

timesglobe

Family retraces father's footsteps

Netherlands liberation retold through trip

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More than 77 years ago, Linda Webb's father, Paul Maurice Blanchet, marched through the Netherlands alongside thousands of fellow Canadian soldiers to liberate the country during the Second World War.

Webb and her two children – Julian Webb and Helen Webb – recently got to follow in their father and grandfather's footsteps, seeing the path he and thousands of other Canadians took in the name of liberation as part of the In Our Fathers' Footsteps trip from Sept. 7 to 19.

For Webb, the biggest takeaway was gaining more insight into what her now late father experienced during the war.

"Over there I had his diary with me ... there were so many things and places that we touched," she said. "Really having more of a feeling of what it was like and having more love for him and for what all those men faced."

The Webb family was the only New Brunswickers to go on the In Our Fathers' Footsteps trip, with other families coming from Nova Scotia, Ontario, British



Helen Webb, with her mother, Linda Webb, and brother, Julian Webb, are pictured in the Netherlands as part of the In Our Fathers' Footsteps trip that ran from Sept. 7 to 19. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

PLEASE SEE → **FOOTSTEPS, B2**

Family retraces dad's footsteps during Second World War

FOOTSTEPS →B1

Columbia and other provinces. The trip featured a two-day pilgrimage where participants walked 20 kilometres per day through forests and farmland leading into small towns and liberated villages, all led by a guide.

Blanchet was a major in the 8th Canadian Hussars out of Sussex and was part of the liberation effort after previously serving most of the Second World War in Italy.

Webb said her family got to visit various museums and war cemeteries during their trip.

"We went to a war museum there with, again, fantastic guides that gave us so much information on the events that occurred," she said. "Everywhere we went, the people were fantastic, welcomed us with open arms, gave us receptions, tea, sitting around, we felt pretty special."

During the trip, Webb said her daughter, Helen, read commemorations at the three cemeteries they visited.

At one point during the trip, the

family attended a ceremony by Princess Margriet of the Netherlands. At the time of her birth, Princess Margriet's family fled their home and came to Canada after the Nazi invasion, and while the princess was born in Canada, the maternity ward was temporarily declared Netherland soil to make sure she wasn't born a Canadian.

Julian Webb, Linda Webb's son, took part in the passing of the torch ceremony as he was the youngest member of the entire trip. He described the trip as a humbling experience.

"We're going to make sure, definitely, that it's not forgotten, that'd be a real shame."

Travelling with her two children, Linda Webb said she was able to talk about things that the family couldn't at home. She said they marched together, ate together and met other people as a family.

"I think (my children) got a lot more out of it than they really expected and learned so much that they really didn't know they were even going to learn about."



The Webb family's trip to the Netherlands included a two-day pilgrimage where they walked 20 kilometres per day through forests and farm land leading into small towns and liberated villages, all led by a guide. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

News of the port

INCOMING VESSELS

OCTOBER 4, 2022

NEW ENGLAND

Petroleum for Foreign Ports,
KENT LINE LTD.

ACADIAN

Petroleum for Foreign Ports,
KENT LINE LTD.

INSIGNIA

Visiting Cruise Ship, F K WARREN LTD

Words in season

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1:3 KJV

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FOOTSTEPS →B1

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