army's chaplain, Maj. Michel Dion, announced in his prayer of remembrance that Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., on Montreal's south shore, was the 67th combat death and the first of the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Regiment – the Van Doos – to die in the wartorn country. The ranks of veterans who took part in the bloody eight-hour beachside battle in Dieppe have grown thin and, with fewer around to remember, the sting of Canada's worst military defeat has begun to dull.

But a veteran of Afghanistan who accompanied the old soldiers on this emotional pilgrimage said the recent casualties have reawakened Canadians to their history and introduced a whole new generation to the pain of war.

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Gallagher, 42, who is now an artillery instructor at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, N.B., said his family was close to Capt. Nichola Goddard, the country's first female soldier killed in combat, who died on May 17, 2006.

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"They used to walk with their dogs all the time."

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world, but there is no question there is a link between what our soldiers fought for here and what they are fighting for in Afghanistan," Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson said following the day's second multi-nation tribute at the Canadian memorial overlooking the beachfront Esplanade.

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It was the kind of sentiment that sat well with John Edmondson, a veteran of the Dieppe Raid and former member of the South Saskatchewan Regiment.

Edmondson said he felt sorry for Longtin's family, but soldiers are soldiers and are expected to lay down their lives.

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"If we don't annihilate them, they'll get to us."

Edmondson, one of those who made it out of Dieppe and went on to fight in the Normandy campaign, said the world is a dangerous place. The Canadian public has had many warnings about the danger posed by terrorism and "if they're not awake (now); they're stupid," Edmondson said.

Dignitaries and veterans from Canada, France and Britain took part in remembrance ceremonies throughout the weekend on the beach and at a cemetery where 707 Canadians are buried.

Nearly 5,000 Canadians and 1,000 British troops took part in the ill-fated raid, along with nearly 50 U.S. Rangers. In addition to the more than 900 Canadians killed, 600 were wounded and another 1,975 surrendered and spent nearly three years in brutal captivity.

Canada mourns another soldier; Van Doo killed in line of duty died doing what he loved, colleagues say

PUBLICATION: The Telegram (St. John's)

DATE: 2007.08.20

SECTION: National/World News

PAGE: A5

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

DATELINE: CFB Valcartier, Que.

ILLUSTRATION: Pte. Simon Longtin

WORD COUNT: 588

Simon Longtin was remembered as a young private doing exactly what he wanted to, proud to be making a difference on the ground in Afghanistan with his fellow Van Doos in Kandahar province. The 23-year-old Canadian soldier died early Sunday when the light-armoured vehicle, or LAV-III, struck a roadside bomb, claiming his life a little over two weeks into a six-month stint.

Longtin had been in Afghanistan only since July 30, but the young soldier from Longueuil, Que., south of Montreal, had no doubt that he was where he wanted to be, having volunteered for the mission.

Maj. Casey McLean, acting commander of the 3rd battalion to which Longtin belonged, described him as a strong, competent soldier who was quiet but "was very popular among his peers."

McLean, who met with Longtin's parents on Sunday, said they were proud of their son and Longtin had told them he firmly believed in what he was doing in Afghanistan.

"It has really affected them. They really loved their son," McLean said of his meeting with Longtin's family.

"If one thing came out of their conversations with him, it is that he was very proud to be with his colleagues in Afghanistan," McLean said. "He died doing what he loved."

Longtin's friend and colleague, Sgt. Stephane Perras, did his best to keep his composure as he offered Longtin's family his personal assistance in the coming days.

"I spent a lot of time with Simon and I appreciated the time I spent with him," Perras said, visibly shaken and fighting back tears. "Today, when I found out this morning he had died, it was very hard for me."

Condolences poured in Sunday from all over the province and country. Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Quebec Premier Jean Charest, Quebec City Mayor Andree Boucher and Bloc Quebecois Leader Gilles Duceppe were among those to offer their sympathies to Longtin's family.

Meanwhile, bouquets of flowers began to pile up at the entrance to the Valcartier, Que., military base that is home to the Royal 22nd Regiment, known as the Van Doos.

Letters of condolence were arriving at the base as well, McLean said.

In a statement, Liberal Leader Stephane Dion said Longtin's death emphasizes the very real danger Canadian soldiers face every day.

Canada mourns another soldier; Van Doo killed in line of duty died doing what he loved, colleagues say

"Today's loss serves as a reminder of the very real challenges the men and women of the Canadian Forces face every day as they undertake this mission, and I speak for all Canadians when I say that we greatly appreciate their sacrifices to help the people of Afghanistan and bring stability to the region," Dion said.

In Toronto, a military vigil was held for Longtin at the Canadian Forces display at the Canadian National Exhibition. Close to 100 people interrupted their day at the Ex to watch as military men and women held a moment of silence in honour of their fallen comrade.

As a trumpeter played "Last Post" and a Canadian flag was lowered to half-mast, the exhibition grounds seemed to fall silent.

Meanwhile, Liberal defence critic Dennis Coderre reaffirmed his party's wish that Canadian troops be removed from Afghanistan by 2009. Coderre said Canada has done its part for the NATO mission in Afghanistan and other countries would continue the mission.

Coderre added that Harper has a perfect opportunity to tell U.S. President George W. Bush during a North American leaders' summit in Montebello, Que., this week that Canadian troops will pull out as planned in February 2009.

Harper has said he is committed to staying until 2009, but won't commit beyond that unless he has the consensus of Parliament.

McLean said death is hard to take, but the soldiers have excellent training and strong leadership and have shown an over-eagerness to get their mission underway.

"For the men, the morale is still there. They are convinced of what they're doing and they are going to continue to do what they are there to do. They believe in the mission," McLean said.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and a diplomat have died in Afghanistan since 2002, including three soldiers from Newfoundland and Labrador.

Death of first Van Doos member caps a bloody week in Kandahar; Political observers to watch whether anti-war sentiment in Quebec grows

IDNUMBER 200708200009

PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: Early

SECTION: News

PAGE: A3

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Nathan Denette, CanWest News Service / A Canadianplatoon member places a poppy in remembrance of Pte. Simon Longtin during a ceremony yesterday at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. ;

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 510

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Quebec's storied Van Doos regiment is mourning its first loss in Afghanistan after a young private who arrived in the country only three weeks ago was killed by a roadside bomb.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, was travelling in a LAV-III armoured vehicle when it struck an improvised explosive device.

Canadian soldiers exchanged fire with Taliban insurgents after the blast, but no other Canadian soldiers were injured and no Taliban casualties could be confirmed.

Longtin was taken by helicopter to a hospital at Kandahar Airfield, but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

He is the first member of the Van Doos to be killed while serving in Afghanistan. The Royal 22nd Regiment, as it is officially known, took command of Canada's operations in Afghanistan on Aug. 1.

"It's like losing almost a brother. We're like a big family here," said Col. Christian Juneau, Canada's deputy commander in Afghanistan. "We will mourn, we will pay our respects to the family and our fallen comrade, and we will carry on with the mission."

Longtin, who hails from Longueuil, Que., was an infantry rifleman with Charlie Company, which forms part of Canada's battle group.

He had trained for two years with the company before arriving in Afghanistan about three weeks ago.

He lived with other members of the company at Masum Ghar, a forward operating base located at the border of the volatile Zhari and Panjwaii districts.

Lt.-Col. Alain Gauthier, commander of the Canadian battle group, called Longtin a "keen, professional" soldier.

Yesterday, Maj. Kasey McLean, speaking at the base in Valcartier, Que., said Longtin's family told him they were proud he served.

McLean, a Van Doo commander, said the family told him Longtin would "often express his pride and belief in what he did."

He said the family wished to mourn in private and would issue a statement later.

Political observers, meanwhile, will be watching closely to see how the news reverberates in Quebec, where support for the war is the lowest of any province.

According to some polls, seven in 10 Quebecers oppose the mission.

The attack occurred at about 1:41 a.m. along Foster Road, roughly 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

The vehicle was part of a supply convoy headed west toward Masum Ghar.

It is the second time in a week that Canadian soldiers have been wounded or killed along Foster Road, a well-travelled supply route. Five soldiers were lightly injured last Sunday by an IED along the same road. After that attack, the military dispatched engineers to scour the route for IEDs.

The engineers checked for bombs in drainage culverts where insurgents are believed to have planted the bomb used in last Sunday's attack.

At one point, engineers discovered a Chinese-made mortar in one of the culverts. They detonated the bomb safely, setting off a thud that echoed through the nearby mountains.

Juneau said Canadian troops will step up surveillance of the route. "However, with the size of our operation, it's quite difficult to have eyes everywhere. ... You travel on the road, [and] the next night they can insert themselves and install an IED."

Military officials declined to provide details on the nature of the bomb, saying the incident was under investigation.

They also would not say where Longtin was sitting in the LAV-III, which is designed to protect against roadside bombs.

The death of the first Van Doos caps a bloody week in Kandahar province.

Two soldiers incurred minor injuries Friday after their armoured vehicle rolled over an IED while travelling in a supply convoy about 30 kilometres west of Kandahar City. A suicide bomber also killed the chief of Zhari district and three of his children. On Saturday, a suicide car bomber rammed into a convoy of vehicles, killing at least 15 people and injuring dozens of others on the edge of Kandahar City.

First Van Doo killed in war

IDNUMBER 200708200027
PUBLICATION: The Leader-Post (Regina)
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A8
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Pte. Simon Longtin, 23;
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 451

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Quebec's storied Van Doos regiment is mourning its first loss in Afghanistan after a young private who arrived in the country only three weeks ago was killed by a roadside bomb.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, was travelling in a LAV-III armoured vehicle when it struck an improvised explosive device.

Canadian soldiers exchanged fire with Taliban insurgents after the blast, but no other Canadian soldiers were injured and no Taliban casualties could be confirmed.

Longtin was evacuated by helicopter to a hospital at Kandahar Airfield, but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

He is the first member of the Van Doos to be killed while serving in Afghanistan. The Royal 22nd Regiment, as it is officially known, took command of Canada's operations in Afghanistan on Aug. 1.

"It's like losing almost a brother. We're like a big family here," said Col. Christian Juneau, Canada's deputy commander in Afghanistan. "We will mourn, we will pay our respects to the family and our fallen comrade, and we will carry on with the mission."

Longtin, who hails from Longueuil, Que., was an infantry rifleman with Charlie Company, which forms part of Canada's battle group.

He had trained for two years with the company before arriving in Afghanistan about three weeks ago.

He lived with other members of the company at Masum Ghar, a forward operating base located at the border of the volatile Zhari and Panjwahi districts.

Lieut.-Col. Alain Gauthier, commander of the Canadian battle group, called Longtin a "keen," "professional" soldier.

Sunday, Maj. Kasey McLean, speaking at the base in Valcartier, Que., said Longtin's family said it was proud he served.

McLean, a Van Doo commander, said the family told him Longtin would "often express his pride and belief in what he did."

He said the family wished to mourn in private and would issue a statement later.

Political observers, meanwhile, will be watching closely to see how the news reverberates in Quebec, where support for the war is the lowest of any province.

According to some polls, seven in 10 Quebecers oppose the mission.

The attack occurred at about 1:41 a.m. along Foster Road, roughly 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

The vehicle was part of a supply convoy headed west toward Masum Ghar.

It is the second time in a week that Canadian soldiers have been wounded or killed along Foster Road, a well-travelled supply route. Five soldiers were lightly injured last Sunday by an IED along the same road. After that attack, the military dispatched engineers to scour the route for IEDs.

The engineers checked for bombs in drainage culverts where insurgents are believed to have planted the bomb used in last Sunday's attack. At one point, engineers discovered a Chinese-made mortar in one of the culverts. They detonated the bomb safely, setting off a thud that echoed through the nearby mountains.

Juneau said Canadian troops will step up surveillance of the route. "However, with the size of our operation, it's quite difficult to have eyes everywhere ... You travel on the road, (and) the next night they can insert themselves and install an IED."

Military officials declined to provide details on the nature of the bomb, saying the incident was under investigation. They also would not say where Longtin was sitting in the LAV-III, which is designed to protect against roadside bombs.

Regiment mourns a brother; Pte. Longtin, 23, was killed early Sunday after his armoured vehicle struck an improvised bomb in a volatile region in Kandahar

IDNUMBER 200708200006

PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A3

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Special to the national Post, canwest newsservice / A Canadian platoon member lays a poppy down in remembrance of Pte. Simon Longtin of the Royal 22nd Regiment (Van Doos) of Quebec during a ceremony at the Canadian Exhibition in Toronto honouring the fallen soldier. Longtin was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan on Sunday. ;

KEYWORDS: POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda

SOURCE: Canwest News Service

WORD COUNT: 611

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment is mourning its first loss in Afghanistan after a young private who arrived in the country three weeks ago was killed by a roadside bomb.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, was travelling in a LAV-III armoured vehicle when it struck an improvised explosive device early Sunday.

Canadian soldiers exchanged fire with Taliban insurgents after the blast. No other Canadian soldiers were injured and no Taliban casualties could be confirmed.

Longtin was evacuated by helicopter to a hospital at Kandahar Airfield, but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

The Royal 22nd Regiment, also known as the Van Doos, took command of Canada's operations in Afghanistan on Aug. 1.

"It's almost like losing a brother. We're like a big family here," said Col. Christian Juneau, Canada's deputy commander in Afghanistan. "We will mourn, we will pay our respects to the family and our fallen comrade and we will carry on with the mission."

Longtin, from Longueuil, Que., was an infantry rifleman with Charlie Company, which forms part of Canada's battle group.

He had trained for two years with the company before arriving in Afghanistan and lived with other members of the company at Masum Ghar, a forward

operating base, which is located at the border of the volatile Zhari and Panjwai districts.

Regiment mourns a brother; Pte. Longtin, 23, was killed early Sunday after his armoured vehicle struck an im

Lieut.-Col. Alain Gauthier, commander of the Canadian battle group, called Longtin a "keen, professional" soldier.

Maj. Kasey McLean, speaking from the regiment's base in Valcartier, Que., said Longtin's family said it was proud he served.

He said the family wished to mourn in private and would issue a statement later.

The attack occurred at about 1:41 a.m. along Foster Road, roughly 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

The vehicle was part of a supply convoy headed west toward Masum Ghar.

Longtin's death capped a bloody week in Kandahar province.

On Friday, two soldiers suffered minor injuries after their armoured vehicle rolled over an IED while traveling in a supply convoy about 30 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

A suicide bomber also killed the chief of Zhari district and three of his children. On Saturday, a suicide car bomber rammed into a convoy of vehicles, killing at least 15 people and injuring dozens of others on the edge of Kandahar City.

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On Saturday, a suicide car bomber rammed into a convoy of vehicles, killing at least 15 people and injuring dozens of others on the edge of Kandahar City. Last Sunday, five soldiers were lightly injured by an IED along the same road. After that attack, the military dispatched engineers to scour the route for IEDs.

Some observers believe the insurgents could step up their attacks when the Muslim holy period of Ramadan begins in a few weeks.

On Saturday, the Taliban released a statement purportedly from their reclusive leader, Mullah Omar, calling on Afghans to wage a jihad against the foreign "invaders." The statement came on the eve of Independence Day, which commemorates Afghanistan's declaration of independence from Britain in 1919.

"Our country is once again occupied by the same forces," Omar said in his statement, which has not yet been verified.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Liberal Leader Stephane Dion all issued statements of condolence on Longtin's death.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died in Afghanistan since 2002. There are roughly 2,500 Canadian troops stationed in Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led coalition that is attempting to secure and rebuild the country.

Canada's military commitment ends in February 2009. Harper has said he will seek a consensus from

Regiment mourns a brother; Pte. Longtin, 23, was killed early Sunday after his armoured vehicle struck an in-

Parliament before extending the mission.

Juneau said the debate about whether to extend the mission should be left to politicians and the Canadian public.

"The important thing for us, the soldiers, the whole team that is deployed here, is the fact that we know the Canadian public is behind the soldiers, the people wearing the uniform."

Support for the Canadian mission in Afghanistan is lowest in Quebec, where some polls have found seven in 10 Quebecers are opposed.

Canadian death toll in Afghanistan: 67 soldiers, one diplomat

DATE: 2007.08.19
KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 447

Since 2002, 67 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in Afghanistan. Here is a list of the deaths:

2007

Aug. 19 _ Pte. Simon Longtin killed by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar city.

July 4 _ Cpl. Cole Bartsch, Capt. Matthew Johnathan Dawe, Pte. Lane Watkins, Cpl. Jordan Anderson, Master Cpl. Colin Bason and Capt. Jefferson Francis, killed by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar city.

June 20 _ Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Frederick Bouzane and Pte. Joel Vincent Wiebe, killed by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar city.

June 11 _ Trooper Darryl Caswell killed a roadside bomb north of Kandahar.

May 30 _ Master Cpl. Darrell Jason Priede, killed when a U.S. helicopter was reportedly shot down by the Taliban in Helmand province.

May 25 _ Cpl. Matthew McCully killed by an improvised explosive device in Zhari district.

April 18 _ Master Cpl. Anthony Klumpenhower, who served with elite special forces, died after falling from a communications tower while on duty conducting surveillance in Kandahar city.

April 11 _ Master Cpl. Allan Stewart and Trooper Patrick James Pentland, killed when their Coyote vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

April 8 _ Sgt. Donald Lucas, Cpl. Aaron E. Williams, Pte. Kevin V. Kennedy, Pte. David R. Greenslade, Cpl. Christopher P. Stannix and Cpl. Brent Poland killed when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb.

March 6 _ Cpl. Kevin Megeney killed in accidental shooting at NATO base in Kandahar.

2006

Nov. 27 _ Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Girouard and Cpl. Albert Storm killed by suicide car bomber.

Oct. 14 _ Sgt. Darcy Tedford and Pte. Blake Williamson killed in ambush.

Oct. 7 _ Trooper Mark Andrew Wilson killed by roadside bomb.

Oct. 3 _ Sgt. Craig Gillam and Cpl. Robert Mitchell killed in series of mortar, rocket attacks.

Sept. 29 _ Pte. Josh Klukie killed by explosion in Panjwaii while on foot patrol.

Sept. 18 _ Pte. David Byers, Cpl. Shane Keating, Cpl. Keith Morley and Cpl. Glen Arnold killed in suicide bicycle bomb attack while on foot patrol in Panjwahi.

Sept. 4 _ Pte. Mark Graham killed when two NATO planes accidentally strafed Canadian troops in Panjwahi district.

Sept. 3 _ Sgt. Shane Stachnik, Warrant Officer Frank Robert Mellish, Pte. William Cushley and Warrant Officer Richard Francis Nolan killed in fighting in Panjwahi district.

Aug. 22 _ Cpl. David Braun killed in suicide attack.

Aug. 11 _ Cpl. Andrew Eykelenboom killed in suicide attack.

Aug. 9 _ Master Cpl. Jeffrey Walsh killed by apparent accidental discharge of rifle.

Aug. 5 _ Master Cpl. Raymond Arndt killed when his G-Wagon patrol vehicle collided with truck.

