



## PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING

### The soldier, the diplomat and the journalist: perspectives on peacemaking in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

#### Character Education

- Reconcile conflicting perspectives
- Appreciate the interconnectedness of politics and war
- Develop opinions based on research, consideration of opposing viewpoints and reflection

#### Facts

- Canada was involved with NATO and the UN (ISAF) in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2011; in 2006 Canadian troops took command of the Multi-National Brigade for Regional Command South with 2,300 personnel at the Kandahar Airfield and at Camp Nathan Smith
- Canadians built and repaired over 50 schools in Kandahar province, rehabilitated the Dahla Dam and Arghandab irrigation system, assisted the anti-polio campaign across Afghanistan, helped train and mentor more than 50,000 Afghan troops, trained more than 3,000 police officers and 1,500 health workers, provided literacy training to over 25,000 and vocational training for 6,000 plus Afghans.
- Canada provided election support materials and training for more than 250 female parliamentary candidates for the post-Taliban elections

#### Before the Reading

- Discuss the main points that made the mission to Afghanistan controversial. List three points for each side of the controversy
- What do soldiers do other than fight? What do diplomats, such as ambassadors do? What do journalists do other than write/telecast?
- What is any country's infrastructure and how does it develop? (that's physical, social and political infrastructure)

#### PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES



LCol Phillip Berthiaume, past Commanding Officer of The Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Dieppe France, monument designed by Rory O'Connor  
Photo: Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment

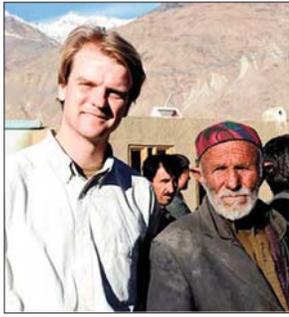
#### Lieutenant Colonel Phillip A. Berthiaume: an epitome of transition

Born in Windsor and retired from the military after 28 years of regimental service and eight years in the Army Reserves, Lieutenant-Colonel Phillip Berthiaume epitomizes the changes in Canada's Armed Forces from WWII to the present. He served in Germany with "Cold War" forces stationed there. In 1974-75 Berthiaume did a

UN tour in Cyprus as a peacekeeper; he was Adjutant and Company Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment in Cyprus during some of the most difficult times there.

After a very full career as an instructor in a variety of senior roles throughout Canada, the Lieutenant Colonel returned to Windsor to be the Regimental Deputy Commander and then Commander of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment from 1998 to 2008. In this capacity he oversaw the training and deployment of more than 40 soldiers who went as

## Reading



Chris Alexander with a community elder in Baltistan, Northern Areas, Pakistan  
PHOTO: THE ROOT: The UTS Alumni Magazine | Spring 2010

### Chris Alexander, MP Ajax-Pickering

Chris Alexander joined Canada's Foreign Service in 1991. He was Canada's first resident Ambassador to Afghanistan from August 2003 to October 2005. From 2005-2009 he was the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Assistance Mission (UNAMA) in Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan Alexander provided support for Afghan electoral and parliamentary concerns as well as issues related to peace and stability, security sector reform and human rights. The goal was to strengthen Afghan national institutions to improve Afghan lives.

The following is from the Government of Canada website: "Chris Alexander discusses Canada's involvement in Afghanistan", 2005

"We have been good around the world at the first few years after conflicts end; we haven't been as good necessarily at maintaining our commitment. But Canada is showing that it, for one, is willing to stay the course. It is willing to adjust, refashion, restructure its commitments to ensure that they are relevant, and to maintain them at quite a high level. And that's what Kandahar is about.

Provincial reconstruction teams did not exist in 2002 when we were last in Kandahar and only started to come into existence in 2003 and 2004. Today the PRT network is at the core of what international military forces are doing in Afghanistan. Combat is no longer the name of the game. Yes, some still takes place ... The focus is on stabilization activities. Across the country, there are 21 provincial reconstruction teams covering 34 provinces ... Canada will be taking over command of one of those."

*The following excerpts are from a March 10, 2008 speech by Chris Alexander*

"The key to security here remains the success of state institutions. For this reason, all of us, international organizations and donors, are preparing to support the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, ANDS. This is the Afghan blueprint for a stronger government, backed by a vibrant civil society and private sector. In recent months we have seen the international community rally around the ANDS. We in UNAMA are preparing to ensure a coordinated effort in support of this common plan, in support of ANDS, by strengthening our field presence,

peacekeepers to Bosnia, Afghanistan and other international destinations. He transferred to the Armed Forces Reserves in 2000.

By the time he retired in 2008, Lieutenant Colonel Berthiaume had lived through tremendous changes in Canada's Armed Forces. He'd experienced, first-hand and through his students, its various new roles in the world.

