



## **King's History experiential learning trip takes students to Europe in time for VE-Day anniversary**

April 26, 2022

London, Ontario – History students enrolled in an experiential learning course at King's University College at Western University are going to Europe to present their research findings on First and Second World Wars. [The World Wars in History, Memory, and Reconciliation](#) upper-year history class is participating in this unique and invaluable 12-day overseas program from May 1, 2022 – May 12, 2022.

**Students will be at World War II memorials and Dieppe, France on May 8, 2022 to mark the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victory in Europe Day or VE-Day**, which occurred on May 8, 1945. The day marked the end of World War II in Europe. Students will present research profiles at the historical sites where their research subjects were killed or fought in battle. Media interviews can be arranged with the King's students on how they are finding relevance in today's world to the VE-Day anniversary through their research of people involved in the war, many of whom would be peers in age and experience to themselves.

**On May 10, 2022, students will arrive at the Juno Beach Centre where they will see their research on display** for the first time at the museum as part of the *From Dieppe to Juno: Exceptional Destinies* exhibit. It is part of a commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid. Displayed in the lobby of the Centre, it features 10 profiles, and is free for anyone to see until 2023. Some of their current research will also be part of the 2024 exhibition, *Faces of Canada Today*. Students will provide the museum with a starting point for its own research moving forward.

Joining the tour will be King's President, Dr. David Malloy, whose own father flew with the 402 Squadron at Dieppe during the Second World War.

[Students were awarded the prestigious Juno Beach Centre Fellowship for 2022](#) – granting them \$7500 for their research and travel.

The class will experience history at the battlefield sites that they have studied:

- Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres, Belgium
- Langemark German War Cemetery, Belgium
- Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, Belgium
- Amiens and Newfoundland Park, France
- Vimy Ridge, France
- Dieppe CWGC, France
- Juno Beach Centre, France

The course has been running since 2020, as designed by Dr. Graham Broad, Associate Professor of History at King's and Katrina Pasierbek '12, PhD candidate in History and King's alumna. Both have extensive backgrounds in world war history. Dr. Broad has published two books, *One in a Thousand: the*

*Life and Death of Captain Eddie McKay, Royal Flying Corps and A Small Price to Pay: Consumer Culture on the Canadian Home Front, 1939-1945*, which align with his teaching goals of helping students see the local connections to the world wars. A public historian, Professor Pasierbek has extensive experiences as a battlefield guide and as a member of international research teams who study the caves beneath the Western Front.

This is the first experiential learning trip in two years for King's. Dr. Broad is pleased that students will finally be able to take everything they have learned to the historic battlefield sites in Europe. "In examining how the generation that fought the World Wars came to terms with the memory and anguish of the wars, the students, we hope, will come to appreciate the consequences of going to war," says Dr. Broad. Professor Pasierbek has similar thoughts about the trip. "Experiential learning offers students the opportunity to study history where it happened. This program will take students to museums, memorials, and cemeteries across Belgium and France where they will engage with the commemorative landscapes of two World Wars. While overseas, they will learn from one another through on site research presentations and will gain a truly unique perspective of the past," says Professor Pasierbek.

The class will be posting images and videos of their experiences on the trip. You can follow along on the World Wars History course on Instagram [@kingswarhistory](#), King's History on Twitter [@history\\_kings](#) and King's History on Facebook [@historyatKingsUniversityCollege](#).

### **About King's University College**

King's is a public Catholic University College which provides general and honors degree programs in the liberal arts, social sciences, management, and a master degree in social work. It is positioned in the top rank of institutions of higher learning in Canada for the high quality of its teaching faculty and student experience. Institutionally autonomous, King's is academically affiliated with Western University, and King's graduates receive a Western University degree. King's is open to students of all faith backgrounds, with its community centered on the values of social justice, equality and the education of the whole person. Learn more about King's University College at [www.kings.uwo.ca](http://www.kings.uwo.ca).

### **For media interviews, contact:**

Nikki Sasso Mitchell

Communications Assistant, Events and Promotions, Communications and Media Relations

King's University College

266 Epworth Ave. London, ON

[Nikki.sassomitchell@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:Nikki.sassomitchell@kings.uwo.ca)

226-268-9525

@kingsatwestern

[www.kings.uwo.ca](http://www.kings.uwo.ca)

Jane Antoniak

Director, Communications & Media Relations

King's University College

266 Epworth Ave. London, ON

[jane.antoniak@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:jane.antoniak@kings.uwo.ca)

519-719-9366

@kingsatwestern

[www.kings.uwo.ca](http://www.kings.uwo.ca)