Aug. 3 _ Cpl. Christopher Reid killed by roadside bomb. Sgt. Vaughan Ingram, Cpl. Bryce Keller and Pte. Kevin Dallaire killed in rocket-propelled grenade attack.

July 22 _ Cpl. Francisco Gomez and Cpl. Jason Warren killed when car packed with explosives rammed their armoured vehicle.

July 9 _ Cpl. Anthony Boneca killed in firefight.

May 17 _ Capt. Nichola Goddard killed in Taliban ambush. She was first Canadian woman to be killed in action while serving in combat role.

April 22 _ Cpl. Matthew Dinning, Bombardier Myles Mansell, Lt. William Turner and Cpl. Randy Payne killed when their G-Wagon destroyed by roadside bomb.

March 29 _ Pte. Robert Costall killed in firefight with Taliban.

March 2 _ Cpl. Paul Davis and Master Cpl. Timothy Wilson killed when their armoured vehicle ran off road.

Jan. 15 _ Glyn Berry, British-born Canadian diplomat, killed in suicide bombing.

2005

Nov. 24 _ Pte. Braun Woodfield killed when his armoured vehicle rolled over.

2004

Jan. 27 _ Cpl. Jamie Murphy killed in suicide bombing while on patrol.

2003

Oct. 2 _ Sgt. Robert Short and Cpl. Robbie Beerenfenger killed in roadside bombing.

2002

April 17 _ Sgt. Marc Leger, Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer, Pte. Richard Green and Pte. Nathan Smith killed when U.S.

F-16 fighter mistakenly bombed Canadians.

Van Doo killed in line of duty died doing what he loved, colleagues say

DATE: 2007.08.19
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 598

CFB VALCARTIER, Que. (CP)_ Simon Longtin was remembered as a young private doing exactly what he wanted to, proud to be making a difference on the ground in Afghanistan with his fellow Van Doos in Kandahar province.

The 23-year-old Canadian soldier died early Sunday when the light-armoured vehicle, or LAV-III, struck a roadside bomb, claiming his life a little over two weeks into a six-month stint.

Longtin had been in Afghanistan only since July 30, but the young soldier from Longueuil, Que., south of Montreal, had no doubt that he was where he wanted to be, having volunteered for the mission.

Maj. Casey McLean, acting commander of the 3rd battalion to which Longtin belonged, described him as a strong, competent soldier who was quiet but "was very popular among his peers."

McLean, who met with Longtin's parents on Sunday, said they were proud of their son and Longtin had told them he firmly believed in what he was doing in Afghanistan.

"It has really affected them, they really loved their son," McLean said of his meeting with Longtin's family.

"If one thing came out of their conversations with him, it is that he was very proud to be with his colleagues in Afghanistan," McLean said. "He died doing what he loved."

Longtin's friend and colleague, Sgt. Stephane Perras, did his best to keep his composure as he offered Longtin's family his personal assistance in the coming days.

"I spent a lot of time with Simon and I appreciated the time I spent with him," Perras said, visibly shaken and fighting back tears. "Today, when I found out this morning he had died, it was very hard for me."

Condolences poured in Sunday from all over the province and country. Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Quebec Premier Jean Charest, Quebec City Mayor Andree Boucher and Bloc Quebecois Leader Gilles Duceppe were among those to offer their sympathies to Longtin's family.

Meanwhile, bouquets of flowers began to pile up at the entrance to the Valcartier, Que. military base that is home to the Royal 22nd Regiment, known as the Van Doos.

Letters of condolence were arriving at the base as well, McLean said.

In a statement, Liberal Leader Stephane Dion said Longtin's death emphasizes the very real danger Canadian soldiers face every day.

"Today's loss serves as a reminder of the very real challenges the men and women of the Canadian Forces face every day as they undertake this mission, and I speak for all Canadians when I say that we greatly appreciate their sacrifices to help the people of Afghanistan and bring stability to the region," Dion said.

In Toronto, a military vigil was held for Longtin at the Canadian Forces display at the Canadian National Exhibition. Close to 100 people interrupted their day at the Ex to watch as military men and women held a moment of silence in honour of their fallen comrade.

As a trumpeter played ``Last Post" and a Canadian flag was lowered to half mast, the exhibition grounds seemed to fall silent.

Meanwhile, Liberal defence critic Dennis Coderre re-affirmed his party's wish that Canadian troops be removed from Afghanistan by 2009. Coderre said Canada has done its part for the NATO mission in Afghanistan and other countries would continue the mission.

Coderre added that Harper has a perfect opportunity to tell U.S. President George W. Bush during a North American leaders' summit in Montebello, Que., this week that Canadian troops will pull out as planned in February 2009.

Harper has said he is committed to staying until 2009, but won't commit beyond that unless he has the consensus of Parliament.

McLean said death is hard to take, but the soldiers have excellent training and strong leadership and have shown an over-eagerness to get their mission underway unlike any troops McLean has seen.

``For the men, the morale is still there. They are convinced of what they're doing and they are going to continue to do what they are there to do. They believe in the mission," McLean said.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and a diplomat have died in Afghanistan since 2002.

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Afghanistan celebrates independence day with military parade

DATE: 2007.08.19
KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 618

KABUL (AP-CP) _ Afghanistan celebrated its independence from British rule Sunday with a military parade and a colourful display of national costumes on the grounds of a stadium once used by the Taliban for public executions.

Taliban leader Mullah Omar, meanwhile, called on Afghans to join his rebel group in its attempt to oust the government of President Hamid Karzai and its foreign backers.

Karzai told thousands gathered at Kabul city stadium that Afghanistan is once again threatened by a resurgent Taliban-led insurgency, and urged the people to focus on education as a way to improve the country.

The holiday marks Afghanistan's liberation from Britain in 1919, following the third Anglo-Afghan war.

“Again our land is under attack from our enemies,” Karzai said, in reference to the Taliban-led insurgency. “They want to stop the development of Afghanistan.”

Karzai delivered his independence day address in a stadium that once hosted public executions during the Taliban's rule, which ended with the invasion by U.S.-led forces in late 2001. On Sunday, it enjoyed a more colourful atmosphere, with a parade of Afghanistan's military forces and a display of the country's many national dresses.

Despite the presence of nearly 50,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan, including 2,400 Canadians, violence has risen sharply over the last two months.

Sunday brought word of the death of another Canadian soldier. Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., on Montreal's south shore, died when his light armoured vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb at 1:40 a.m. local time.

Longtin, a member of the Royal 22nd Regiment _ the Van Doos _ was in a convoy on escort duty when the bomb detonated west of Kandahar city, five kilometres east of the village of Masum Ghar. His was the 67th Canadian military death since the country's military mission in Afghanistan began in 2002.

In Ottawa, Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier issued a statement lauding the Afghan government for what he called “the impressive progress it has achieved in a number of areas, including security and social and economic development.”

“Afghans can take great pride in the strength of their newly formed democratic institutions and the continuing growth of freedom and opportunity in their country,” Bernier said.

“Despite the sacrifices that have been made to rebuild Afghanistan, Canada remains committed to doing its part to ensure that the Afghan people's hopes for a better life are realized,” he said.

This year more than 3,700 people _ most of them rebels _ have died in insurgent violence, according to an Associated Press tally of casualty figures provided by western and Afghan officials.

Mullah Omar, the elusive Taliban leader who has been in hiding since his fundamentalist government was ousted, also issued a statement marking independence day and calling on the people to join the militant movement as it tries to oust the Karzai government.

A purported Taliban spokesman, Zabeehullah Mujahed, read Omar's statement over the phone to an Associated Press reporter in Pakistan. In it, Omar said rebels battling Afghan government and foreign troops ``must win the hearts of the good people alongside with the armed struggle."

``They must try to avoid harm to the general public. Try to attract people from all walks of life, religious scholar, student, engineer, doctor, scientist, politician, writer, journalist and farmer to the ongoing (struggle)," the statement said.

Omar also accused NATO and U.S.-led coalition troops of indiscriminate bombing raids that kill many civilians.

The continued instability, particularly affecting the country's south and east, threatens gains made since the ouster of the Taliban.

Repeated wars and conflicts have devastated the country of 25 million people in the last three decades, with scars still visible on buildings and with large swaths of minefields still littering the countryside.

Karzai said the Afghan people must be ready to make sacrifices for the country's freedom, but also need to focus on education.

``Without education, technology and science we will be under the attack of the foreigners," Karzai said. ``For an independent Afghanistan, our youths have to get an education."

Canada suffers 67th military death in Afghanistan; first Van Doo to die

DATE: 2007.08.19
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 650

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (CP) _ The Royal 22nd Regiment suffered its first death in Afghanistan on Sunday in a clash with insurgents west of Kandahar city.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., on Montreal's south shore, died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb at 1:40 a.m..

There was a firefight between Canadian troops and insurgents after the explosion, but no other Canadians were injured in the exchange of gunfire or in the roadside blast, military officials said.

A military spokesman said Longtin was on escort duty for a resupply convoy and was returning to Kandahar Air Base when the convoy was attacked five kilometres east of the village of Masum Ghar.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died since Ottawa began its military mission in Afghanistan in 2002. But Longtin is the first member of the famed Valcartier, Que.,-based Van Doos to be killed in a war that is particularly unpopular in Quebec.

The 2,300 members of the Van Doos began their six-month tour in Afghanistan at the end of July. Longtin had been stationed in Kandahar since July 30.

Col. Christian Juneau, deputy commander of the Canadian joint task force, said Longtin was evacuated by helicopter from the scene of the attack but was dead on arrival at the military hospital in Kandahar.

“It's almost like losing a brother,” Juneau said. “We're a big family here, brothers in arms, and it's not just a statement that we take lightly in the military. So it really touches every one of us pretty deeply. But we'll mourn, we'll pay respects to the family and our fallen comrade and we'll carry on with the mission.”

Sunday's attack was the third attack on Canadians in a week.

Last Sunday, five soldiers were injured when their RG-31 vehicle hit a roadside bomb on the same road as Sunday's fatal blast.

And on Friday, two Edmonton-based soldiers were slightly injured when an armoured tracked vehicle was struck by a similar improvised explosive device, or IED.

The last time Canadians died in Afghanistan was on July 4, when five soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb while travelling in an LAV just west of Kandahar.

Juneau said the military makes every attempt to safeguard its troops.

“We protect our soldiers the best way we can through training, providing them with equipment that is probably some of the best in the world,” he said.

“But we cannot foresee every event, every type of explosive, every threat the enemy is throwing at us.”

In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper expressed his condolences to the dead soldier's family while lauding Longtin's courage and determination, saying his sacrifice will help bring long-term stability and peace to Afghanistan.

“Pte. Longtin displayed resolve and courage in serving his country (and) his family and friends can be proud of him because he was playing a very important role in a very challenging environment,” Harper said in a statement issued in Ottawa.

“In marking the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid, we pay tribute to the soldiers of our past. The sacrifices of soldiers like Pte. Longtin carry on this legacy today, helping to bring stability and peace to parts of the world plagued by turmoil and upheaval.”

Longtin's death could have ramifications back home in Quebec where a recent poll indicated that 70 per cent of the population does not approve of Canadian troops being involved in Afghanistan. Juneau said the debate over the mission is better left to the politicians.

“The important thing is to have the support of the population of Quebec as we do from Canada,” Juneau said.

The last week has been a bloody one in Kandahar. In addition to the attacks on Canadian soldiers, there have been numerous other attacks on civilians and police.

On Saturday, the Taliban released a statement from their leader Mullah Omar calling for Afghans to wage a jihad against foreign troops.

However, the attacks have not shaken the resolve of Canadian soldiers to continue their reconstruction mission, said Chief Warrant Officer Pierre Marchant.

“We will not be terrorized,” said Marchant, although he was visibly shaken by the death of Longtin.

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean said she was saddened to hear of Longtin's death, adding in a statement that the young soldier wore the uniform with pride and was convinced of the necessity of supporting the Afghan population.

Jean said her thoughts went out to Longtin's family.

“Today, all Canadians join together with them to grieve,” Jean said.

Canadian death toll in Afghanistan: 60 soldiers, one diplomat

DATE: 2007.08.19
KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 1074

Since 2002, 60 Canadian soldiers and one Canadian diplomat have been killed in Afghanistan. Here is a list of the deaths:

2007

Aug. 19 _ Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., on Montreal's south shore, a member of the Royal 22nd Regiment, killed when his light armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar city.

July 4 _ Cpl. Cole Bartsch, Capt. Matthew Johnathan Dawe, Pte. Lane Watkins and Cpl. Jordan Anderson, all of 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry based in Edmonton; Master Cpl. Colin Bason, a reservist from The Royal Westminster Regiment based in New Westminster, B.C., and Capt. Jefferson Francis of the 1st Royal Canadian Horse Artillery based in Shiloh, Man., killed by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar city

June 20 _ Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Frederick Bouzane and Pte. Joel Vincent Wiebe, all of 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry killed when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb near a forward-operating base at Sperwan Ghar, west of Kandahar city.

June 11. _ Trooper Darryl Caswell of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, killed when an improvised explosive device detonated underneath his vehicle north of Kandahar city.

May 30 _ Master Cpl. Darrell Jason Priede, a combat photographer based at CFB Gagetown, N.B., killed when a U.S. helicopter was reportedly shot down by the Taliban in Helmand province.

May 25 _ Cpl. Matthew McCully, a signals operator from 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters and Signals Squadron based at Petawawa, Ont., killed by an improvised explosive device in Zhari district.

April 18 _ Master Cpl. Anthony Klumpenhower of Listowel, Ont., died after falling from a communications tower while on duty with the elite Special Operations Forces Command, conducting surveillance in Kandahar city.

April 11 _ Master Cpl. Allan Stewart and Trooper Patrick James Pentland, both of the Royal Canadian Dragoons based in Petawawa, Ont., killed when their Coyote vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

April 8 _ Pte. Kevin V. Kennedy, 20, of St. Lawrence, Nfld., Sgt. Donald Lucas, 31, of Burton, N.B., Cpl. Aaron E. Williams, 23, of Lincoln, N.B., Pte. David R. Greenslade, 20, of Saint John, N.B., Cpl. Brent Poland, 37, of Sarnia, Ont., all of Gagetown, N.B.-based 2nd Battalion, RCR; and Cpl. Christopher Stannix, 24, of Dartmouth, N.S., from the Halifax-based Princess Louise Fusiliers, killed when their armoured vehicle hit a roadside bomb in the Maywand district.

March 6 _ Cpl. Kevin Megeney, 25, of Stellarton, N.S., a member of 1st Battalion of Nova Scotia Highlanders, killed by accidental shooting at NATO base in Kandahar.

2006

Nov. 27 _ Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Girouard, his battalion's regimental sergeant major, and Cpl. Albert Storm, both of Royal Canadian Regiment based in CFB Petawawa, killed when suicide car bomber attacked their Bison armoured personnel carrier on outskirts of Kandahar City.

Oct. 14 _ Sgt. Darcy Tedford, based at CFB Petawawa, and Pte. Blake Williamson from Ottawa killed in ambush west of Kandahar.

Oct. 7 _ Trooper Mark Andrew Wilson of Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont., killed when his armoured vehicle hit by roadside bomb in Panjwahi district.

Oct. 3 _ Sgt. Craig Gillam and Cpl. Robert Mitchell of Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont., killed in series of mortar, rocket attacks just west of Kandahar City.

Sept. 29 _ Pte. Josh Klukie of First Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, based in Petawawa, Ont., killed by explosion in Panjwahi while on foot patrol.

Sept. 18 _ Pte. David Byers, Cpl. Shane Keating and Cpl. Keith Morley, all of 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry based in Shilo, Man., and Cpl. Glen Arnold, 2 Field Ambulance, based in Petawawa, Ont., killed in suicide bicycle bomb attack while on foot patrol in Panjwahi.

Sept. 4 _ Pte. Mark Graham, based at CFB Petawawa, killed when two NATO planes accidentally strafed Canadian troops in Panjwahi district.

Sept. 3 _ Sgt. Shane Stachnik, Warrant Officer Frank Robert Mellish, Pte. William Cushley and Warrant Officer Richard Francis Nolan, all based at CFB Petawawa, Ont., killed in fighting in Panjwahi district.

Aug. 22 _ Cpl. David Braun, based at Shilo, Man., killed in suicide bomb attack in Kandahar City.

Aug. 11 _ Cpl. Andrew Eykelenboom, 23, of Comox, B.C., stationed with 1st Field Ambulance, based in Edmonton, killed in suicide attack.

Aug. 9 _ Master Cpl. Jeffrey Walsh, 33, of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Shilo, Man., killed by apparent accidental discharge of rifle.

Aug. 5 _ Master Cpl. Raymond Arndt, 31, of Loyal Edmonton Regiment, killed when large truck collided head-on with his G-Wagon patrol vehicle.

Aug. 3 _ Cpl. Christopher Reid, 34, of 1st Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Edmonton, killed by roadside bomb. Three other members of same battalion killed in rocket-propelled grenade attack by Taliban forces west of Kandahar: Sgt. Vaughan Ingram, 35, Cpl. Bryce Keller, 27, and Pte. Kevin Dallaire, 22.

July 22 _ Cpl. Francisco Gomez, 44, of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Edmonton, and Cpl. Jason Warren, 29, of Black Watch, Royal Highland Regiment of Canada, based in Montreal, killed when car packed with explosives rammed their armoured vehicle.

July 9 _ Cpl. Anthony Boneca, 21, reservist from Lake Superior Scottish Regiment based in Thunder Bay,

Ont., killed in firefight.

May 17 _ Capt. Nichola Goddard, artillery officer based in Shilo, Man., with 1st Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, killed in Taliban ambush during battle in Panjwaii region. She was first Canadian woman to be killed in action while serving in combat role.

April 22 _ Cpl. Matthew Dinning of Richmond Hill, Ont., stationed with 2nd Canadian Mechanized Brigade in Petawawa, Ont., Bombardier Myles Mansell of Victoria, Lt. William Turner of Toronto, stationed in Edmonton, and Cpl. Randy Payne, born in Lahr, Germany, stationed at CFB Wainright, Alta., all killed when their G-Wagon destroyed by roadside bomb near Gumbad.

March 29 _ Pte. Robert Costall of Edmonton, machine-gunner, killed in firefight with Taliban insurgents in Sangin district of Helmand province.

March 2 _ Cpl. Paul Davis of Bridgewater, N.S., and Master Cpl. Timothy Wilson of Grande Prairie, Alta., killed when their armoured vehicle ran off road in Kandahar area.

Jan. 15 _ Glyn Berry, British-born Canadian diplomat who had served with Foreign Affairs Department since 1977, killed in suicide bombing near Kandahar.

2005

Nov. 24 _ Pte. Braun Woodfield, born in Victoria and raised in Eastern Passage, N.S., killed when his armoured vehicle rolled over near Kandahar.

2004

Jan. 27 _ Cpl. Jamie Murphy, 26, of Conception Harbour, Nfld., killed in suicide bombing while on patrol near Kabul.

2003

Oct. 2 _ Sgt. Robert Short, 42, of Fredericton, and Cpl. Robbie Beerenfenger, 29, of Ottawa, killed in roadside bombing southwest of Kabul.