Throughout it all Lieutenant Colonel Berthiaume knew that he and his brothers and sisters in arms were standing on the shoulders of giants—the soldiers of WWII. He showed his respect for the past by becoming instrumental in the campaign to place a memorial for the soldiers of the Essex-Kent Scottish Regiment who fell at Dieppe. On August 19, 1942 the regiment suffered 121 fatalities on the pebble beach of Dieppe. By the end of the war, the regiment had more than 550 dead and the highest number of casualties of any WWII unit.



Sister Agnes, a Dieppe nun who tended to our wounded, escorted by LCol Berthiaume, presenting a gift to HLCol Robert (Bob) Bradley  
The Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment

The Dieppe Memorial Project led to the erection of a monument designed by student Rory O'Connor in 2006 at the spot in France where the ill-fated regiment landed. Chatham-born opera singer David Curry sang as part of the Dedication Ceremony. Lieutenant Colonel Berthiaume was on hand to escort Sister Agnes, a Dieppe nun who tended to the Regiment's wounded in 1942.

which is now in 17 provinces—one out of every two.

One of my key messages today, for you the media of Afghanistan, but also to the international audience, is that the Afghan government is now stronger than ever, certainly stronger than ever since 2001. A network of clinics, schools and village-based development councils now liter-

## PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES

### The importance of Remembrance, then and now

In 2005 then Governor General Michaëlle Jean unveiled a new Book of Remembrance on Parliament Hill to honour Canada's "modern day military heroes", those who died from 1947 to the present. The first six Books of Remembrance contained 66,655 names from WWI and 44,893 from WWII. The new book contains more than 1,300 names. Afghanistan added 157 of those.

There are 50 blank pages for the future.

The Minister of Veteran Affairs stated at the ceremonial opening of the first page, "The government wants to acknowledge that every mission has its cost and that military service certainly carries a sacrifice and that sacrifice is ongoing. There's no end to the work needed to do justice to veterans, and that includes modern-day veterans. It's really, really important to bring the past to the future. We want young people to realize that there are people from their own communities who not only helped shape the world in the past, during the great wars, but they're also helping shape the world in

the future. Remembering the good work that our Canadian Forces do on a regular basis will give Canadians a sense of pride in being Canadian."

In April 2011, a woman named simply as "Belinda" responded to a blog by *Post Media News'* Derek Shelly:

I was in my car listening to an interview on CBC radio with a Canadian soldier and his wife. He was home from the war in Afghanistan—sort of. He was home in body, but the man who came home was not the same man that left—not on the inside.

The men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces represent the people of Canada when they go to keep peace or wage war. They do a job that puts them in harm's way. I am proud of their bravery, sacrifice, and the difference they make for less fortunate countries while representing Canada. Canada is known internationally for the way it honours its fallen soldiers, but surviving soldiers are heroes too. We must not abandon them in their hour of need."

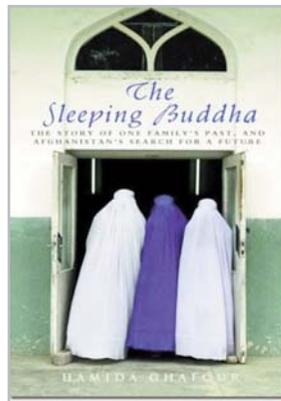
Lest We Forget ...

ally blankets the country. The Afghan National Army now numbers 74,000 members and is reinforcing security in Musa Qala and across the board."

As recipient of the 2010 Birchall Leadership Award, Chris Alexander was lauded for introducing new methods of civil-military cooperation in Afghanistan

### Hamida Ghafour, correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Globe and Mail*

Hamida Ghafour was born in Kabul. She was raised in Toronto from 1985 onwards and attended Pine Ridge Secondary School in Pickering. In 2003–2004 she reported on post-Taliban Afghanistan, travelling around the country to look at reconstruction efforts and preparations for democratic elections. Her journey of discovery, found in her 2007 book, *The Sleeping Buddha*, led into the history and culture of her patrician family and back to an Afghanistan we do not often see.



*The Sleeping Buddha*  
by Hamida Ghafour

From page 310 *The Sleeping Buddha*

"When I first arrived in Kabul I would sometimes try to imagine the city of my birth without its guns, broken homes and lives. Sometimes I found it. In the taste of a sweet grape picked from the recovering orchards of the Shomali plains. It was in a melon ripening in the northern fields of Takhar, green and sticky. It was the sharp

aftertaste of the pine nuts I had eaten that cold winter day driving through the passes of Jalalabad. In the red glossy bead of a pomegranate picked in Balkh. It was the way the light shone, blue and hazy through the glass of Herat. In the tiny crescent of tears in Dr. Tarzi's eyes when he spoke of his Buddhas. Afghanistan would have to be healed by ordinary people, Afghan or not, doing a million small deeds simply because they wanted to. That was the Afghanistan I found, in tiny fragments of the people I met, beyond the war and the sorrow. The whole was elusive and unreachable."

