

City of Edmonton marks Battle of Ortona with official Bond of Friendship

In honour of the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Ortona, one of Canada's bloodiest battles during the Second World War, Mayor Don Iveson presented an official Bond of Friendship to the City of Ortona, Italy to commemorate this important event in history.

"Our city and the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in particular, share a special relationship with Ortona," said Mayor Don Iveson. "With this Bond of Friendship, we pay tribute to the soldiers who selflessly gave their lives for freedom and democracy during this battle."



During the winter of 1943, German and Canadian troops fought daily in harsh, wet, cold conditions in Ortona, which is located off the coast of the Adriatic Sea. After eight days of fighting the Germans finally withdrew from Ortona. The Loyal Edmonton Regiment had 172 casualties, including 63 deaths - the most of any unit fighting in Ortona.

"The Loyal Edmonton Regiment takes special pride in the bravery and courage of our soldiers during the Battle of Ortona," said Major Chris Barr of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment. "It's a very special place for the Regiment. Over the years a number of both current and former serving members have made the journey to Ortona to honour this special bond and pay their respects to the fallen."

A representative of Ortona, Antonella Ciancibello, presented Mayor Iveson with Ortona's municipal colours in exchange of the Bond of Friendship. Representatives from Edmonton and members of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment will present the City's Bond to Ortona Mayor D'Ottavio in Italy.

Media contact:

[Melissa Lovatt](#)
Council Services
Corporate Communications
Office: 780-944-5585
Cell: 780-719-0544

Share:     

3rd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square NW
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2R7
www.edmonton.ca

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