2002

April 17 _ Sgt. Marc Leger, 29, of Lancaster, Ont., Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer, 24, of Montreal, Pte. Richard Green, 21, of Mill Cove, N.S., and Pte. Nathan Smith, 27, of Tatamagouche, N.S., all killed when U.S. F-16 fighter mistakenly bombed Canadians on pre-dawn training exercise. Eight other Canadians wounded in friendly-fire incident.

Canadian troops back with families after gruelling Afghanistan tour of duty

DATE: 2007.08.19
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 541

OROMOCTO, N.B. (CP) _ The latest group of soldiers to return from Afghanistan were back with their families on Sunday, enjoying a hero's welcome home after a gruelling tour of duty in which 18 of their comrades were killed.

Ninety members of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, marched into Canadian Forces Base Gagetown in New Brunswick where they were warmly embraced by anxious family members who had been waiting at least six months for their return.

Even as the Gagetown troops were heading home with their families, reports were coming out about the latest Canadian casualty in the war-torn country.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, a member of the famed Van Doos based in Valcartier, Que., was killed when his light-armoured vehicle encountered a roadside bomb while conducting convoy escort duty.

Roadside bombings are the nightmare reality of Afghanistan that keeps many family members awake at night.

"When I'd hear about a roadside bomb, I always worried that it was my dad who got hit," said 15-year-old Patrick Proulx as he waited for his father, Master Cpl. Stephane Proulx, a medic.

"It's very scary. You panic when you hear about people dying because of roadside bombs."

Elke Proulx said her husband was going to get some special treatment from the family once he's home, including at least a cup of coffee in bed, if not breakfast.

"But we'll take it day by day," she said. "Whatever he wants to do, in his own time."

Officials at the family resource centre in Gagetown are advising families to take it slow and give the returning combat troops time to get used to being home and safe.

The base is putting emphasis on identifying post-traumatic stress and other strains that accompany the intense pressure of life in a war zone.

"They may start to notice that, wow, things are really quiet at home," said Shelley Hillier of the family resource centre.

"We're telling families to take it one day at a time and slowly reintegrate back into the family routine. We want them to be open and honest about their feelings."

Several of the mothers waiting at Gagetown said they believe the experience in Afghanistan has matured their sons.

“He has a maturity about him now that he didn't have when he left,” said Patricia Allison of Florenceville, N.B., as she and her husband, David, waited for their 24-year-old son, Cpl. Dave Allison.

David Allison said that when his son went to Afghanistan, he and his wife knew only him and one other young New Brunswick man out of the approximately 2,500 Canadian troops in the country.

Allison said the other young man was killed, bringing the reality of the danger close to home.

“He said to me, ‘Mom I'm prolly going to do a lot of sleeping once I get home,’” Patricia Allison said of her son.

“I said, ‘Don't worry Dave because I'm going to pull up a chair and watch you sleep. I don't mind at all because I'll know where you are and I'll know you're safe.’”

The Allison family has prepared Dave's favourite meal for his homecoming: donairs.

Lt.-Col. Robert Walker, commander of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, said Sunday the only low points of the six-month tour of duty were the deaths of 18 soldiers under his command, several of them from Gagetown.

All of the deaths were caused by roadside bombs.

Walker said it's a testament to the solid training of Canadian troops that none of the soldiers in his command was killed or injured during actual combat.

“I think our legacy is the improved security situation,” Walker said when asked about his battle group's six-month tour of duty.

“Everybody wants to do the right thing in everything we do and we can see day by day that we're making tangible differences. The security situation is a lot better than it was. ... It takes time.”

Canada has about 2,500 troops in the war-torn country as part of the NATO force supporting the Afghan government.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and a diplomat have died in Afghanistan since 2002.

INDEX:Defence, International

DATE: 2007.08.19
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 151

TORONTO — A military vigil was held at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto this afternoon for the latest soldier to be killed in Afghanistan.

Close to 100 people interrupted their day at the Ex to watch as military men and women held a moment of silence in honour of Private Simon Longtin.

Dozens of soldiers and sailors laid poppies at the base of a wreath in remembrance of Longtin, and several members of the public added their poppies to the pile.

Captain Wayne Johnston says the exhibition grounds seemed to fall silent during the vigil — a rare occurrence for a Sunday afternoon.

He says this shows how strongly the Canadian public feels about the mission in Afghanistan.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Harper extended his condolences to Longtin's family.

The 23-year-old from Longueuil, Quebec was the 67th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since the mission began five years ago.

Longtin of the Royal 22nd Regiment — the famed Van Doos based in Valcartier, Quebec — was killed early today when his light armoured vehicle struck a roadside bomb.

(BN)

KRO

A moment of silence for soldier; The revelry at the Ex pauses as the latest Canadian casualty honoured at service

IDNUMBER 200708200092

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: Met

SECTION: News

PAGE: A15

ILLUSTRATION: Aaron Lynett toronto star Soldiers place poppies on a memorial at the Canadian Forces display at the CNE grounds where a vigil was held yesterday to honour Pte. Simon Longtin. ;

BYLINE: Ashifa Kassam

SOURCE: Toronto Star

COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation

WORD COUNT: 221

Amidst the flashing lights and twirling rides of the Canadian National Exhibition yesterday, a trumpet played "Last Post" to honour the latest Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan.

More than 100 people took a break from CNE revelry to pay their respects at a short ceremony at the CNE's Canadian Forces display.

"This afternoon we gather to remember a fallen comrade," Chaplain Phil Ralph told the crowd. "Our thoughts and our prayers are with his family, his friends and his comrades."

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of the Royal 22nd Regiment (Van Doos) of Quebec, died yesterday when the convoy that he was travelling in struck a roadside bomb.

Set against a backdrop of Canadian flags, Ralph said the country's military has always had a proud tradition "of compassion, caring and commitment."

The vigil was punctuated with a moment of silence to remember Longtin.

Capt. Wayne Johnston and Sapper Mike McTeague, whose body was shattered in a suicide bombing last September, stepped forward, each breaking the silence to place a poppy on Longtin's memorial.

Soldiers and members of the public echoed their actions. Soon the memorial, made of a wreath, an imitation C-7 rifle and topped with a military helmet, was covered in poppies.

Cameron Cliff, 12, was one of the first CNE visitors to step forward, poppy in hand.

"I just thought it would be a nice way to say thank you," he said. "These guys are out fighting for freedom."

He and his family had been out enjoying the CNE, when they passed by the memorial.

"I thought it was important to be here."

A moment of silence for soldier; The revelry at the Ex pauses as the latest Canadian casualty honoured at service

Capt. Johnston was touched.

"Ordinary Canadians lining up says everything. That picture speaks a thousand words," he said. "It's incredibly humbling to me as a soldier that Canadians feel that way."

A moment of silence for soldier; The revelry at the Ex pauses as the latest Canadian casualty honored at s

Troops reunite with family after tough tour of duty

IDNUMBER 200708200090
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Met
SECTION: News
PAGE: A15
BYLINE: Chris Morris
SOURCE: Canadian Press
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 283

The latest soldiers to return from Afghanistan were back with their families yesterday, enjoying a hero's welcome after a gruelling tour of duty in which 18 of their comrades were killed.

Ninety members of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, marched into Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, where they were embraced by family members awaiting their return after at least six months.

Even as the Gagetown troops were heading home, reports emerged of the latest Canadian casualty.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of the famed Van Doos based in Valcartier, Que., was killed when his light armoured vehicle encountered a roadside bomb during convoy escort duty.

Roadside bombings are the reality of Afghanistan that keeps many family members awake at night.

"When I'd hear about a roadside bomb, I always worried that it was my dad who got hit," said Patrick Proulx, 15, as he waited for his father, Master Cpl. Stephane Proulx, a medic. "It's very scary. You panic when you hear about people dying because of roadside bombs."

Elke Proulx said her husband was going to get some special treatment once he's home, including at least a cup of coffee in bed, if not breakfast.

"But we'll take it day by day," she said. "Whatever he wants to do, in his own time."

Officials at the family resource centre in Gagetown are advising families to take it slow and give the returning combat troops time to get used to being home and safe.

The base is putting emphasis on identifying post-traumatic stress and other strains that accompany the intense pressure of life in a war zone.

"We're telling families to take it one day at a time and slowly reintegrate back into the family routine," said Shelley Hillier of the family resource centre. "We want them to be open and honest about their feelings."

Canada has about 2,500 troops in the war-torn country as part of the NATO force supporting the Afghan government. Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and a diplomat have died in Afghanistan since 2002.

Van Doos, Canada grieve for soldier; Royal 22nd Regiment from Quebec suffers its first fatality in Kandahar

IDNUMBER 200708200082
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Met
SECTION: News
PAGE: A01
ILLUSTRATION: Pte. Simon Longtin, 23;
BYLINE: bruce campion-smith
SOURCE: in Ottawa
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 706

A deadly blast on a dusty road in Afghanistan is echoing across Quebec and the rest of Canada today.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, killed yesterday in a roadside bombing, is the first member of the famed Royal 22nd Regiment known as the Van Doos to die in Afghanistan, marking a sad milestone in the politically charged deployment of Quebec-based troops to Kandahar.

The young soldier from the Montreal suburb of Longueuil died when his light- armoured vehicle was hit just west of Kandahar.

Col. Christian Juneau, deputy commander of the Canadian joint task force, told reporters in Kandahar the death would hit the troops hard.

"It's almost like losing a brother," Juneau said.

"We're a big family here, brothers in arms, and it's not just a statement that we take lightly in the military. So it really touches every one of us pretty deeply. But we'll mourn, we will pay respects to the family and our fallen comrade and we'll carry on with the mission."

The death hit hard at home, too, especially in Quebec where support for the Afghan mission is the lowest among Canadians.

Bouquets of flowers began to pile up at the entrance to Valcartier military base near Quebec City, home to the Royal 22nd Regiment.

The 1,000 members of the Van Doos began their six-month tour in Afghanistan at the end of July. Longtin had been stationed in Kandahar since July 30.

"It means that French-Canadians will see that their soldiers die in the defence of Canadian interests the same as English soldiers do," said military historian Jack Granatstein. "It's not really all that different."

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed since the military mission in Afghanistan began in 2002.

Van Doos, Canada grieve for soldier; Royal 22nd Regiment from Quebec suffers its first fatality in 68 Kandahar

Longtin was on escort duty for a resupply convoy to a forward operating base and was returning to the main Canadian base at the Kandahar airfield when the convoy ran into an ambush 5 km east of the village of Masum Ghar.

Longtin was in a LAV III armoured vehicle that was hit by a roadside bomb. A firefight between troops and insurgents ensued after the explosion, but no other Canadians were injured, military officials said.

Longtin, who had spent only two years in the Canadian Forces, was evacuated by helicopter but was dead on arrival at the military hospital in Kandahar.

Yesterday, Harper expressed his "deep sorrow" to Longtin's family and friends.

"Pte. Longtin displayed resolve and courage in serving his country, his family and friends can be proud of him because he was playing a very important role in a very challenging environment," Harper said in a statement.

Longtin's death received blanket coverage in the Quebec media, given he is the first member of the Van Doos to fall in combat in Afghanistan.

At the base yesterday, flags flew at half-staff, well-wishers left flowers and letters of condolence, and military commanders honoured his sacrifice.

"Pte. Longtin was very proud of what he was doing in Afghanistan, he spoke and communicated often with his parents, and talked about how he loved being among his fellow soldiers ... he died doing what he loved," said Maj. Casey MacLean, who earlier in the day spoke with Longtin's family. Casey said Longtin's parents and relatives wanted to grieve in private and that the military had offered counselling and other resources.

The Canadian Forces also took the unusual step of introducing Longtin's former military superior at the news conference.

In a poignant, tearful statement, Sgt. Stephane Perras urged the slain soldier's family to contact him so he could talk about Longtin's contribution to his unit.

"I spent a lot of time with him, I appreciated all the time I spent with him," he said, voice choking with emotion. "Today, when I learned this morning ... it was very hard for me." Perras said Longtin was a driver in the Royal 22nd.

Acutely sensitive to the way the Afghan mission is viewed in Quebec, military spokespeople highlighted the outpouring of public grief and expressions of support.

"People are looking for ways to express their condolences ... we know that people are behind the troops," MacLean said.

But NDP Leader Jack Layton, in Quebec yesterday, said Longtin's death would likely increase the deep unease he said Quebecers are voicing about the mission.

"I think Quebecers knew that this was going to happen ... and they're certainly despondent now that it's happening," said Layton, who has called for Canadian soldiers to be brought home now.

The NDP leader even predicted that divided public support for the mission could have a "very significant influence" on the three federal byelections in the province on Sept. 17, including the riding of Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot, east of Montreal, where Layton was yesterday.

Van Doos, Canada grieve for soldier; Royal 22nd Regiment from Quebec suffers its first fatality in Kandahar

"I would hope that every time there is a loss of life, that Canadians would first think of the families and the comrades and immediately ask themselves, 'Are we going to continue on this course?' " Layton said in telephone interview.

With files from Canadian Press

Bomb blast kills Canadian soldier; Young private arrived in war zone just three weeks ago

IDNUMBER 200708200015
PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A4
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Nathan Denette, National Post / A soldier lays a poppy down for Pte. Simon Longtin of the Royal 22nd Regiment (Van Doos) of Quebec during a ceremony at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto honouring his fallen comrade, who was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan on Sunday. ;
KEYWORDS: WAR; BOMBINGS
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 425

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Quebec's storied Van Doos regiment is mourning its first loss in Afghanistan after a young private who arrived in the country only three weeks ago was killed by a roadside bomb.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, was travelling in a LAV-III armoured vehicle when it struck an improvised explosive device.

Canadian soldiers exchanged fire with Taliban insurgents after the blast, but no other Canadian soldiers were injured and no Taliban casualties could be confirmed.

Longtin was evacuated by helicopter to a hospital at Kandahar Airfield, but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

He is the first member of the Van Doos to be killed while serving in Afghanistan. The Royal 22nd Regiment, as it is officially known, took command of Canada's operations in Afghanistan on Aug. 1.

"It's like losing almost a brother. We're like a big family here," said Col. Christian Juneau, Canada's deputy commander in Afghanistan. "We will mourn, we will pay our respects to the family and our fallen comrade, and we will carry on with the mission."

Longtin, who hails from Longueuil, Que., was an infantry rifleman with Charlie Company, which forms part of Canada's battle group.

He had trained for two years with the company before arriving in Afghanistan about three weeks ago.

He lived with other members of the company at Masum Ghar, a forward operating base located at the border of the volatile Zhari and Panjwahi districts.

Lieut.-Col. Alain Gauthier, commander of the Canadian battle group, called Longtin a "keen, professional" soldier.

Sunday, Maj. Kasey McLean, speaking at the base in Valcartier, Que., said Longtin's family was proud he served.

McLean, a Van Doos commander, said the family told him Longtin would "often express his pride and belief in what he did."

He said the family wished to mourn in private and would issue a statement later.

Political observers, meanwhile, will be watching closely to see how the news reverberates in Quebec, where support for the war is the lowest of any province.

According to some polls, seven in 10 Quebecers oppose the mission. The attack occurred at about 1:41 a.m. along Foster Road, roughly 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

The vehicle was part of a supply convoy headed west toward Masum Ghar.

It is the second time in a week that Canadian soldiers have been wounded or killed along Foster Road, a well-travelled supply route.

Five soldiers were lightly injured last Sunday by an IED along the same road. After that attack, the military dispatched engineers to scour the route for IEDs.

The engineers checked for bombs in drainage culverts where insurgents are believed to have planted the bomb used in last Sunday's attack. At one point, engineers discovered a Chinese-made mortar in one of the culverts. They detonated the bomb safely, setting off a thud that echoed through the nearby mountains.

Juneau said Canadian troops will step up surveillance of the route. "However, with the size of our operation, it's quite difficult to have eyes everywhere ... You travel on the road, [and] the next night they can insert themselves and install an IED."

Military officials declined to provide details on the nature of the bomb, saying the incident was under investigation.

Bomb blast kills Canadian soldier; Young private arrived in war zone just three weeks ago

IDNUMBER 200708200011

PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: Final C

SECTION: News

PAGE: A4

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Nathan Denette, National Post / A soldier lays a poppy down for Pte. Simon Longtin of the Royal 22nd Regiment (Van Doos) of Quebec during a ceremony at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto honouring his fallen comrade, who was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan on Sunday. ;

KEYWORDS: WAR

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 449

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Quebec's storied Van Doos regiment is mourning its first loss in Afghanistan after a young private who arrived in the country only three weeks ago was killed by a roadside bomb. Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, was travelling in a LAV-III armoured vehicle when it struck an improvised explosive device.

The attack brought the number of Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan to 67 since 2002. So far this year, 23 have been killed.

Canadian soldiers exchanged fire with Taliban insurgents after the blast, but no other Canadian soldiers were injured and no Taliban casualties could be confirmed.

Longtin was evacuated by helicopter to a hospital at Kandahar Airfield, but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

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Today's troops carry on legacy

SOURCETAG: 0708200311
PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 9
BYLINE: KATHLEEN HARRIS
DATELINE: DIEPPE, France
WORD COUNT: 227

Canadian soldiers sacrificing their lives in Afghanistan are carrying the legacy of those who shed blood at Dieppe, Prime Minister Stephen Harper says.

The 65th anniversary of the disastrous World War II raid coincided with the death of Pte. Simon Longtin in Kandahar yesterday.

Harper said Longtin, like soldiers of past generations, showed resolve and courage in serving his country.

"In marking the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe raid, we pay tribute to the soldiers of our past," Harper said. "The sacrifices of soldiers like Pte. Longtin carry on this legacy today, helping to bring stability and peace to parts of the world plagued by turmoil."

FIGHTING TYRANNY

Dieppe veteran John Edmonson sees no difference between fighting tyranny then and in Afghanistan now. "If they weren't there, they'd be here. If we don't annihilate them, they'll get to us," he said.

Maj. Stephen Gallagher, who lost comrade Nichola Goddard in Afghanistan, calls it the "same mission."

"Whether it's a soldier that died here in Dieppe or a soldier that died in Afghanistan, it's the same mission — to create peace in the world today," he said.

"The values that we cherish now, what we cherished then and what they were fighting for has not changed," Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson said. "Our young men are absolutely dedicated to the mission as they were 65 years ago."

NDP MP Joe Comartin, part of the delegation to Dieppe, complained that Dieppe, like the Afghanistan mission, was carried out based on a political decision instead of sound military operations.

"There's no way we should have done what we did at Dieppe, given the cost of lives that we had," he said.

"We're doing the same thing in Afghanistan." KEYWORDS=WORLD

Dieppe sacrifice 'I want to thank them for what they did ... the story might have been different'

SOURCETAG: 0708200309

PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 8

ILLUSTRATION: 5 photos by Kathleen Harris, Sun Media 1. Wreaths are laid at the base of the monument as a tribute to the 913 Canadians who died at Dieppe on Aug. 19, 1942. 2. Veterans of that raid salute their fallen comrades at the ceremony. 3. Veterans ride in vintage military vehicles through Dieppe as residents shout out their "merci." 4. photo of FRANCOIS CLOUX Local sports the Maple Leaf 5. photo of FRED RICE Among British contingent

BYLINE: KATHLEEN HARRIS, NATIONAL BUREAU

DATELINE: DIEPPE, France

WORD COUNT: 437

Dieppe residents lined the streets in driving rain to show gratitude for Canadian soldiers who stormed the beach 65 years ago, as news of another death in Afghanistan cast a pall on the already sombre day.

Waving Maple Leaf flags and yelling out, "Merci," the teary umbrella-toting crowd cheered and clapped for a parade of aging veterans driving past in vintage military jeeps.

Resident Francoise Cloux admitted she did not know much about the "massacre" before she moved to Dieppe in 1980. Since then she has learned details of the bloody events of Aug. 19, 1942, and gained a deep appreciation for the Canadian heroes.

"It was awful. I want to thank them for what they did, because the story might have been different if they were not there," she said. "Maybe history would be different. Who knows? Nobody knows."

Jean Malaurie said the sacrifice of 913 Canadian lives at Dieppe must never be forgotten.

"You are citizens of honour to Dieppe," he said. "It was a tragedy, but it paid off to fight against Nazism, because it was fierce. Now we are thinking about peace in Europe but we can not forget, because it is perfectly possible that it could come back."

The solemn day of remembrance began with a wreath-laying ceremony at a local military cemetery, where Canadian Forces chaplain Maj. Michel Dion told a hushed crowd that another soldier had just been killed in Afghanistan. Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, bringing Canada's mission death toll to 67.

Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson drew links between sacrifices past and present, and called the Dieppe raid a "defining moment" in Canada's history.

"Amid the beauty, the quiet and the peace of this sacred place, we can scarcely begin to imagine the horrors, the violence and the chaos that greeted you here on the morning of Aug. 19, 1942," he told the veterans, most

now in their mid- to late-80s. "But try we must. Because the peace here today is your gift to us."

A day earlier, the nine Dieppe veterans who are taking part in what's likely the final pilgrimage to France laid red roses on the beach where their comrades were gunned down during the botched dawn raid.

Fred Rice, one of the 1,000 British soldiers who fought at Dieppe, said the Canadians bore the brunt of the slaughter. Of the 4,963 Canadians involved, 3,367 were killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

"Where the Canadians went, it was just like suicide," he said. "If they didn't get killed, they got wounded."

One 17-year-old cadet from Toronto marvelled at the raw bravery of the World War II soldiers while on a visit to key Canadian battle sites.

"I can't believe they got in the boats. I would have been scared stiff seeing all the opposition in front of me and these huge cliffs with machine gun nests," said Francois Dussault. "I wouldn't be able to do it. But I'm so proud of them." KEYWORDS=CANADA

Bomb kills Van Doo First death in Afghanistan for Que.-based regiment

SOURCETAG: 0708200297

PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 3

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo by Martin Ouellet, CP Juneau announces the death of Pte. Simon Longtin, killed when his light armoured vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb. 2. photo of SIMON LONGTIN Vehicle hit

BYLINE: CP

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

WORD COUNT: 454

The Royal 22nd Regiment suffered its first death in Afghanistan yesterday in a clash with insurgents west of Kandahar city.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., on Montreal's south shore, died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb at 1:40 a.m..

There was a firefight between Canadian troops and insurgents after the explosion, but no other Canadians were injured in the exchange of gunfire or in the roadside blast, military officials said.

A military spokesman said Longtin was on escort duty for a resupply convoy and was returning to Kandahar Air Base when the convoy was attacked five kilometres east of the village of Masum Ghar.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died since Ottawa began its military mission in Afghanistan in 2002. But Longtin is the first member of the famed Valcartier, Que.-based Van Doos to be killed in a war that is particularly unpopular in Quebec.

The 2,300 members of the Van Doos began their six-month tour in Afghanistan at the end of July. Longtin had been stationed in Kandahar since July 30.

Col. Christian Juneau, deputy commander of the Canadian joint task force, said Longtin was evacuated by helicopter from the scene of the attack but was dead on arrival at the military hospital in Kandahar.

"It's almost like losing a brother," Juneau said. "We're a big family here, brothers in arms, and it's not just a statement that we take lightly in the military. So it really touches every one of us pretty deeply. But we'll mourn, we'll pay respects to the family and our fallen comrade and we'll carry on with the mission."

Yesterday's attack was the third attack on Canadians in a week.

Last Sunday, five soldiers were injured when their RG-31 vehicle hit a roadside bomb on the same road as Sunday's fatal blast.

And on Friday, two Edmonton-based soldiers were slightly injured when an armoured tracked vehicle was

struck by a similar improvised explosive device, or IED.

The last time Canadians died in Afghanistan was on July 4, when five soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb while travelling in an LAV just west of Kandahar.

Juneau said the military makes every attempt to safeguard its troops.

"We protect our soldiers the best way we can through training, providing them with equipment that is probably some of the best in the world," he said.

"But we cannot foresee every event, every type of explosive, every threat the enemy is throwing at us."

In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper expressed his condolences to the dead soldier's family while lauding Longtin's courage and determination, saying his sacrifice will help bring long-term stability and peace to Afghanistan.

"Pte. Longtin displayed resolve and courage in serving his country (and) his family and friends can be proud of him because he was playing a very important role in a very challenging environment," Harper said in a statement issued in Ottawa.

"In marking the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid, we pay tribute to the soldiers of our past. The sacrifices of soldiers like Pte. Longtin carry on this legacy today, helping to bring stability and peace to parts of the world plagued by turmoil and upheaval."

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean said her thoughts went out to Longtin's family. "Today, all Canadians join together with them to grieve," Jean said. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Frontpage Another falls Quebec soldier killed during clash with insurgents in Afghanistan

SOURCETAG	0708200293
PUBLICATION:	The Winnipeg Sun
DATE:	2007.08.20
EDITION:	Final
SECTION:	News
PAGE:	1
ILLUSTRATION:	1. photo by Department of National Defence, CP Canadian Pte. Simon Longtin was killed when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb at 1:40 a.m. 2. BACK TO DIEPPE French residents thank Canadian heroes
WORD COUNT:	0

Today's troops carry on legacy

SOURCETAG: 0708200383
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 7
BYLINE: KATHLEEN
HARRIS
DATELINE: DIEPPE, France
WORD COUNT: 227

Canadian soldiers sacrificing their lives in Afghanistan are carrying the legacy of those who shed blood at Dieppe, Prime Minister Stephen Harper says.

The 65th anniversary of the disastrous World War II raid coincided with the death of Pte. Simon Longtin in Kandahar yesterday.

Harper said Longtin, like soldiers of past generations, showed resolve and courage in serving his country.

"In marking the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe raid, we pay tribute to the soldiers of our past," Harper said. "The sacrifices of soldiers like Pte. Longtin carry on this legacy today, helping to bring stability and peace to parts of the world plagued by turmoil."

FIGHTING TYRANNY

Dieppe veteran John Edmonson sees no difference between fighting tyranny then and in Afghanistan now. "If they weren't there, they'd be here. If we don't annihilate them, they'll get to us," he said.

Maj. Stephen Gallagher, who lost comrade Nichola Goddard in Afghanistan, calls it the "same mission."

"Whether it's a soldier that died here in Dieppe or a soldier that died in Afghanistan, it's the same mission — to create peace in the world today," he said.

"The values that we cherish now, what we cherished then and what they were fighting for has not changed," Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson said. "Our young men are absolutely dedicated to the mission as they were 65 years ago."

NDP MP Joe Comartin, part of the delegation to Dieppe, complained that Dieppe, like the Afghanistan mission, was carried out based on a political decision instead of sound military operations.

"There's no way we should have done what we did at Dieppe, given the cost of lives that we had," he said.

"We're doing the same thing in Afghanistan." KEYWORDS=WORLD

Dieppe sacrifice 'I want to thank them for what they did ... the story might have been different'

SOURCETAG: 0708200382

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 6

ILLUSTRATION: 5 photos by Kathleen Harris, Sun Media 1. Wreaths are laid at the base of the monument as a tribute to the 913 Canadians who died at Dieppe on Aug. 19, 1942. 2. Veterans of that raid salute their fallen comrades at the ceremony. 3. Veterans ride in vintage military vehicles through Dieppe as residents shout out their "merci." 4. photo of FRANCOIS CLOUX Local sports the Maple Leaf 5. photo of FRED RICE Among British contingent

BYLINE: KATHLEEN HARRIS, NATIONAL BUREAU

DATELINE: DIEPPE, France

WORD COUNT: 437

Dieppe residents lined the streets in driving rain to show gratitude for Canadian soldiers who stormed the beach 65 years ago, as news of another death in Afghanistan cast a pall on the already sombre day.

Waving Maple Leaf flags and yelling out, "Merci," the teary umbrella-toting crowd cheered and clapped for a parade of aging veterans driving past in vintage military jeeps.

Resident Francoise Cloux admitted she did not know much about the "massacre" before she moved to Dieppe in 1980. Since then she has learned details of the bloody events of Aug. 19, 1942, and gained a deep appreciation for the Canadian heroes.

"It was awful. I want to thank them for what they did, because the story might have been different if they were not there," she said. "Maybe history would be different. Who knows? Nobody knows."

Jean Malaurie said the sacrifice of 913 Canadian lives at Dieppe must never be forgotten.

"You are citizens of honour to Dieppe," he said. "It was a tragedy, but it paid off to fight against Nazism, because it was fierce. Now we are thinking about peace in Europe but we can not forget, because it is perfectly possible that it could come back."

The solemn day of remembrance began with a wreath-laying ceremony at a local military cemetery, where Canadian Forces chaplain Maj. Michel Dion told a hushed crowd that another soldier had just been killed in Afghanistan. Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, bringing Canada's mission death toll to 67.

Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson drew links between sacrifices past and present, and called the Dieppe raid a "defining moment" in Canada's history.

"Amid the beauty, the quiet and the peace of this sacred place, we can scarcely begin to imagine the horrors, the violence and the chaos that greeted you here on the morning of Aug. 19, 1942," he told the veterans, most

now in their mid- to late-80s. "But try we must. Because the peace here today is your gift to us."

A day earlier, the nine Dieppe veterans who are taking part in what's likely the final pilgrimage to France laid red roses on the beach where their comrades were gunned down during the botched dawn raid.

Fred Rice, one of the 1,000 British soldiers who fought at Dieppe, said the Canadians bore the brunt of the slaughter. Of the 4,963 Canadians involved, 3,367 were killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

"Where the Canadians went, it was just like suicide," he said. "If they didn't get killed, they got wounded."

One 17-year-old cadet from Toronto marvelled at the raw bravery of the World War II soldiers while on a visit to key Canadian battle sites.

"I can't believe they got in the boats. I would have been scared stiff seeing all the opposition in front of me and these huge cliffs with machine gun nests," said Francois Dussault. "I wouldn't be able to do it. But I'm so proud of them." KEYWORDS=CANADA

CNE pays respect to fallen soldier Poppies placed at small memorial

SOURCETAG: 0708200381

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 5

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Ernest Doroszuk, Sun Media At the Ex, a soldier puts a poppy on a memorial to Pte. Simon Longtin, killed in Afghanistan.

BYLINE: ROSALYN SOLOMON, SUN MEDIA

WORD COUNT: 230

An "eerie silence" fell over the CNE when a vigil was held yesterday for Canada's most recent fallen hero killed earlier in the day in Afghanistan, Armed Forces Capt. Wayne Johnston said.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Quebec's Van Doos — the Royal 22nd Regiment, was killed when the light armoured vehicle he was riding in hit a roadside bomb.

Over 100 soldiers and CNE patrons lined a red carpet to place poppies on a small memorial for Longtin, of Longueuil, Que. who went to Afghanistan four weeks ago.

"When have you ever had silence at 3:30 p.m. on a Sunday at the CNE? It shows what Canadians think, how they feel," Johnston said.

"Ordinary Canadians lining up to commemorate, for me it's incredibly humbling, it is for all the soldiers," he said.

"I think it's important for Canadians to take a moment and pause as we do," Johnston said. "Each one of these soldiers are Canadian heroes, they are the sons and daughters of Canada."

The Noel family had just arrived and was making the Canadian Forces exhibit their first stop.

The dad, Michael, said the vigil helped give his daughters, Nicole, 9, and Sarah, 7, a better understanding of Canada's freedom.

"I think they're old enough to understand death and I'm glad we were here to pay respects so they can understand how important the forces are," he said.

There were a few Afghanistan war veterans at the vigil including Sapper Mike McTeague who was injured there last September.

"(McTeague) is an incredible young man and these are all men and women who show incredible courage," Johnston said.

Soldiers at the CNE are trying to get 100,00 signatures on Yellow Ribbon banners to send to our troops in Afghanistan. They are also going to hold Red T-Shirt Friday, where visitors wearing red Support our Troops T-shirts will be given dog tags. KEYWORDS=CANADA

Unit loses 'a brother' Soldier killed by roadside bomb in Kandahar

SOURCETAG: 0708200380

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 5

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Dnd, CP Canadian Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., was killed early yesterday in Afghanistan.

BYLINE: CP

DATELINE: CFB VALCARTIER, Que.

WORD COUNT: 420

Simon Longtin was remembered as a young private doing exactly what he wanted to, proud to be making a difference in Afghanistan with his fellow Van Doos in Kandahar province.

The 23-year-old Canadian soldier was killed yesterday when the light-armoured vehicle, or LAV-III, struck a roadside bomb. Longtin had been in Afghanistan only since July 30, but the young soldier from Longueuil, Que., had no doubt that he was where he wanted to be, having volunteered for the mission.

Maj. Casey McLean, acting commander of the 3rd battalion to which Longtin belonged, described him as a strong, competent soldier who was quiet but "was very popular among his peers."

McLean, who met with Longtin's parents yesterday, said they were proud of their son and Longtin had told them he firmly believed in what he was doing in Afghanistan.

"It has really affected them, they really loved their son," McLean said. "If one thing came out of their conversations with him, it is that he was very proud to be with his colleagues in Afghanistan. He died doing what he loved."

Col. Christian Juneau, deputy commander of the Canadian joint task force, said Longtin was evacuated by helicopter from the scene of the attack but was dead on arrival at the military hospital in Kandahar.

"It's almost like losing a brother," Juneau said. "We're a big family here, brothers in arms, and it's not just a statement that we take lightly in the military. So it really touches every one of us pretty deeply. But we'll mourn, we'll pay respects to the family and our fallen comrade and we'll carry on with the mission."

Condolences poured in from all over the country. Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Quebec Premier Jean Charest, Quebec City Mayor Andree Boucher and Bloc Quebecois Leader Gilles Duceppe were among those to offer their sympathies to Longtin's family.

Meanwhile, bouquets of flowers began to pile up at the entrance to the Valcartier, Que. military base, home to the Royal 22nd Regiment, known as the Van Doos.

In a statement, Liberal Leader Stephane Dion said Longtin's death emphasizes the very real danger Canadian soldiers face every day.

"Today's loss serves as a reminder of the very real challenges the men and women of the Canadian Forces face every day as they undertake this mission, and I speak for all Canadians when I say that we greatly appreciate their sacrifices to help the people of Afghanistan and bring stability to the region," Dion said.

Meanwhile, Liberal defence critic Dennis Coderre re-affirmed his party's wish that Canadian troops be removed from Afghanistan by 2009. Coderre said Canada has done its part for the NATO mission.

Harper has said he is committed to staying until 2009, but won't commit beyond that without the consensus of Parliament.

Since 2002, 67 Canadian soldiers and a diplomat have died in Afghanistan. KEYWORDS=CANADA

Families embrace returned heroes

SOURCETAG 0708200379
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 5
BYLINE: CHRIS MORRIS, CP
DATELINE: OROMOCTO, N.B.
WORD COUNT: 276

The latest group of soldiers to return from Afghanistan were back with their families yesterday, given a heroes' welcome home from a gruelling tour of duty during which 18 comrades were killed.

Ninety members of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, marched into Canadian Forces Base Gagetown where they were warmly embraced by family members who had been anxiously waiting for their return for six months.

NIGHTMARES

As the Gagetown troops arrived home, reports came in about the latest Canadian casualty in the war-torn country. Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of the famed Quebec Van Doos, was killed when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

Roadside bombings are the nightmare that keeps soldiers' families awake at night. All 18 of the deaths during the six-month tour were caused by roadside bombs.

"When I'd hear about a roadside bomb, I always worried that it was my dad who got hit," said Patrick Proulx, 15, as he waited for his father, Master Cpl. Stephane Proulx. "It's very scary. You panic when you hear about people dying because of roadside bombs."

PAMPERING

Proulx can expect some heavy-duty pampering in the next few days, like coffee in bed, his wife promised.

David Allison of Florenceville, N.B., said that when his son, Cpl. Dave Allison, 24, went to Afghanistan, he and his wife knew only him and one other young New Brunswick man out of the 2,500 Canadian troops there. The other young man was killed, bringing the reality of Afghanistan too close for comfort.

His wife Patricia Allison said her son told her: "Mom I'm probably going to do a lot of sleeping once I get home."

"I said, 'Don't worry, Dave, because I'm going to pull up a chair and watch you sleep. I don't mind at all because I'll know where you are and I'll know you're safe.'" **KEYWORDS=CANADA**

Soldier's death 'like losing a brother'

SOURCETAG: 0708191152
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 6
ILLUSTRATION: photo by Department of National Defence Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, became the first member of the Quebec-based Van Doos to be killed in Afghanistan when his resupply convoy was hit by a roadside bomb yesterday.
BYLINE: MARTIN OUELLET, CP
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN
WORD COUNT: 387

The Royal 22nd Regiment is mourning the loss of its first soldier in Afghanistan, who was killed in a clash with insurgents west of Kandahar.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb early yesterday.

The explosion triggered a firefight between Canadian troops and insurgents, but no other Canadians were injured.

Longtin, on escort duty for a resupply convoy, was returning to the Kandahar base when the vehicle was attacked.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have died in Afghanistan since 2002. Longtin is the first member of the famed Valcartier, Que.-based Van Doos to be killed in a war that is particularly unpopular in Quebec.

Col. Christian Juneau, deputy commander of the Canadian joint task force, said Longtin was evacuated by helicopter, but was dead on arrival at the military hospital in Kandahar.

VOW TO SOLDIER ON

"It's almost like losing a brother," Juneau said. "We're a big family here, brothers in arms, and it's not just a statement that we take lightly in the military. So it really touches every one of us pretty deeply. But we'll mourn, we'll pay respects to the family and our fallen comrade and we'll carry on with the mission."

Juneau said the military makes every attempt to safeguard its troops.

"We protect our soldiers the best way we can through training, providing them with equipment that is probably some of the best in the world," he said.

"But we cannot foresee every event, every type of explosive, every threat the enemy is throwing at us."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper expressed his condolences to Longtin's family while lauding the soldier's courage and determination.

"Pte. Longtin displayed resolve and courage in serving his country (and) his family and friends can be proud of him because he was playing a very important role in a very challenging environment," Harper said.

"In marking the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid, we pay tribute to the soldiers of our past. The sacrifices of soldiers like Pte. Longtin carry on this legacy today, helping to bring stability and peace to parts of the world plagued by turmoil and upheaval."

OTHER CANADIAN DEATHS IN AFGHANISTAN THIS YEAR

July 4 — Cpl. Cole Bartsch, Capt. Matthew Johnathan Dawe, Pte. Lane Watkins, Cpl. Jordan Anderson, Master Cpl. Colin Bason and Capt. Jefferson Francis, killed by a roadside bomb.

— June 20 — Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Frederick Bouzane and Pte. Joel Vincent Wiebe, killed by a roadside bomb.

— June 11 — Trooper Darryl Caswell, killed by a roadside bomb.

— May 30 — Master Cpl. Darrell Jason Priede, killed when a U.S. helicopter was reportedly shot down by the Taliban.

— May 25 — Cpl. Matthew McCully, killed by an improvised explosive device.

— April 18 — Master Cpl. Anthony Klumpenhower, died after falling from a communications tower.

— April 11 — Master Cpl. Allan Stewart and Trooper Patrick James Pentland, killed when their vehicle struck an IED.

— April 8 — Sgt. Donald Lucas, Cpl. Aaron Williams, Pte. Kevin Kennedy, Pte. David Greenslade, Cpl. Christopher Stannix and Cpl. Brent Poland, killed when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb.

KEYWORDS=WORLD

Dieppe sacrifice 'I want to thank them for what they did ... the story might have been different'

SOURCETAG: 0708191149

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 4

ILLUSTRATION: 5 photos 3 photos by Kathleen Harris, Sun Media 1. Wreaths are laid at the base of the monument as a tribute to the 913 Canadians who died at Dieppe on Aug. 19, 1942. 2. Veterans of that raid salute their fallen comrades at the ceremony. 3. Veterans ride in vintage military vehicles through Dieppe as residents shout out their "merci." 4. photo of FRED RICE Brit soldier 5. photo of FRANCOISE CLOUX "Thank them"

BYLINE: KATHLEEN HARRIS, NATIONAL BUREAU

DATELINE: DIEPPE, FRANCE

WORD COUNT: 432

Dieppe residents lined the streets in driving rain to show gratitude for Canadian soldiers who stormed the beach 65 years ago, as news of another death in Afghanistan cast a pall on the already sombre day.

Waving Maple Leaf flags and yelling out, "Merci," the teary umbrella-toting crowd cheered and clapped for a parade of aging veterans driving past in vintage military jeeps.

Resident Francoise Cloux admitted she did not know much about the "massacre" before she moved to Dieppe in 1980. Since then she has learned details of the bloody events of Aug. 19, 1942, and gained a deep appreciation for the Canadian heroes.

"It was awful. I want to thank them for what they did, because the story might have been different if they were not there," she said. "Maybe history would be different. Who knows? Nobody knows."

Jean Malaurie said the sacrifice of 913 Canadian lives at Dieppe must never be forgotten.

"You are citizens of honour to Dieppe," he said. "It was a tragedy, but it paid off to fight against Nazism, because it was fierce. Now we are thinking about peace in Europe but we can not forget, because it is perfectly possible that it could come back."

The solemn day of remembrance began with a wreath-laying ceremony at a local military cemetery, where Canadian Forces chaplain Maj. Michel Dion told a hushed crowd that another soldier had just been killed in Afghanistan. Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson drew links between sacrifices past and present, and called the Dieppe raid a "defining moment" in Canada's history.

"Amid the beauty, the quiet and the peace of this sacred place, we can scarcely begin to imagine the horrors, the violence and the chaos that greeted you here on the morning of Aug. 19, 1942," he told the veterans, most now in their mid- to late-80s. "But try we must. Because the peace here today is your gift to us."

FLOWER TRIBUTE

A day earlier, the nine Dieppe veterans who are taking part in what's likely the final pilgrimage to France laid red roses on the beach where their comrades were gunned down during the botched dawn raid.

Fred Rice, one of the 1,000 British soldiers who fought at Dieppe, said the Canadians bore the brunt of the slaughter. Of the 4,963 Canadians involved, 3,367 were killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

"Where the Canadians went, it was just like suicide," he said. "If they didn't get killed, they got wounded."

One 17-year-old cadet from Toronto marvelled at the raw bravery of the World War II soldiers while on a visit to key Canadian battle sites.

"I can't believe they got in the boats. I would have been scared stiff seeing all the opposition in front of me and these huge cliffs with machine gun nests," said Francois Dussault. "I wouldn't be able to do it. But I'm so proud of them." **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Canadian soldier dies in Afghan blast

IDNUMBER 200708200003
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Longtin;
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 579

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Quebec's storied Van Doos regiment is mourning its first loss in Afghanistan after a young private who arrived in the country only three weeks ago was killed by a roadside bomb.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, was travelling in a LAV-III armoured vehicle Sunday when it struck an improvised explosive device (IED).

Canadian soldiers exchanged fire with Taliban insurgents after the blast, but no other Canadian soldiers were injured and no Taliban casualties could be confirmed.

Longtin was evacuated by helicopter to a hospital at Kandahar Airfield, but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

He is the first member of the Van Doos to be killed while serving in Afghanistan. The Royal 22nd Regiment, as it is officially known, took command of Canada's operations in Afghanistan on Aug. 1.

"It's like losing almost a brother. We're like a big family here," said Col. Christian Juneau, Canada's deputy commander in Afghanistan. "We will mourn, we will pay our respects to the family and our fallen comrade, and we will carry on with the mission."

Longtin, who hails from Longueuil, Que., was an infantry rifleman with Charlie Company, which forms part of Canada's battle group.

He had trained for two years with the company before arriving in Afghanistan about three weeks ago. He lived with other members of the company at Masum Ghar, a forward operating base located at the border of the volatile Zhari and Panjwai districts.

Lieut.-Col. Alain Gauthier, commander of the Canadian battle group, called Longtin a "keen," "professional" soldier.

On Sunday, Maj. Kasey McLean, speaking from the base in Valcartier, Que., said Longtin's family members were proud he served.

McLean, a Van Doo commander, said the family told him Longtin would "often express his pride and belief in what he did."

He said the family wished to mourn in private and would issue a statement later.

Political observers, meanwhile, will be watching closely to see how the news reverberates in Quebec, where support for the war is the lowest of any province. According to some polls, seven in 10 Quebecers oppose the mission.

The attack occurred at about 1:41 a.m. along Foster Road, roughly 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City. The vehicle was part of a supply convoy headed west toward Masum Ghar.

It is the second time in a week that Canadian soldiers have been wounded or killed along Foster Road, a well-travelled supply route. Five soldiers were lightly injured last Sunday by an IED along the same road. After that attack, the military dispatched engineers to scour the route for IEDs.

The engineers checked for bombs in drainage culverts where insurgents are believed to have planted the bomb used in last Sunday's attack. At one point, engineers discovered a Chinese-made mortar in one of the culverts. They detonated the bomb safely, setting off a thud that echoed through the nearby mountains.

Juneau said Canadian troops will step up surveillance of the route.

"However, with the size of our operation, it's quite difficult to have eyes everywhere. . . . You travel on the road, (and) the next night they can insert themselves and install an IED."

Military officials declined to provide details on the nature of the bomb, saying the incident was under investigation. They also would not say where Longtin was sitting in the LAV-III, which is designed to protect against roadside bombs.

The death of Longtin caps a bloody week in Kandahar province.

Two soldiers incurred minor injuries Friday after their armoured vehicle rolled over an IED while travelling in a supply convoy about 30 kilometres west of Kandahar City. A suicide bomber also killed the chief of Zhari district and three of his children.

On Saturday, a suicide car bomber rammed into a convoy of vehicles, killing at least 15 people and injuring dozens of others on the edge of Kandahar City.

Some observers believe the insurgents could step up their attacks when the Muslim holy period of Ramadan begins in a few weeks.

On Saturday, the Taliban released a statement purported to be from their reclusive leader, Mullah Omar. It called on Afghans to wage a jihad against the foreign "invaders."

Show's future up in air after Sunday cancellation

IDNUMBER 200708200002

PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: SP Photo by Gord Waldner / A cloudy sky and cool winds limited attendance at Saturday's performance of the Canada Remembers Air Show ; Colour Photo: SP Photo by Gord Waldner / The Snowbirds leave smoke trails in the dark sky ; Colour Photo: SP Photo by Gord Waldner / A group of people help push a van out of the mud ; Colour Photo: SP Photo by Gord Waldner / A CF-18 does an inverted pass in front of the air show crowd ; Colour Photo: SP Photo by Gord Waldner / Nicolas Fisher gets a lift from his uncle Kevin Wiebe while making their way to their seats ; Colour Photo: SP Photo by Gord Waldner / Snowbird pilot Paul Couillard takes a few moments for himself ; Colour Photo: SP Photo by Gord Waldner / Saturday's show saw a cloudy sky, but Reanna Soll, 5, was grounded flying her new toy ; Colour Photo: SP Photo by Gord Waldner / John Mohr and his Stearman swoops in, out, up, down and around for the crowd in a cloudy sky on Saturday ;

BYLINE: Darren Bernhardt

SOURCE: The StarPhoenix

WORD COUNT: 677

The future of Saskatoon's air show is in jeopardy after taking a huge financial hit from the weekend storm.

An estimated \$200,000 loss, coupled with the cancellation of the 2008 show due to runway repairs at the airport, will leave the event teetering, said director Brian Swidrovich.

"It's a valid concern, for sure," he said Sunday, after sending home the performers. "It takes a lot of money to put on these shows. We're a non-profit event and we rely on ticket sales."

A flock of Snowbirds could be seen flying south Sunday morning, following Highway 11 back to their base in Moose Jaw.

The Canadian Forces demonstration team already lost its hometown event -- twice. The Saskatchewan Air Show in Moose Jaw, which began in 1971, was cancelled in 2002 due to skyrocketing insurance rates following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the U.S.

It was brought back in 2003, but was grounded again in 2005 for financial reasons. The show was \$70,000 in debt.

The Cameco Canada Remembers International Air Show in Saskatoon has been around since 1995. One other time in its history, weather forced the planes to stay on the pavement, said Swidrovich. But that was on a Saturday, which left Sunday as a make-up day. It ended up drawing thousands of spectators and the event was saved from potential disaster.

Swidrovich won't know until mid- to-late 2008 whether the show will be back. People who purchased tickets for Sunday's performance will not receive refunds.

"What can we say? Mother Nature had other plans," said Swidrovich. "We just really hope people understand and will respect the fact that their purchase will help us offset the costs."

It takes an investment of about \$300,000 to \$350,000 to put on the show, which breaks even if things go well. Swidrovich intends to speak to a number of the suppliers of beverages and food in the hope some additional savings can be realized since their products weren't consumed.

Even though Saturday's show went on, it was hampered by a low cloud ceiling and cool winds, which kept many people home.

The event usually pulls in about 30,000 people during the two days, but just an estimated 9,000 went through the gates on Saturday.

"Let's face it: It was an ugly day," said Swidrovich. "Considering the weather, though, we were pretty happy to see that (many)."

There were times Saturday when organizers were waffling on whether or not to roll the dice and give the go-ahead, he said.

Heavy rain Friday made the grounds wet around the John G. Diefenbaker International Airport, but not uncomfortable. Strong winds had dried up a lot of the standing water.

By Sunday, however, after more storms blew through the city overnight, water had pooled everywhere, Swidrovich said.

"The whole site is mud and water, up to six or seven inches in some places," he said. "We just couldn't risk patron safety or that of the performers, and we couldn't fire up anything electrical with that much water around."

In the event there had been a mishap with a plane, emergency vehicles wouldn't have been able to drive on the fields.

They would have become mired in the saturated ground, said Swidrovich.

Even the airport terminal was affected, as the basement became flooded and staff spent much of Saturday evening and Sunday pumping it out.

"It was a really tough decision, but we have to think of safety first, not money," Swidrovich said, adding the hardest thing to do was send home the veterans, for whom the show is dedicated.

The show is a tribute to Canadian war veterans, who are treated to thunderous applause as they are given a parade before an honour guard and saluted with a flypast of aircraft.

This year's show was also dedicated to the men and women presently serving in the Afghanistan conflict.

Strung along the viewing area were 67 Canadian flags representing the soldiers from this country who have lost their lives in that battle.

On Sunday, Canada suffered its 68th casualty when Pte. Simon Longtin of Longueuil, Que., 23, was killed by a roadside bomb.

Maurice Vellacott, Conservative MP for Saskatoon–Wanuskewin, who was set to speak on behalf of the

federal government before Sunday's air show, called the Canadian forces in Afghanistan "modern-day heroes" and praised the air show for observing their sacrifices and those of veterans past.

To see the event cancelled permanently would be a tremendous loss, said Capt. David Moar, a Saskatonian who has flown a Canadian Forces F-18 in the past five shows in his hometown.

"It is truly one of the best air shows around and the whole spirit and motive behind it is extremely important," he said Sunday as he climbed into his fighter jet to head back to his base in Cold Lake, Alta.

"This event holds the same weight to many of us as Remembrance Day. To lose it would be crushing."

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'It's like losing a brother'; Van Doos lose first soldier to Taliban; observers fear Quebec reaction

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SECTION: News

PAGE: A4

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Nathan Denette, National Post / A Canadian soldier lays a poppy in remembrance of Pte. Simon Longtin, of the Royal 22nd Regiment, during a ceremony honouring the fallen soldier yesterday in Toronto. Pte. Longtin, who hails from Longueuil, Que., is the 67th Canadian soldier to be killed in Afghanistan. ; Colour Photo: Cpl. Martine Morin, Garnison Valcartier / Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, was killed yesterday after the vehicle he was travelling in, a LAV-III, struck an improvised explosive device. ;

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda

SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen; with files from Agence France-Presse

WORD COUNT: 914

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Quebec's storied Van Doos regiment is mourning its first loss in Afghanistan after a young private who arrived in the country only three weeks ago was killed by a roadside bomb.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, was travelling in a LAV-III armoured vehicle when it struck an improvised explosive device.

Canadian soldiers exchanged fire with Taliban insurgents after the blast, but no others were injured and no Taliban casualties could be confirmed.

Pte. Longtin was taken by helicopter to a hospital at Kandahar Airfield, but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

He is the first member of the Van Doos to be killed while serving in Afghanistan. The Royal 22nd Regiment, as it is officially known, took command of Canada's operations in Afghanistan on Aug. 1.

"It's like losing almost a brother. We're like a big family here," said Col. Christian Juneau, Canada's deputy commander in Afghanistan. "We will mourn, we will pay our respects to the family and our fallen comrade, and we will carry on with the mission."

Pte. Longtin, who hails from Longueuil, Que., was an infantry rifleman with Charlie Company, part of Canada's battle group.

He had trained for two years with the company before arriving in Afghanistan about three weeks ago. He lived with other members of the company at Masum Ghar, a forward operating base located at the border of the volatile Zhari and Panjwahi districts.

Lt.-Col. Alain Gauthier, commander of the Canadian battle group, called Pte. Longtin a "keen," "professional" soldier.

Yesterday, Maj. Kasey McLean, speaking at the base in Valcartier, Que., said Pte. Longtin's family said they were proud he served.

Maj. McLean, a Van Doos commander, said the family told him Pte. Longtin would "often express his pride and belief in what he did."

He said the family wished to mourn in private and would issue a statement later.

Political observers, meanwhile, will be closely watching to see how the news reverberates in Quebec, where support for the war is the lowest of any province.

According to some polls, seven in 10 Quebecers oppose the mission, which some believe is a key reason the Conservatives have failed to make more inroads in Quebec, despite throwing everything from more cash to more powers at the province since they took power 18 months ago.

In a cabinet shuffle last week, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who has vowed to "stay the course" in Afghanistan, made Quebec MP Maxime Bernier the minister of foreign affairs. The move was seen by many as a bid to make him the point man when it comes to explaining the mission in Afghanistan in Quebec.

When the first soldiers from Quebec were deployed last month, then-defence minister Gordon O'Connor said he expected Quebecers would react to the death of one of their own the same way as Canadians in other provinces.

"They'll realize the sacrifice that these soldiers may have made to help the lives of the people of Afghanistan," he said.

Before the soldiers left, however, a Quebec group of anti-war protesters voiced their opposition to the mission, writing letters to the soldiers to discourage them from participating and holding a demonstration in Quebec City the same day the soldiers were parading.

The attack that killed Pte. Longtin occurred at about 1:41 a.m. along Foster Road, roughly 20 kilometres west of Kandahar.

The vehicle was part of a supply convoy headed west toward Masum Ghar.

It is the second time in a week that Canadian soldiers have been wounded or killed along Foster Road. Five soldiers were lightly injured last Sunday by an IED along the road. After that attack, the military dispatched engineers to scour the route for IEDs.

The engineers checked for bombs in drainage culverts where insurgents are believed to have planted the bomb used in last Sunday's attack. At one point, engineers discovered a Chinese-made mortar in one of the culverts. They detonated the bomb safely, setting off a thud that echoed through the nearby mountains.

Col. Juneau said Canadian troops will step up surveillance of the route. "However, with the size of our operation, it's quite difficult to have eyes everywhere ... You travel on the road, (and) the next night they can insert themselves and install an IED."

Military officials declined to provide details on the nature of the bomb, saying the incident was under investigation. They also would not say where Pte. Longtin was sitting in the LAV-III, which is designed to

protect against roadside bombs.

Yesterday, Mr. Harper issued a statement on the latest death.

"Pte. Longtin displayed resolve and courage in serving his country, his family and friends can be proud of him because he was playing a very important role in a very challenging environment," the prime minister said. "He will be sorely missed by the Canadian Forces family."

The death of the first Van Doos caps a bloody week in Kandahar province.

Two soldiers incurred minor injuries Friday after their armoured vehicle rolled over an IED while traveling in a supply convoy about 30 kilometres west of Kandahar. A suicide bomber also killed the chief of Zhari district and three of his children. On Saturday, a suicide car bomber rammed into a convoy of vehicles, killing at least 15 people and injuring dozens of others near Kandahar.

On Saturday, the Taliban released a statement purported to be from their reclusive leader, Mullah Omar. It called on Afghans to wage a jihad against the foreign "invaders." The statement came on the eve of Independence Day, which commemorates Afghanistan's declaration of independence from Britain in 1919.

"Our country is once again occupied by the same forces," Mr. Omar said in his statement, which has not yet been verified.

Col. Juneau brushed off the Taliban warning, reiterating the Canadian position that the insurgents are "on their heels."

He admitted there has been "a lot of activity" by insurgents recently, but he said the attacks were not well co-ordinated.

In some good news early today, Afghan police rescued a female German aid worker who had been abducted at gunpoint Saturday in Kabul. Police surrounded the house where she was being held and forced her kidnappers to surrender. The woman, identified as Christina Meier, was fine. The six kidnappers were arrested.

To view a video report on the slain Canadian soldier, go to Today's Videos at ottawacitizen.com

Vets commemorate the Dieppe tragedy

SOURCETAG 0708200473

PUBLICATION: The London Free Press

DATE: 2007.08.20

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SECTION: News

PAGE: A4

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Paul Chiasson, CP JEEP PARADE: Dieppe veterans parade in jeeps down the Esplanade in Dieppe, France, yesterday. A group of Canadian veterans is in France to mark the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid.

BYLINE: KATHLEEN HARRIS, NATIONAL BUREAU

DATELINE: DIEPPE, FRANCE

WORD COUNT: 291

Dieppe residents lined the streets in driving rain to show gratitude for Canadian soldiers who stormed the beach 65 years ago, as news of another death in Afghanistan cast a fresh pall on the sombre day.

Waving Maple Leaf flags and yelling out, merci, the teary umbrella-toting crowds cheered and clapped for a parade of aging veterans driving past in vintage military jeeps.

Resident Francoise Cloux admitted she did not know much about the "massacre" before she moved to Dieppe in 1980.

Since then she has learned details of the bloody events of Aug. 19, 1942 and gained a deep appreciation for the Canadian heroes.

"It was awful. I want to thank them for what they did, because the story might have been different if they were not there," she said. "Maybe history would be different. Who knows? Nobody knows."

Jean Malaurie said the sacrifice of 913 Canadian lives at Dieppe must never be forgotten because history can repeat itself.

"You are citizens of honour to Dieppe," he said. "It was a tragedy, but it paid off to fight against Nazism, because it was fierce. Now we are thinking about peace in Europe but we can not forget, because it is perfectly possible that it could come back."

The solemn day of remembrance began with a wreath-laying ceremony at a local military cemetery, where Canadian Forces chaplain Maj. Michel Dion told a hushed crowd that another soldier had just been killed in Afghanistan.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que. died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, bringing Canada's mission death toll to 67. Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson drew links between sacrifices past and present, and called the Dieppe Raid a "defining moment" in Canada's history.

"Amid the beauty, the quiet and the peace of this sacred place, we can scarcely begin to imagine the horrors, the violence and the chaos that greeted you here on the morning of Aug. 19, 1942," he told the veterans, most now in their mid- to late-eighties.

"But try we must. Because the peace here today is your gift to us." KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Van Doos lose first soldier in Afghan bombing

SOURCETAG: 0708200464
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1
ILLUSTRATION: 2 photos 1. photo of SIMON LONGTIN 2. CHRISTINA MEIER: "I am OK," the German says, before reading a letter in an Afghan language, Dari, calling for the release of unknown prisoners.
BYLINE: CP
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN
WORD COUNT: 475

The Royal 22nd Regiment suffered its first death in Afghanistan yesterday in a clash with insurgents west of Kandahar city.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., died when his light armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb at 1:40 a.m.

Yesterday's death — Canada's 68th in Afghan-istan since its mission began in 2002 — came on the 65th anniversary of the disastrous raid by Canadians on Dieppe, France, during the Second World War.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper expressed his condolences to Longtin's family while lauding the soldier's courage and determination.

"Pte. Longtin displayed resolve and courage in serving his country (and) his family and friends can be proud of him because he was playing a very important role in a very challenging environment," Harper said. "In marking the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe raid, we pay tribute to the soldiers of our past. The sacrifices of soldiers like Pte. Longtin carry on this legacy today."

The military said Longtin was helping escort a resupply convoy when he was hit.

The convoy was returning to Kandahar Air Field when it was attacked five kilometres east of the village of Masum Ghar.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have died in Afghanistan.

Longtin is the first member of the famed Valcartier, Que.-based Van Doos to be killed in a war that is particularly unpopular in Quebec.

The 2,300 members of the Van Doos began their six-month tour in Afghanistan at the end of July. Longtin had been stationed in Kandahar since July 30.

Col. Christian Juneau, deputy commander of the Canadian joint task force, said Longtin was flown by helicopter from the scene of the attack but was dead on arrival at Kandahar's military hospital.

"It's almost like losing a brother," Juneau said. "We're a big family here, brothers in arms, and it's not just a statement that we take lightly in the military. So it really touches every one of us pretty deeply. But we'll mourn, we'll pay respects to the family and our fallen comrade and we'll carry on with the mission."

Yesterday's attack was the third on Canadians in a week.

The Sunday before, five soldiers were hurt when their RG-31 vehicle hit a roadside bomb on the same road as yesterday's deadly blast.

And Friday, two Edmonton-based soldiers were slightly injured when an armoured tracked vehicle was struck by a similar improvised explosive device, or IED.

In other Afghanistan developments yesterday, a German woman abducted by gunmen was freed, Germany's Foreign Ministry said hours after she appeared in a video asking Berlin to use every effort to win her freedom.

Aid worker Christina Barbara Meier had been seized from a Kabul restaurant while lunching with her husband Saturday.

"The kidnapped woman is now at the German Embassy," the Foreign Ministry said.

In the video, the aid worker had worn a long headscarf and a red local outfit and read from a note in Dari, an Afghan language.

"I am fine. . . . I ask my country to urgently help and co-operate for my release," she had said.

She was prompted to make remarks in English and in Dari by a man speaking in broken English.

The private Tolo TV, which broadcast the video, did not say how it obtained the material.

"I want from my country to do what it can for my release," she said in Dari, reading from a piece of paper while seated, occasionally looking up toward the camera.

A male voice off-camera prompted her to say, "to help" and he told her to use the word "urgent."

"Please help for my release and help me," she said.

A man, his head covered with a scarf and wearing sunglasses inside a room, appeared later in the video and demanded the Afghan government release a number of unknown prisoners. He said a member of the group would provide the government with the list.

"We are not bad people. We are a special network," the man said at the end of the video.

KEYWORDS=WORLD

Dieppe sacrifice 'I want to thank them for what they did ... the story might have been different'

SOURCETAG: 0708200644

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.08.20

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SECTION: News

PAGE: 33

ILLUSTRATION: 3 photos by Kathleen Harris, Sun Media Wreaths are laid at the base of the monument as a tribute to the 913 Canadians who died at Dieppe on Aug. 19, 1942. 2. Veterans of that raid salute their fallen comrades at the ceremony. 3. Veterans ride in vintage military vehicles through Dieppe as residents shout out their "merci." photo of FRED RICE Among British contingent photo of FRANCOIS CLOUX Local sports the Maple Leaf

BYLINE: KATHLEEN HARRIS, NATIONAL BUREAU

DATELINE: DIEPPE, France

WORD COUNT: 437

Dieppe residents lined the streets in driving rain to show gratitude for Canadian soldiers who stormed the beach 65 years ago, as news of another death in Afghanistan cast a pall on the already sombre day.

Waving Maple Leaf flags and yelling out, "Merci," the teary umbrella-toting crowd cheered and clapped for a parade of aging veterans driving past in vintage military jeeps.

Resident Francoise Cloux admitted she did not know much about the "massacre" before she moved to Dieppe in 1980. Since then she has learned details of the bloody events of Aug. 19, 1942, and gained a deep appreciation for the Canadian heroes.

"It was awful. I want to thank them for what they did, because the story might have been different if they were not there," she said. "Maybe history would be different. Who knows? Nobody knows."

Jean Malaurie said the sacrifice of 913 Canadian lives at Dieppe must never be forgotten.

"You are citizens of honour to Dieppe," he said. "It was a tragedy, but it paid off to fight against Nazism, because it was fierce. Now we are thinking about peace in Europe but we can not forget, because it is perfectly possible that it could come back."

The solemn day of remembrance began with a wreath-laying ceremony at a local military cemetery, where Canadian Forces chaplain Maj. Michel Dion told a hushed crowd that another soldier had just been killed in Afghanistan. Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, bringing Canada's mission death toll to 67.

Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson drew links between sacrifices past and present, and called the Dieppe raid a "defining moment" in Canada's history.

"Amid the beauty, the quiet and the peace of this sacred place, we can scarcely begin to imagine the horrors, the violence and the chaos that greeted you here on the morning of Aug. 19, 1942," he told the veterans, most now in their mid- to late-80s. "But try we must. Because the peace here today is your gift to us."

A day earlier, the nine Dieppe veterans who are taking part in what's likely the final pilgrimage to France laid red roses on the beach where their comrades were gunned down during the botched dawn raid.

Fred Rice, one of the 1,000 British soldiers who fought at Dieppe, said the Canadians bore the brunt of the slaughter. Of the 4,963 Canadians involved, 3,367 were killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

"Where the Canadians went, it was just like suicide," he said. "If they didn't get killed, they got wounded."

One 17-year-old cadet from Toronto marvelled at the raw bravery of the World War II soldiers while on a visit to key Canadian battle sites.

"I can't believe they got in the boats. I would have been scared stiff seeing all the opposition in front of me and these huge cliffs with machine gun nests," said Francois Dussault. "I wouldn't be able to do it. But I'm so proud of them." KEYWORDS=CANADA

Today's troops carry on legacy

SOURCETAG: 0708200643
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 33
BYLINE: KATHLEEN HARRIS
DATELINE: DIEPPE, France
WORD COUNT: 227

Canadian soldiers sacrificing their lives in Afghanistan are carrying the legacy of those who shed blood at Dieppe, Prime Minister Stephen Harper says.

The 65th anniversary of the disastrous World War II raid coincided with the death of Pte. Simon Longtin in Kandahar yesterday.

Harper said Longtin, like soldiers of past generations, showed resolve and courage in serving his country.

"In marking the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe raid, we pay tribute to the soldiers of our past," Harper said. "The sacrifices of soldiers like Pte. Longtin carry on this legacy today, helping to bring stability and peace to parts of the world plagued by turmoil."

FIGHTING TYRANNY

Dieppe veteran John Edmonson sees no difference between fighting tyranny then and in Afghanistan now. "If they weren't there, they'd be here. If we don't annihilate them, they'll get to us," he said.

Maj. Stephen Gallagher, who lost comrade Nichola Goddard in Afghanistan, calls it the "same mission."

"Whether it's a soldier that died here in Dieppe or a soldier that died in Afghanistan, it's the same mission — to create peace in the world today," he said.

"The values that we cherish now, what we cherished then and what they were fighting for has not changed," Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson said. "Our young men are absolutely dedicated to the mission as they were 65 years ago."

NDP MP Joe Comartin, part of the delegation to Dieppe, complained that Dieppe, like the Afghanistan mission, was carried out based on a political decision instead of sound military operations.

"There's no way we should have done what we did at Dieppe, given the cost of lives that we had," he said.

"We're doing the same thing in Afghanistan." KEYWORDS=CANADA

Canuck troops home after gruelling duty

SOURCETAG 0708200620
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 6
BYLINE: CP
DATELINE: OROMOCTO, N.B.
WORD COUNT: 139

The latest group of soldiers to return from Afghanistan were back with their families yesterday, enjoying a hero's welcome home after a gruelling tour of duty in which 18 of their comrades were killed.

Ninety members of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, marched into Canadian Forces Base Gagetown in New Brunswick where they were warmly embraced by anxious family members who had been waiting at least six months for their return.

Even as the Gagetown troops were heading home with their families, reports were coming out about the latest Canadian casualty in the war-torn country.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, a member of the famed Van Doos based in Valcartier, Que., was killed when his light-armoured vehicle encountered a roadside bomb while conducting convoy escort duty. Roadside bombings are the nightmare reality of Afghanistan that keeps many family members awake at night.

KEYWORDS=WORLD

Van Doos lose first soldier

SOURCETAG 0708200619

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 6

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Reuters Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, was killed yesterday in Afghanistan.

BYLINE: MARTIN OUELLET, CP

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

WORD COUNT: 321

The Royal 22nd Regiment suffered its first death in Afghanistan yesterday in a clash with insurgents west of Kandahar city.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., of Montreal's south shore, died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb at 1:40 a.m.

There was a firefight between Canadian troops and insurgents after the explosion, but no other Canadians were injured in the exchange of gunfire or in the roadside blast, military officials said.

A military spokesman said Longtin was on escort duty for a resupply convoy and was returning to Kandahar Air Base when the convoy was attacked five kilometres east of the village of Masum Ghar.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died since Ottawa began its military mission in Afghanistan in 2002. But Longtin is the first member of the famed Valcartier, Que.,-based Van Doos to be killed in a war that is particularly unpopular in Quebec.

The 2,300 members of the Van Doos began their six-month tour in Afghanistan at the end of July. Longtin had been stationed in Kandahar since July 30.

Col. Christian Juneau, deputy commander of the Canadian joint task force, said Longtin was evacuated by helicopter from the scene of the attack but was dead on arrival at the military hospital in Kandahar.

"It's almost like losing a brother," Juneau said. "We're a big family here, brothers in arms, and it's not just a statement that we take lightly in the military. So it really touches every one of us pretty deeply. But we'll mourn, we'll pay respects to the family and our fallen comrade and we'll carry on with the mission."

Sunday's attack was the third attack on Canadians in a week.

Last Sunday, five soldiers were injured when their RG-31 vehicle hit a roadside bomb on the same road as Sunday's fatal blast. In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper expressed his condolences to the dead soldier's family while lauding Longtin's courage and determination, saying his sacrifice will help bring long-term stability and peace to Afghanistan.

Longtin's death could have ramifications back home in Quebec where a recent poll indicated that 70% of the population does not approve of Canadian troops being involved in Afghanistan. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Independence celebrated in Afghanistan

SOURCETAG 0708200573
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 21
BYLINE: AP AND CP
DATELINE: KABUL
WORD COUNT: 190

Afghanistan celebrated its independence from British rule yesterday with a military parade and a colourful display of national costumes on the grounds of a stadium once used by the Taliban for public executions.

Taliban leader Mullah Omar, meanwhile, called on Afghans to join his rebel group in its attempt to oust the government of President Hamid Karzai and its foreign backers.

Karzai told thousands gathered at Kabul city stadium that Afghanistan is once again threatened by a resurgent Taliban-led insurgency, and urged people to focus on education as a way to improve the country.

The holiday marks Afghanistan's liberation from Britain in 1919, following the third Anglo-Afghan war.

"Again our land is under attack from our enemies," Karzai said in reference to the Taliban-led insurgency.

"They want to stop the development of Afghanistan."

Karzai delivered his independence day address in a stadium that once hosted public executions during the Taliban's rule, which ended with the invasion by U.S.-led forces in late 2001.

Despite the presence of nearly 50,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan, including 2,400 Canadians, violence has risen sharply during the last two months.

Yesterday brought word of the death of another Canadian soldier. Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., on Montreal's south shore, died when his light armoured vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb. Longtin was in a convoy on escort duty. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Not to be forgotten Residents wave Maple Leaf flags and thank Canadian veterans on 65th anniversary of battle

SOURCETAG: 0708200545

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 5

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Paul Chiasson, CP Dieppe veteran Paul Dumaine from Saint-Sophie, Que., with fellow veteran, Ray Gilbert from Calgary, mark the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid yesterday.

BYLINE: KATHLEEN HARRIS

DATELINE: DIEPPE

WORD COUNT: 321

Dieppe residents lined the streets in driving rain to show gratitude for Canadian soldiers who stormed the beach 65 years ago, as news of another death in Afghanistan cast a fresh pall on the sombre day.

Waving Maple Leaf flags and yelling out, "merci," the teary umbrella-toting crowds cheered and clapped for a parade of aging veterans driving past in vintage military jeeps.

Resident Francoise Cloux admitted she did not know much about the "massacre" before she moved to Dieppe in 1980.

Since then she has learned details of the bloody events of Aug. 19, 1942 and gained a deep appreciation for the Canadian heroes.

"It was awful," she said.

"I want to thank them for what they did, because the story might have been different if they were not there. Maybe history would be different. Who knows? Nobody knows."

Jean Malaurie said the sacrifice of 913 Canadian lives at Dieppe must never be forgotten because history can repeat itself.

"You are citizens of honour to Dieppe," he said.

"It was a tragedy, but it paid off to fight against Nazism, because it was fierce.

"Now we are thinking about peace in Europe, but we can not forget because it is perfectly possible that it could come back."

The solemn day of remembrance began with a wreath-laying ceremony at a military cemetery, where Canadian Forces chaplain Maj. Michel Dion told a hushed crowd another Canuck soldier had been killed in Afghanistan.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, bringing Canada's mission death toll to 67.

Minister of Veterans Affairs Greg Thompson drew links between sacrifices past and present, and called the Dieppe Raid a "defining moment" in Canada's history.

"Amid the beauty, the quiet and the peace of this sacred place, we can scarcely begin to imagine the horrors, the violence and the chaos that greeted you here on the morning of Aug. 19, 1942," he told the veterans, most now in their mid- to late-80s.

"But try we must. Because the peace here today is your gift to us."

A day earlier, the nine Dieppe veterans who are taking part in what's likely the final pilgrimage to France laid red roses on the beach where their comrades were gunned down during the botched dawn raid.

Fred Rice, one of the 1,000 British soldiers who fought alongside at Dieppe, said the Canadians bore the brunt of the slaughter. Of the 4,963 Canadians involved, 3,367 were killed, wounded or taken prisoner of war.

"Where the Canadians went, it was just like suicide," he said.

"If they didn't get killed, they got wounded." KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Slain soldier carries on legacy

SOURCETAG: 0708200544
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 5
BYLINE: KATHLEEN
HARRIS
DATELINE: DIEPPE
WORD COUNT: 213

Canadian soldiers sacrificing their lives in Afghanistan are carrying the legacy of predecessors who shed blood at Dieppe and other world war battles, says Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The 65th anniversary of the disastrous Second World War raid of the German-occupied port city coincided with the death of Quebec's Pte. Simon Longtin in Kandahar yesterday. Harper said Longtin, like soldiers of past generations, showed resolve and courage while serving his country.

"In marking the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe raid, we pay tribute to the soldiers of our past," Harper said. "The sacrifices of soldiers like Private Longtin carry on this legacy today, helping to bring stability and peace to parts of the world plagued by turmoil and upheaval."

But NDP MP Joe Comartin, who is part of an official delegation travelling to France for Dieppe remembrance services, does not like the comparisons. But he insisted the Dieppe raid, just like the Afghanistan mission, was carried out based on a political decision instead of sound military operations.

"There's no way we should have done what we did at Dieppe, given the cost of lives that we eventually had," Comartin said.

Maj. Stephen Gallagher, who served in Afghanistan and lost comrade Nichola Goddard in combat, sees a strong link between the fallen soldiers of past and present.

"Whether it's a soldier that died here in Dieppe or a soldier that died in Afghanistan, it's the same mission -- to create peace in the world today." **KEYWORDS=NATIONAL**

'Proud' soldier lost in battle

SOURCETAG 0708200543
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 4
ILLUSTRATION: photo of SIMON LONGTIN Mourned
BYLINE: CP
DATELINE: CFB VALCARTIER, Que.
WORD COUNT: 246

Simon Longtin was remembered as a young private doing exactly what he wanted to, proud to be making a difference on the ground in Afghanistan with his fellow–Van Doos in Kandahar province.