"At the moment, my Afghanistan is too wounded to defend itself. It deserves a chance to join the world of civilized nations. But I wonder who has the guts to help it along its way. The president remains isolated in his palace. The expatriates mostly live in heavily fortified compounds and rarely interact with ordinary people. And the top decision-makers at the British and American embassies and the United Nations have moved on to the next project, Iraq, with little assessment of what they have achieved. Once again, it is the Afghans who have to live with the consequences of the latest foreign intervention — this time, a botched nation-building experiment."

*The Quill and Quire review of The Sleeping Buddha*

"Daily news reports mean that most of us have some awareness of what's going on in Afghanistan. What Ghafour does with this book is delve into the details, delivering insights into the shortcomings of the efforts to rebuild, along with a glimpse of the country as it was when her forebears helped shape Afghan society. Combining journalistic clarity with an emotional narrative, Ghafour has crafted a book that is both informative and visceral."

### Corneliu Chisu, MP Pickering-Scarborough East

In 2007 Major Chisu was a Requirements Officer with the Engineer Support Unit in Kandahar dealing with infrastructure and military construction engineering. He was a UN peacekeeper in Banja Luka, Bosnia in 2004.



Captain Corneliu Chisu, P.Eng., (right), a construction engineering officer and PEO East Central Region Councillor, receives commendation from Lt-Col. Paul Hurley of the Joint Task Force in Kandahar province, Afghanistan.  
PHOTO: "Reproduced from *Engineering Dimensions*, vol. 29, no. 2, p. 47, by permission of the publisher."

Major Chisu, a captain during his tour of duty in Afghanistan from February 5 to August 12, 2007 helped build accommodation and support facilities for 2,500 Canadian troops that took responsibility for the Kandahar region in 2006. He was second in command of the Canadian Engineering Support Unit that constructed more permanent buildings and living quarters than the rugged temporary conditions that did little to shield soldiers from 49 C temperatures and harsh, unforgiving terrain. Major Chisu supervised construction and paving under the grilling sun and sometimes even while under rocket fire. The additions of a Tim Horton's, gift shops and a regulation sized ball hockey rink were meant as solace for the gruelling conditions. During Chisu's tour the engineers also constructed facilities for a "16-slice" CT scanner in the multi-national hospital.

"The Afghanistan mission meant a lot for me as both a member of the military and a professional engineer. Assuring real-time protection for our troops and assisting them with construction engineering advice and assistance generated great satisfaction in successfully combining two professions—the profession of arms and the profession of engineering.

Creating a unique engineering team with military and civilian professional engineers from Defence Construction Canada (DCC) and Canadian Contractor Augmentation Program (CANCAP), we achieved high professionalism in the theatre of operations.

The installation of this new medical device (CT scanner) allowed better medical support for Canadian and NATO soldiers requiring quick and accurate assistance in this extremely harsh environment.

I am honoured that I was able to bring my contribution to Canada in support of our democratic values and to the road of rebuilding Afghanistan."

Twenty-two Canadian soldiers were killed during Major Chisu's six-month tour of duty.

### After the Reading

- Alexander, Ghafour and Chisu show that the expectations for and demands on Canada's Armed Forces in Afghanistan were great. List all the things expected. How do these expectations differ from what was expected from the Armed Forces in WWII?
- How are Alexander's, Ghafour's and Chisu's perspectives similar? How do they differ? Who did you find per-

suasive or compelling and why?

- What part of Canada's participation in Afghanistan is war? What is peacekeeping? What is peacemaking?

## Extensions

- Ghafour mentioned "the latest foreign intervention." Research Afghanistan's history and present its history and culture prior to "foreign interventions"
- As well as *The Sleeping Buddha*, *Kite Runner*, *A Thousand Suns*, *The Bookseller of Kabul* and *The Swallows of Kabul* are set in Afghanistan. Read one and present a report to your class
- Over the centuries, warring among tribes and nations has changed—and not just the weapons. How do the decades from WWII onwards show the changes in warfare? Research a soldier from the 1940s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and 00s and create either a visual, oral or written collage that demonstrates changes in warfare. What are the "lessons learned" from this transformation?

## Sources

- Ghafour, Hamida *The Sleeping Buddha*, McArthur & Co, 2007
- Mastromatteo, Michael "A soldier's life in Kandahar", *Engineering Dimensions*, Mar-Apr 2008, pp 47-49
- "The Faces of Peace: Veterans of the Canadian Forces", *Canada Remembers, Veterans Affairs Canada*, [www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers)