

Tell Me a Story Soldier! (449 words)

A year ago a group of volunteers launched a project called “Afghanistan: A Soldier’s Story” [www.afghanistancanadianstory.ca](http://www.afghanistancanadianstory.ca) The objective was to collect the human stories and images of those who served - military, civilian and media, to compile them in a legacy album to share with Canadians. Publication is planned for November 2014.

A great deal has been accomplished in the past year. The project has received a generous donation from the Power Workers' Union (PWU) of Ontario, the same organization that was the principal supporter of the documentary series “The Veterans” <http://vimeo.com/channels/theveterans>

The CDS, General Walter Natynczyk has written an introduction for the book <http://afghanistancanadianstory.ca/about/afghanistan-a-soldiers-story-intros-and-champions/> and MGen Vance has accepted our invitation to serve as the CF Project Champion. Respected military historian, Dr. Jack Granatstein, has agreed to write a historical introduction and the Prime Minister, the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada and the Royal Canadian Legion have agreed to provide message(s) and/or content.

Submissions have trickled in over the past year and I want to thank those who have shared their stories and images. Many who served, however, appear to struggle with the idea, suggesting their stories are either not worth sharing, or too colourful or covert to share. I ask you to think again.

Storytelling is a traditional and even ancient means of passing on wisdom and culture, not just a chronicling of key events. Historically, it has been how subsequent generations were inspired and informed, not just with skills and knowledge, but with values and ideals, and a sense of belonging to something greater than themselves. Today, we rely on formalized education along with movies and television to provide the models that will shape our youth, and our leaders of the future. Far too many of us, as a result, have lost the individual art of storytelling.

Your stories, simple and unimportant though they might seem to you, are very important. When you share your experiences through storytelling, you are contributing to a powerful individual exchange, and an accumulation and consolidation of priceless knowledge beyond what is formalized in manuals and history books. Your shared narrative builds trust and understanding with your communities and with those who will come to serve after you. Your stories will also help to perpetuate a standard of professional excellence that has, more often than not, been the hallmark of those who have served Canada in the profession of arms before you.

So please, if you have a story, an image, or a video clip from your Afghan experience to share, or if you know someone else with an experience to share, please direct them to [contact@afghanistancanadianstory.ca](mailto:contact@afghanistancanadianstory.ca) or to [consult@mywrdrwx.com](mailto:consult@mywrdrwx.com) Your stories and photos are more important than you may realize!

Visit our site at [www.afghanistancanadianstory.ca](http://www.afghanistancanadianstory.ca)

Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/Canadian.Afghanistan.Combat.Mission?ref=hl>

Youtube - <http://www.youtube.com/user/ASoldiersStory>

Linkedin - [http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4256579&trk=hb\\_side\\_g](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4256579&trk=hb_side_g)

Flickr - <http://www.flickr.com/groups/canafghanstory/>

Photo Caption

Pte. Jarred Braybrook), early May 2010, on guard watch at Out Post Nightmare, Route Nightmare, Panjaw'i  
(Photo by Cpl. James Hudson)