The 23–year–old Canadian soldier died early yesterday when the light–armoured vehicle, or LAV–III, struck a roadside bomb, claiming his life a little over two weeks into a six–month stint.

Yesterday's attack was the third attack on Canadians in a week.

Sixty–seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died since Ottawa began its military mission in Afghanistan in 2002. But Longtin is the first member of the famed Valcartier, Que.,–based Van Doos to be killed in a war that is particularly unpopular in Quebec.

Longtin had been in Afghanistan only since July 30, but the young soldier from Longueuil, Que., south of Montreal, had no doubt that he was where he wanted to be, having volunteered for the mission.

Maj. Casey McLean, acting commander of the 3rd battalion to which Longtin belonged, described him as a strong, competent soldier who was quiet, but "was very popular among his peers."

McLean, who met with Longtin's parents yesterday, said they were proud of their son and Longtin had told them he firmly believed in what he was doing in Afghanistan.

"It has really affected them, they really loved their son," McLean said of his meeting with Longtin's family.

"If one thing came out of their conversations with him, it is that he was very proud to be with his colleagues in Afghanistan," McLean said. "He died doing what he loved."

Condolences poured in yesterday from all over the province and country.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Quebec Premier Jean Charest, Quebec City Mayor Andree Boucher and Bloc Quebecois Leader Gilles Duceppe were among those to offer their sympathies to Longtin's family.

KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Death re-ignites decal debate Loss of 67th Canuck soldier in Afghanistan could bolster 'Support Our Troops' ribbons

SOURCETAG: 0708200541
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 4
ILLUSTRATION: photo of RIC MCIVER Pro decals
BYLINE: KATIE SCHNEIDER, SUN MEDIA
WORD COUNT: 311

Yesterday's 67th Canadian death in Afghanistan could help council members think again about the contentious Support Our Troops ribbon decal issue, one alderman says.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., south of Montreal, died yesterday when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, only two weeks into his six-month term.

He was the first member of the famed Van Doos regiment to be killed in the line of duty and Canada's 67th soldier to be killed in Afghanistan since 2002.

A month after council shot down a motion to adorn city vehicles with Support Our Troops decals, Ald. Andre Chabot said the tragedy may help place the issue at the front of his colleagues' minds.

"I'm sure for some members of council it will help to bring the (issue) back to the forefront," he said.

Although he said the loss of Canadian life is unfortunate, for him it doesn't take a soldier's to want to visually support Canada's troops with the yellow ribbon decals.

"I think it's a small thing for us to do to show at least a little support," Chabot said.

One of Chabot's council colleagues, Ald. Ray Jones, said he was saddened by news of the death and reiterated his stance on the decorations yesterday.

"I think it's very important to show support for our troops," he said, adding these are people willingly putting themselves in harm's way for Canada.

"We don't have a draft — it's truly people who choose to do it."

But, Jones said he wanted his colleagues to decide on the issue on its merits alone, not because of any combat casualties.

"I hope other members of council are reconsidering their decision on their vote," Jones said.

"It's just something we've got to do."

Ald. Ric McIver, who pressed council about allowing city vehicles to bear the ribbons, said yesterday was a time to reflect on the sacrifice the soldier made, and he offered his condolences to the Longtin's loved ones.

"In times like this I really want to express my sympathies for the soldier's family, and I know all Calgarians feel the same way," he said.

McIver, who said he hopes to bring the decal matter back to council "in one form or another" in September, spoke about the ribbons at a welcome home celebration for Cpl. Jeffrey Taylor at the Calgary airport Aug. 13.

Though council rejected placing the stickers on its city fleet, it agreed to allow the ribbons to be sold to the public to support military families.

As well, city vehicles attended a "yellow ribbon checkstop" at the Calgary Police Association headquarters last month.

However, a dozen garbage trucks and some fire trucks have been ordered to remove their stickers.

KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Famed Van Doos suffer first Afghanistan death

IDNUMBER 200708200087
PUBLICATION: The Hamilton Spectator
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Canada/World
PAGE: A3
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS / Private Simon Longtin;
DATELINE: KANDAHAR
SOURCE: The Canadian Press
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 183

The Royal 22nd Regiment has suffered its first death in Afghanistan in a clash with insurgents west of Kandahar city.

Private Simon Longtin, 23, right, of Longueuil, Que., on Montreal's south shore, died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb early yesterday. There was a firefight between Canadian troops and insurgents after the explosion, but no other Canadians were injured in the exchange of gunfire or in the roadside blast.

A military spokesman said Longtin was on escort duty for a resupply convoy and was returning to Kandahar airbase when the convoy was attacked.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have died since Ottawa began its military mission in Afghanistan in 2002. But Longtin is the first member of the famed Valcartier, Que.,-based Van Doos to be killed in a war that is particularly unpopular in Quebec. The 2,300 members of the Van Doos began their six-month tour in Afghanistan at the end of July. Longtin had been stationed in Kandahar since July 30.

Yesterday's attack was the third on Canadians in a week. Seven soldiers were wounded in the other attacks.

Que. soldier killed in Afghanistan; Death of Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, could test support for war in province

IDNUMBER 200708200053
PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: B2
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Pte. Simon Longtin; Colour Photo: CanWest News Service photo: Nathan Denette / HONOURED: A Canadian platoon member lays a poppy down Sunday in remembrance of Pte. Simon Longtin during a ceremony at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. ;
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 476

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Quebec's storied Van Doos regiment is mourning its first loss in Afghanistan after a young private who arrived in the country only three weeks ago was killed by a roadside bomb.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, was travelling in a LAV-III armoured vehicle when it struck an improvised explosive device.

Canadian soldiers exchanged fire with Taliban insurgents after the blast, but no other Canadian soldiers were injured and no Taliban casualties could be confirmed.

Longtin is the first member of the Van Doos to be killed while serving in Afghanistan. The Royal 22nd Regiment, as it is officially known, took command of Canada's operations in Afghanistan on Aug. 1.

"It's like losing almost a brother. We're like a big family here," said Col. Christian Juneau, Canada's deputy commander in Afghanistan. "We will mourn, we will pay our respects to the family and our fallen comrade, and we will carry on with the mission."

Longtin, who hails from Longueuil, Que., was an infantry rifleman with Charlie Company, which forms part of Canada's battle group.

Sunday, Maj. Kasey McLean, speaking at the base in Valcartier, Que., said Longtin's family said it was proud he served.

McLean, a Van Doo commander, said the family told him Longtin would "often express his pride and belief in what he did."

He said the family wished to mourn in private and would issue a statement later.

Political observers, meanwhile, will be watching closely to see how the news reverberates in Quebec, where support for the war is the lowest of any province.

Que. soldier killed in Afghanistan; Death of Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, could test support for war in province

According to some polls, seven in 10 Quebecers oppose the mission.

The attack occurred at about 1:41 a.m. along Foster Road, roughly 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

The vehicle was part of a supply convoy headed west toward Masum Ghar.

It is the second time in a week that Canadian soldiers have been wounded or killed along Foster Road, a well-travelled supply route. Five soldiers were lightly injured last Sunday by an IED along the same road.

Juneau said Canadian troops will step up surveillance of the route. "However, with the size of our operation, it's quite difficult to have eyes everywhere ... You travel on the road, (and) the next night they can insert themselves and install an IED."

NATURE OF BOMB

Military officials declined to provide details on the nature of the bomb, saying the incident was under investigation.

Some observers believe the insurgents could step up their attacks when the Muslim holy period of Ramadan begins in a few weeks.

On Saturday, the Taliban released a statement purported to be from their reclusive leader, Mullah Omar. It called on Afghans to wage a jihad against the foreign "invaders."

The statement came on the eve of Independence Day, which commemorates Afghanistan's declaration of independence from Britain in 1919.

"Our country is once again occupied by the same forces," Omar said in his statement, which has not yet been verified.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died in Afghanistan since 2002. There are roughly 2,500 Canadian troops stationed in Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led coalition that is attempting to secure and rebuild the country.

Canada's military commitment ends in February 2009. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said he will seek a consensus from Parliament before extending the mission.

Juneau said the debate about whether to extend the mission should be left to politicians and the Canadian public.

"The important thing for us, the soldiers, the whole team that is deployed here, is the fact that we know the Canadian public is behind the soldiers, the people wearing the uniform."

Van Doos mourn first in Afghanistan; Roadside Bomb Casualty; 'It's Almost Like Losing A Brother'

IDNUMBER 200708200080

PUBLICATION: National Post

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: National

SECTION: Canada

PAGE: A5

ILLUSTRATION: Black & White Photo: Reuters, DND / ...Private Simon Longtin, above, the 67th Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan. Longtin was killed by a bomb while travelling with a supply convoy. ; Black & White Photo: Nathan Denette For National Post / Canadian soldiers place poppies on a memorial at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto yesterday in remembrance of ... ;

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 405

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Quebec's storied Van Doos regiment is mourning its first loss in Afghanistan after a young soldier who arrived in the country three weeks ago was killed by a roadside bomb.

Private Simon Longtin, 23, was travelling in a LAV-III armoured vehicle when it struck an improvised explosive device.

Canadian soldiers exchanged fire with Taliban insurgents after the blast, but no other Canadian soldiers were injured and no Taliban casualties could be confirmed.

Pte. Longtin was evacuated by helicopter to a hospital at Kandahar Airfield, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

He is the first member of the Van Doos to be killed while serving in Afghanistan. The Royal 22nd Regiment, as it is officially known, took command of Canada's operations in Afghanistan on Aug. 1.

"It's like losing almost a brother. We're like a big family here," said Colonel Christian Juneau, Canada's deputy commander in Afghanistan. "We will mourn, we will pay our respects to the family and our fallen comrade, and we will carry on with the mission."

Pte. Longtin, from Longueuil, Que., was an infantry rifleman with Charlie Company, which forms part of Canada's battle group. Lieutenant Colonel Alain Gauthier, commander of the Canadian battle group, called Pte. Longtin a "keen," "professional" soldier.

Yesterday, Major Kasey McLean, speaking at the base in Valcartier, Que., said Pte. Longtin's family said it was proud he served.

He said the family wished to mourn in private and would issue a statement later.

The attack occurred at about 1:41 a.m. along Foster Road, roughly 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

Van Doos mourn first in Afghanistan; Roadside Bomb Casualty; 'It's Almost Like Losing A Brother'

The vehicle was part of a supply convoy headed west toward Masum Ghar.

It is the second time in a week that Canadian soldiers have been wounded or killed along Foster Road, a well-travelled supply route. Five soldiers were slightly injured last Sunday by an IED along the same road. After that attack, the military dispatched engineers to scour the route for IEDs.

The engineers checked for bombs in drainage culverts where insurgents are believed to have planted the bomb used in last Sunday's attack. At one point, engineers discovered a Chinese-made mortar in one of the culverts. They detonated the bomb safely, setting off a thud that echoed through the nearby mountains.

Col. Juneau said Canadian troops will step up surveillance of the route.

"However, with the size of our operation, it's quite difficult to have eyes everywhere ... You travel on the road, [and] the next night they can insert themselves and install an IED."

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died in Afghanistan since 2002. There are roughly 2,500 Canadian troops stationed in Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led coalition that is attempting to secure and rebuild the country.

Canada's military commitment ends in February, 2009. Stephen Harper has said he will seek a consensus from Parliament before extending the mission.

KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM

Cast your vote

IDNUMBER 200708200007
PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.08.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A2
KEYWORDS: OPINION POLLS
SOURCE: The Gazette
WORD COUNT: 87

Do you think Quebecers' support for Canada's mission in Afghanistan will decrease following the death of Pte. Simon Longtin of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment? Yes No Maybe You can cast your vote in our daily poll all day long by logging on to montrealgazette.com. Your answers will appear in

Tomorrow's Gazette and on Global TV's evening newscast. Yesterday's question was: How often do you use Wikipedia as a source of information? Very often 17% Sometimes 22% Rarely 18% Never 43%.

Death Hits van doos; Longueuil soldier. Quebecers' reactions sure to be studied after regiment's first loss in Afghanistan

IDNUMBER 200708200001

PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette

DATE: 2007.08.20

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Department of national defence / Pte. Simon Longtin was killed when an improvised explosive device struck the armoured vehicle in which he was travelling. The 23-year-old from Longueuil arrived in Afghanistan three weeks ago. ;

KEYWORDS: WAR

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

BYLINE: ANDREW MAYEDA

SOURCE: Canwest News Service

WORD COUNT: 732

Quebec's storied Van Doos regiment is mourning its first loss in Afghanistan after a young private who arrived in the country only three weeks ago was killed by a roadside bomb.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, from Longueuil, was travelling in a LAV-III armoured vehicle when it struck an improvised explosive device.

Canadian soldiers exchanged fire with Taliban insurgents after the blast, but no other Canadian soldiers were injured and no Taliban casualties could be confirmed.

Longtin was taken by helicopter to a hospital at Kandahar Airfield, but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

He is the first member of the Van Doos to be killed while serving in Afghanistan. The Royal 22e Régiment, as it is officially known, took command of Canada's operations in Afghanistan on Aug. 1.

"It's like losing almost a brother. We're like a big family here," said Colonel Christian Juneau, Canada's deputy commander in Afghanistan. "We will mourn, we will pay our respects to the family and our fallen comrade, and we will carry on with the mission."

Longtin was an infantry rifleman with Charlie Company, which forms part of Canada's battle group.

He trained for two years with the company before arriving in Afghanistan about three weeks ago.

He lived with other members of the company at Masum Ghar, a forward operating base at the border of the volatile Zhari and Panjwahi districts.

Lt.-Col. Alain Gauthier, commander of the Canadian battle group, called Longtin a "keen," "professional" soldier.

Major Kasey McLean, speaking yesterday at the base in Valcartier, said Longtin's family members said they were proud he served.

McLean, a Van Doo commander, said the family told him Longtin would "often express his pride and belief in what he did."

He said the family wished to mourn in private and would issue a statement later.

Political observers, meanwhile, will be watching closely to see how the news reverberates in Quebec, where support for the war is the lowest of any province.

According to some polls, seven in 10 Quebecers oppose the mission.

The attack occurred at about 1:41 a.m. along Foster Rd., roughly 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

The vehicle was part of a supply convoy headed west toward Masum Ghar.

It is the second time in a week Canadian soldiers have been wounded or killed along Foster Rd., a well-travelled supply route. Five soldiers were slightly injured last Sunday by an IED along the same road. After that attack, the military dispatched engineers to scour the route for IEDs.

Engineers checked for bombs in drainage culverts where insurgents are believed to have planted the bomb used in that attack. At one point, engineers discovered a Chinese-made mortar in one of the culverts. They detonated the bomb safely, setting off a thud that echoed through the nearby mountains.

Juneau said Canadian troops will step up surveillance of the route. "However, with the size of our operation, it's quite difficult to have eyes everywhere. ... You travel on the road, (and) the next night they can insert themselves and install an IED."

Military officials declined to provide details on the nature of the bomb, saying the incident was under investigation. They also would not say where Longtin was sitting in the LAV-III, which is designed to protect against roadside bombs.

The death of the first Van Doo caps a bloody week in Kandahar province.

Two soldiers incurred minor injuries on Friday when their armoured vehicle rolled over an IED while travelling in a supply convoy about 30 kilometres west of Kandahar City. A suicide bomber also killed the chief of Zhari district and three of his children. On Saturday, a suicide car bomber rammed into a convoy of vehicles, killing at least 15 people and injuring dozens of others on the edge of Kandahar City.

Some observers say insurgents could step up their attacks when the Muslim holy period of Ramadan begins in a few weeks.

On Saturday, the Taliban issued a statement purported to be from their reclusive leader, Mullah Omar. It called on Afghans to wage a jihad against the foreign "invaders." The statement came on the eve of Independence Day, which commemorates Afghanistan's declaration of independence from Britain in 1919.

"Our country is once again occupied by the same forces," Omar said in his statement, which has not yet been verified.

Juneau brushed off the Taliban warning, reiterating the Canadian position that the insurgents are "on their heels."

Death Hits van doos; Longueuil soldier. Quebecers' reactions sure to be studied after regiment's 123rd loss in

He admitted there has been "a lot of activity" by insurgents recently, but he said the attacks were not well co-ordinated.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper,

Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Liberal leader Stéphane Dion expressed their sorrow at Longtin's death.

"Private Longtin displayed resolve and courage in serving his country,

his family and friends can be proud of him because he was playing a very

important role in a very challenging environment. He will be sorely missed by the Canadian Forces family," Harper said.

"Today's loss serves as a reminder of the very real challenges the men and women of the Canadian Forces face every day as they undertake this mission," Dion said.

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Canadian toll now 68

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died in Afghanistan since 2002. There are about 2,500 Canadian troops stationed in Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led coalition that is attempting to secure and rebuild the country.

Canada's military commitment ends in February 2009. Prime Minister Stephen Harper said he will seek a consensus from Parliament before extending the mission.

THE AFGHAN MISSION: 23-YEAR-OLD PRIVATE BECOMES 67th SOLDIER TO DIE: FIRST FATALITY FOR QUEBEC-BASED REGIMENT

Roadside bomb claims Vandoos rifleman

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072320160

DATE: 2007.08.20

PAGE: A1 (MAP)

BYLINE: CHRISTIE BLATCHFORD

SECTION: International News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: MASUM GHAR, Afghanistan

WORDS: 1275

WORD COUNT: 1258

CHRISTIE BLATCHFORD MASUM GHAR, Afghanistan In this beautiful place perched atop the green Arghandab River plain, before the sun was even up yesterday over ochre-coloured stony hills, the young men of Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, the Royal 22nd Regiment, gathered in anguished knots, clamping one another in brief, fierce embraces, consoling the most stricken with a clap on the back or a tender rub of a bent head.

Like other Canadian regiments before them, the Vandoos of Valcartier, Que., came to the volatile Panjwai region about 30 kilometres west of Kandahar and were blooded, if not in combat proper, then in what is increasingly becoming the Afghan alternative to it – a roadside bombing.

It happened about the time that back home, Canadians were thinking of doing something about dinner on Saturday night, which in southern Afghanistan was eight and a half hours later, the wee hours of Sunday morning.

Private Simon Longtin, a 23-year-old rifleman with Charlie Company's 2 Platoon, was in the tight confines of the driver's seat of one of the platoon's light armoured vehicles, or LAVs, the lethally armed workhorse of the Canadian fleet here.

All but one section of the platoon was in the convoy, heading back to this small forward operating base from the sprawling coalition headquarters at Kandahar Air Field (KAF) after making a routine resupply run.

They were about five kilometres east of the Masum Ghar base, and safety, when the improvised explosive device (IED) blew.

"I hate to be a realist," Charlie's red-eyed officer commanding, Major Patrick Robichaud, told The Globe and Mail just hours later, "but sometimes when your clock stops ticking . . . it could stop when you're crossing the street. The IED hit the driver's compartment; he took the brunt of it. Everyone else is okay – no bumps. The vehicle works; he [Pte. Longtin] was just unlucky." Back at Masum Ghar, the first obvious sign that something was up were the rounds launched by Leopard 1 tanks, echoing up and down the valley; the convoy was ambushed after the IED blast.

The young man was described by the battle group commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Alain Gauthier and his regimental sergeant-major, Chief Warrant Officer Pierre Marchand, as an intense, loyal and thoroughly professional soldier and, RSM Marchand added, one "extremely proud to wear the uniform, and an extremely proud Canadian and Quebecois." From the Montreal area, Pte. Longtin joined the Vandoos two years ago and, like the rest of the battle group, spent all that time training in places as far flung as Fort Bliss, Tex., and Wainwright, Alta., forming bonds that would have endured for his life.

Like most of the Vandoos, Pte. Longtin has been in Afghanistan only about three weeks. It was just 10 days ago that the battle group formally took over operations here in the south from the one led by the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment, which is based in Gagetown, N.B.

The IED was on a road that has been bombed before – most recently, a week ago yesterday when five Canadians travelling in a heavily armoured RG-31 were mildly injured in a blast – and likely will be again.

Hours after Pte. Longtin had been evacuated first to a little forward base at Gundy Ghar and then choppered to the modern hospital at the airfield where he was pronounced dead on arrival, the Vandoos found two more unexploded IEDs on other Panjwai area roads.

A recent clearance of one road near Masum Ghar – it has 72 culverts and took three days of steady work in the broiling sun – saw soldiers discover three more potential IED sites dug in, the third added in the hours between the time the troops searched one section of the road and came back the next day to start again.

Such bombings, whether by IEDs buried in the roads or carried in by suicide bomber, is the turn the battle in this country has taken thus far this summer. Though the traditional "fighting season" in Afghanistan doesn't end until October and the onset of winter, last summer and even into the fall, Canadian soldiers here – first from the 1st and 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based respectively in Edmonton and Shilo, Man., and then from the 1st RCR of Petawawa, Ont. – were in near constant combat with the Taliban in the Panjwai and Zhari areas just west of Kandahar city.

In Operation Medusa alone, launched last September, Canadian commanders believe more than 1,000 Taliban, including some senior leaders, were killed.

But since April, 18 of the 21 Canadian fatalities, most suffered by the 2nd RCR, were caused by bombs.

As Lt.-Col. Gauthier said yesterday, "It's not a surprise, and it's probably going to get worse. The enemy will not fight us face to face; the only way they can get at us is IEDs. We've got to keep going; we've got to patrol even more; we've got to be even more present, eyes open." While it might appear that the toll of young Canadian lives could be eliminated if Canada had its own troop-and-supply-carrying helicopters – its former Chinooks were sold years ago to the Dutch, who still use them in Afghanistan – they couldn't replace the need for soldiers patrolling the ground either by armoured vehicle or on foot, as they do now.

Indeed, it was after such a highly successful "presence patrol," meant to maintain the tremulous but tangible security painfully restored, at the price of so many Canadian lives, to the Panjwai district, that Pte. Longtin was killed.

On Saturday morning, a Charlie Company platoon led by 24-year-old Lieutenant Marie-Christine Alamy, moved through the once deserted village of Bazar-e-Panjwai, its market now bustling.

Scores of children streamed from mud-walled compounds as the Vandoos arrived. The youngsters were especially captivated by Corporal Gordon Boivin, a strapping 31-year-old from Sorrel, Que., who sang to them until they began parroting his nonsensical song, and followed this armed-to-the-teeth pied piper through the dusty streets.

As well-prepared as the Vandoos are, as aware of the risks and the seemingly omnipresent bombers, knowing they were unlikely to be spared and even speaking frankly of the possibility, like young soldiers everywhere they were brimming with optimism and an odd certainty that they would be exempt.

In their short time at Masum Ghar, members of Charlie Company have made the place their own, decorating the open air tents that sit between their parked LAVs and their sleeping quarters – some with tiny Canadian flags, one with a tiny doll labelled "Taliban" hanging from the entrance.

For all the hullabaloo that accompanied their departure from home – there were protests, the news full of public-opinion polls showing the Afghanistan mission is much more unpopular in Quebec than in the rest of Canada and pictures of weeping relatives saying goodbye – the Vandoos are just like other Canadian soldiers.

As Major Jean-Sebastien Fortin, part of the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT) based at Masum Ghar, said the other day, "In the army, we all speak the same language. We have the same values." He was referring to the difficulty of communicating with his Afghan National Army counterparts, whom he already adores unreservedly, but he might have been talking of the Vandoos.

Separate but equal, and now equal too in pain. If only the nation could bear up as well as those young men I saw yesterday, through their tears packing up their dead friend's barrack box and rucksack.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; war deaths

PERSONAL NAME: Simon Longtin

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

THE AFGHAN MISSION: THE REACTION More deaths to follow, Quebecers predict

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072320155

DATE: 2007.08.20

PAGE: A8

BYLINE: TU THANH HA

SECTION: International News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Montreal PQ

WORDS: 586

WORD COUNT: 462

TU THANH HA MONTREAL At a picnic for military spouses in Quebec City, there were expressions of worry and concern.

In the commentary threads on the Internet, the sympathetic messages were outnumbered by skepticism for the Canadian military presence in southern Afghanistan.

The first death yesterday of a member of the Royal 22nd Regiment came after weeks of debate over whether the deployment of soldiers from Valcartier would push the already low support for the mission in Quebec further down.

Private Simon Longtin, of the Royal 22nd's 3rd Battalion, wasn't strictly speaking the first soldier from a Quebec unit to die in Afghanistan.

A year ago, a suicide-bomb attack killed Corporal Jason Warren of Montreal's Black Watch.

However, Cpl. Warren, a reservist, had volunteered during a deployment that featured mostly Edmonton-based soldiers.

Yesterday, a common reaction to Pte. Longtin's death was the recognition that he was the first of more casualties to come among soldiers from Quebec.

And more media scrutiny is expected with the presence now of high-profile Quebec television reporters among the embedded journalists in Afghanistan.

Yesterday, Pte. Longtin's death led the evening television news bulletins. An article about him was the most read item on the website of the Montreal daily La Presse.

"I feel mostly sadness of the loss of life of a young man who could have another future but to waste his life for an Islamic state whose values will never match ours," one reader commented on the website.

Others expressed the view that Prime Minister Stephen Harper is too close to U.S. President George W. Bush.

"My condolences anyway to the family who will get back the body of someone who died for Bush and Harper," wrote another reader.

Few opinion-makers expressed themselves but for a handful of bloggers who spoke in respectful tones.

In his statement of condolences, Mr. Harper linked Pte. Longtin to the Canadian soldiers who landed on Aug. 19, 1942, at Dieppe.

"In marking the 65th anniversary of the Dieppe raid, we pay tribute to the soldiers of our past. The sacrifices of soldiers like Private Longtin carry on this legacy today, helping to bring stability and peace to parts of the world plagued by turmoil and upheaval," the Prime Minister said.

But Dieppe, with its heavy casualties, illustrates the ambivalence in Quebec about being part of the Canadian military.

The heroism of the Dieppe soldiers is celebrated, but the raid is also mentioned as an example of the futility of dying for the Canadian army.

Meanwhile, in Quebec City, near Valcartier Garrison, the home base of the Royal 22nd, known as the Vandoos, the TVA television network caught up with a group of military spouses picnicking with their children.

One woman, whose husband was in the same unit as Pte. Longtin, was in tears.

"My throat choked up. I felt goosebumps. It's horrible," another soldier's wife, Caroline Lajoie, told TVA.

"It's sad to say, but there'll be others," predicted Melanie Cyr.

At the base, another military spouse, Lya Yeb, was placing flowers at the gate as a tribute to Pte. Longtin. "There will certainly be others," she told reporters.

Pte. Longtin's death came as, yesterday evening, another 64 members of the Vandoos took off from Quebec City's Jean Lesage International Airport on their way to Afghanistan.

They were part of the last 215 of the 2,500 troops, mostly from Quebec, who are making up the current Canadian deployment in Kandahar.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan; Quebec

SUBJECT TERM: strife; political

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

THE AFGHAN MISSION: PRIVATE SIMON LONGTIN

Soldier in touch with parents hours before death

Quebecker 'enjoyed being in Afghanistan'

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072320154

DATE: 2007.08.20

PAGE: A8

BYLINE: TU THANH HA

SECTION: International News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Montreal PQ

WORDS: 398

WORD COUNT: 282

TU THANH HA MONTREAL Shortly before he left the base in Kandahar on a resupply convoy, Private Simon Longtin was in touch with his parents, expressing his enthusiasm at being part of the Canadian military mission in Afghanistan.

A few hours later, his family learned that Pte. Longtin had been killed by a makeshift explosive device that blew up under the LAV III armoured vehicle he was driving.

Pte. Longtin had been in Afghanistan for just 20 days.

He was described yesterday as a quiet, reliable young man.

Only 23 years old, he had enrolled in the military less than two years ago and was on his first overseas deployment.

A member of the 3rd battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment, Pte.

Longtin had made it clear when he joined the infantry in 2005 that he wanted to be posted in Afghanistan, said Lieutenant Bruno Tremblay, a spokesman for Valcartier Garrison in Quebec.

Pte. Longtin was part of a contingent that flew out of Quebec City on July 27, arriving in Kandahar July 30.

He had a girlfriend but no children. His parents and his brother were huddled together in the family home, south of Montreal yesterday.

Pte. Longtin died around 1:40 a.m. yesterday so that, because of the time difference, the news came to his family in Quebec on Saturday evening.

Earlier that day, his parents had been in touch with him.

"They just spoke to Simon earlier Saturday and Simon told them how much he enjoyed being in Afghanistan," Lt. Tremblay said.

"It affected them a lot. They loved their son," said Major Casey McLean, the acting commander of the 3rd battalion, who met the family.

"They were very proud of what he was doing." One of Pte. Longtin's infantry instructors, Sergeant Stephane Perras, was supposed to talk to the media about his former pupil.

But a tearful Sgt. Perras was overcome by emotion.

"When I heard about it this morning, it was rather hard for me," Sgt. Perras said, his voice breaking, before he excused himself and left.

At Valcartier yesterday, the flags flew at half mast and well-wishers with flowers were asked to deposit them outside the gatehouse.

Many people also sent messages of sympathy to Pte. Longtin's family.

As a result, while they asked for privacy in their mourning, the young man's relatives are expected to release a statement shortly.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; war deaths; obituary

PERSONAL NAME: Simon Longtin

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

Storied troop mourns soldier; First member of Van Doos to die in Afghanistan

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PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
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ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Cplc. Martine Morin, Section d'imagerieGarnison Valcartier Pte. Simon Longtin had been in Afghanistan just three weeks. ; Colour Photo: Nathan Denette for CanWest News Service / A Canadian soldier places a poppy in remembrance of Pte. Simon Longtin of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment (the Van Doos) during a ceremony Sunday at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto honouring Longtin, who was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. ;
KEYWORDS: WAR
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda
SOURCE: Canwest News Service
WORD COUNT: 399

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Quebec's famed Van Doos regiment is mourning its first loss in Afghanistan after a young priin the country only three weeks ago was killed by a roadside bomb early Sunday.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, was in a LAV–III armoured vehicle when it struck an improvised explosive device.

Canadian soldiers exchanged fire with Taliban insurgents after the blast.

No other Canadian soldiers were injured and no Taliban casualties could be confirmed.

Longtin was evacuated by helicopter to a hospital at Kandahar Airfield, but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

He is the first member of the Van Doos to be killed while serving in Afghanistan.

The Royal 22nd Regiment, as it is officially known, took command of Canada's operations in Afghanistan on Aug. 1.

"It's like losing almost a brother. We're like a big family here," said Col. Christian Juneau, Canada's deputy commander in Afghanistan.

"We will mourn, we will pay our respects to the family and our fallen comrade, and we will carry on with the mission."

Longtin, who hails from Longueuil, Que., was an infantry rifleman with Charlie Company, which forms part of Canada's battle group.

He had trained for two years with the company before arriving in Afghanistan about three weeks ago.

He lived with other members of the company at Masum Ghar, a forward operating base at the border of the volatile Zhari and Panjwahi districts.

Lt.-Col. Alain Gauthier, commander of the Canadian battle group, called Longtin a "keen," "professional" soldier.

On Sunday, Maj. Kasey McLean, speaking at the base in Valcartier, Que., said Longtin's family said it was proud he served.

McLean, a Van Doo commander, said the family told him Longtin would "often express his pride and belief in what he did."

He said the family wished to mourn in private and would issue a statement later.

Political observers, meanwhile, will be watching closely to see how the news reverberates in Quebec, where support for the war is the lowest of any province.

According to some polls, seven in 10 Quebecers oppose the mission.

The attack occurred about 1:41 a.m. along Foster Road, roughly 20 kilometres west of Kandahar city.

The vehicle was part of a supply convoy headed west toward Masum Ghar.

It is the second time in a week that Canadian soldiers have been wounded or killed along Foster Road, a well-travelled supply route.

Five soldiers were lightly injured last Sunday by an IED along the same road. After that attack, the military dispatched engineers to scour for IEDs.

The engineers checked for bombs in drainage culverts where insurgents are believed to have planted the bomb used in last Sunday's attack. At one point, engineers discovered a Chinese-made mortar in one of the culverts. They detonated the bomb safely, setting off a thud that echoed through the nearby mountains.

Juneau said Canadian troops will step up surveillance of the route. "However, with the size of our operation, it's quite difficult to have eyes everywhere."

Military officials declined to provide details on the nature of the bomb.

The death of the first Van Doo caps a bloody week in Kandahar province.

Two soldiers were injured Friday when their armoured vehicle rolled over an IED about 30 kilometres west of Kandahar city.

A suicide bomber also killed the chief of Zhari district and three of his children.

On Saturday, a suicide car bomber rammed into a convoy of vehicles, killing at least 15 people and injuring dozens of others on the edge of Kandahar city.

First loss for Van Doos Afghan bomb kills soldier from storied Que. regiment

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CNS Andrew Mayeda KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A Canadian soldier was killed early Sunday by a roadside bomb, becoming the first member of Quebec's storied Van Doos regiment to die while serving in Afghanistan.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, was travelling in a LAV-III armoured vehicle when it struck an improvised explosive device.

Canadian Forces exchanged fire with Taliban insurgents after the blast, but no other Canadian soldiers were injured and no Taliban casualties could be confirmed.

Longtin was evacuated by helicopter to a hospital at Kandahar Airfield, but was pronounced dead upon arrival. The attack occurred at 1:41 a.m. along Foster Road, about 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City. Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died in Afghanistan since 2002.

The vehicle was part of a supply convoy headed west towards forward operating base Masum Ghar.

"There is no way to comfort those who are grieving today, except to say this soldier was an exceptional Canadian who deserved the gratitude and respect of his nation," said Col. Christian Juneau, Canada's deputy commander in Afghanistan. Longtin was an infantry rifleman with Charlie Company, one of the units in Canada's battle group.

He had trained for two years with the company before arriving in Afghanistan about three weeks ago. He hails from Longueuil, Que., on the south shore of Montreal.

Lieut.-Col. Alain Gauthier, commander of the Canadian battle group, called Longtin a "keen," "professional" soldier.

Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment, known in English Canada as the Van Doos, took command of Canadian military operations here on Aug.

1. Now, its soldiers are left to mourn their first loss. Juneau said the death will hit the Van Doos hard.

"It's like losing almost a brother. We're like a big family here," he said. "We will mourn, we will pay our respects to the family and our fallen comrade, and we will carry on with the mission." Political observers will be watching closely to see how the news reverberates in Quebec, where support for the war is the lowest of any province.

According to some polls, seven in 10 Quebecers oppose the mission.

It is the second time in a week that Canadian soldiers have been wounded or killed along Foster Road, a well-travelled supply route to Masum Ghar.

Five soldiers were lightly injured last Sunday by an IED along the same road. After that attack, the military dispatched engineers to search the route for IEDs. The engineers checked for bombs in drainage culverts where insurgents are believed to have planted the bomb used in last Sunday's attack. At one point, engineers discovered a Chinese-made mortar in one of the culverts. They detonated the bomb safely, setting off a thud that echoed through the nearby mountains.

Juneau said Canadian troops will step up surveillance of the route.

"However, with the size of our operation, it's quite difficult to have eyes everywhere... you travel on the road, (and) the next night they can insert themselves and install an IED." The military is still investigating the nature of the bomb. The death of Longtin caps a bloody week in Kandahar province. Two soldiers incurred minor injuries Friday after their armoured vehicle rolled over an IED while travelling in a supply convoy about 30 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

On Saturday, a car bomb blew apart a minibus and other vehicles, killing at least 15 civilians and injuring dozens of others on the edge of Kandahar City. Some observers believe the insurgents could step up their attacks when the Muslim holy period of Ramadan begins in a few weeks.

Also on Saturday, the Taliban released a statement purported to be from their reclusive leader, Mullah Omar. It called on Afghans to wage a jihad against the foreign "invaders." The statement coincides with Afghanistan's Independence Day, which commemorates Afghanistan's declaration of independence from British forces in 1919.

"Our country is once again occupied by the same forces," Omar said in his statement, the authenticity of which has not yet been verified.

Juneau brushed off the Taliban warning, reiterating the Canadian position that the insurgents are "on their heels." He admitted there has been "a lot of activity" by insurgents recently, but he said the attacks were not well-co-ordinated.

"The important thing for us, the soldiers, the whole team that is deployed here, is the fact that we know the Canadian public is behind the soldiers, the people wearing the uniform." There are roughly 2,500 Canadian troops stationed in Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led coalition attempting to secure and rebuild the country.

— CanWest News Service

Death Notices

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SECTION: City

WORD COUNT: 89

None BATULLA, Richard.

BORLEY, Ralph.

CAMPBELL, Rachel.

CARTWRIGHT (nee KOSMUK), Joan A.

CHARTRAND (nee GUIBOCHE), Melva Melanie.

COLLETTE (nee RIVARD), Olivine.

DAILY, Marie (Mary).

DEI CONT, Ilse.

DESLAURIERS (nee BELANGER), Aline Jeanne.

DYZANDRA, Paul John.

ERICKSON, Vera.

FERRIS, William Angus.

FRITZ, Jakob.

GILL (nee WYTRYKOZ), Ann Elizabeth.

GREENAWAY, Robert.

GRIMWOOD, Peter.

HALL, Levan (Van).

HART (nee MOORE), Maggie.

HOLMES, Glenn.

KATCHIN, Jean.

KNIGHT, Pearl Jessie.

KOZAK (nee HAWRYSCHAK), Jean.

LARK (nee HUTZAN), Ollie (Olga).

LEMESURIER, Brenda.

LONGTIN, Paul.

McDONALD, Robert Lee Thomas (Robbie).

NEUFELD (FRIESEN), Mary.

PENNER, Peter.

PREWEDA (nee VOURIOT), Delann Marie.

RAINKA, Victor.

SAUNDERS, Lloyd.

SWATZKY, Elizabeth.

STELMA, Michael.

STROHAN, Adeline.

TOKARZ, Joseph.

TROTTIER, Lucie.

TYCHOLAS, Mike.

WHITE (nee CHRISTIE), Isabella.

WIRTH, John Frederick.