

Minister
of Veterans Affairs



Ministre
des Anciens Combattants

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P4

NOV 26 2009

Mr. Sebastiano Giannitto
Via Foggia, 11
Pachino
Siracusa 96018
ITALY

Dear Mr. Giannitto:

Thank you for your e-mail regarding your school's project to commemorate the fallen who are buried in the Commonwealth war cemeteries located in Agira, Catania and Syracuse, Sicily.

This is indeed a commendable project, and I am heartened to hear that the M. Bartolo school has been so involved in commemorative activities over the last few years to help younger generations appreciate their history and heritage.

Officials at Veterans Affairs Canada have identified the Canadians buried in the three Commonwealth war cemeteries you mentioned. I am pleased to enclose a list containing the information we had on file.

As your project proceeds, the Department would certainly welcome your digital images for the Canadian Virtual War Memorial (www.virtualmemorial.gc.ca). This Government of Canada Web site is a registry of information about the graves and memorials of more than 116,000 Canadians who gave their lives for their country. Should this be of interest to you, please contact Mr. John S. Brehaut at the following coordinates:

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Canada

- 2 -

Veterans Affairs Canada
P.O. Box 7700
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
CANADA C1A 8M9
Attention: John S. Brehaut

E-mail: JohnS.Brehaut@vac-acc.gc.ca

You may be interested to know that the Department has produced a number of historical publications that acknowledge Canada's heroes, tell Canada's history and encourage people to take part in remembrance activities. The Italian Campaign is featured in our *Canada Remembers: The Italian Campaign* information sheet and in our *Canada-Italia 1943-1945* publication. I have enclosed a copy of both of these publications for your reference.

You and your students may also wish to view the Heroes Remember section on our Web site at www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers. It features the personal recollections of hundreds of Canadian Veterans from all regions of Canada, including those who served in the Italian Campaign. Heroes Remember offers a unique opportunity to experience history through the eyes of those who lived it.

Finally, I would like to suggest that you contact Library and Archives Canada or the Department of National Defence. Library and Archives Canada is the repository of Canada's documentary heritage, including military records, and the Department of National Defence has a Directorate of History and Heritage that is dedicated to military history and archival information. Both these organizations may be able to help you with your Web site project. Their contact information is as follows:

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Library and Archives Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA K1A 0N4

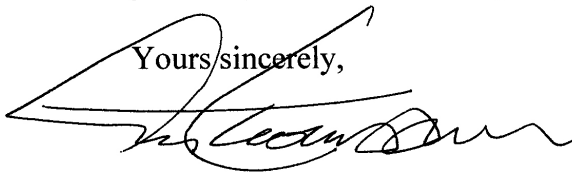
Telephone: 613-996-5115
Fax: 613-943-1112 (Library), 613-995-6274 (Archives)
Web site: www.collectionscanada.ca

Directorate of History and Heritage
National Defence Headquarters
101 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA K1A 0K2

Fax: 613-990-8579
Web site: www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dhh-dhp

I hope that the information provided is helpful. It is clear that you and the students of the M. Bartolo school have put much thought and hard work into your Web site to ensure the achievements and sacrifices of those who gave their lives for freedom are not forgotten, and I wish you every success with it. Again, thank you for writing.

Yours/sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Thompson', written over a horizontal line.

The Honourable Greg Thompson, P.C., M.P.

Enclosures