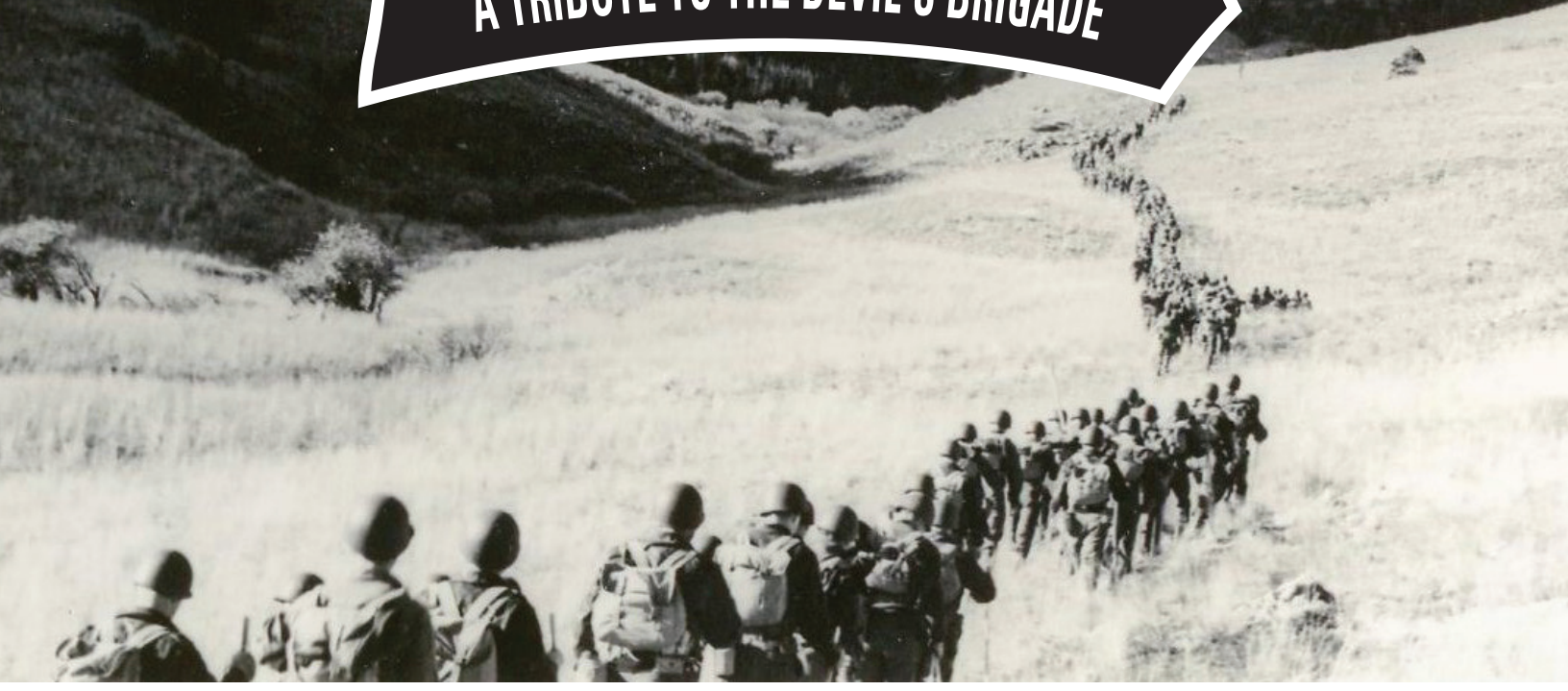




**2023/2024 TRUE PATRIOT LOVE EXPEDITION:
A TRIBUTE TO THE DEVIL'S BRIGADE**



**TRUE PATRIOT
LOVE**

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MONTANA 2023 & ITALY 2024**



INTRODUCTION

True Patriot Love Foundation is thrilled to announce the next adventure in our Expedition Series – A TRIBUTE TO THE DEVIL'S BRIGADE.

The True Patriot Love Expedition: A Tribute to the Devil's Brigade will follow the path carved by the First Special Service Force (FSSF) – from their intense training in Helena, Montana to Italy and their battle on Monte la Difensa where they spearheaded the Italian Campaign. The expedition will honour the over 2,000 lives lost during their 251 days of combat while creating a new team to support the current members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans, and their families.

Eighty years ago, an impressive group of US and Canadian special forces came together to tackle the nearly impossible task of pushing back the Nazis from the Winter Line, in December 1943. Many books and films have been created to highlight the immense strength and determination of the First Special Service Force, but perhaps the most notable legacy was the formation of elite special forces – Green Berets and Navy SEALs in the US, and the highly trained and secretive Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR) in Canada. CSOR proudly traces its roots to the FSSF, and carries the "Black Devils" battle honours.

In September 2023, the expedition team will head to Helena, Montana to retrace the training of the FSSF during a 4-day, 3-night 74KM trek from the MacDonald Pass to Stemple Pass, along the Continental divide trail – all while enjoying stunning vistas and peaceful isolation along the entire route. The expedition will include Veterans from the Canadian Special Operations Regiment who will demonstrate some of the many skills they and the FSSF members have trained in. Also accompanying participants on the hike will be LCol (Retired) Bernd Horn, Military Historian for CSOR, and author of "Of Courage and Determination: The First Special Service Force, "The Devil's Brigade", 1942-1944".

In May of 2024, the expedition will continue in Italy where expedition participants will visit the locations where the FSSF demonstrated the value of their unique skills and intense training. You will visit and explore Monte la Difensa, Mount Majo, Radicosa, and Mount Sammucro, while learning about the relentless battles that took place during the Italian Campaign. The team will also have the opportunity to visit the historic towns and cities of Anzio, Cassino, and finish the expedition with a special night in Rome.

In addition to taking on the challenge of Montana and the history of Italy, participants will raise critical funds for True Patriot Love Foundation to support our military community from coast to coast to coast. Previous expeditions have raised over \$9 million collectively, which has helped to fund more than 9,800 hours of peer-to-peer mental health counselling, allowed for enhanced job training and recruitment, provided 144 Veterans with rapid job placement, and enabled a \$500,000 investment to create a virtual reality therapy program for Veterans living with Post-Traumatic Stress, which is now being used across the country.



About The First Special Service Force

In July 1942, the Canadian War Cabinet authorized the creation of a commando unit that became the Canadian element of the joint U.S. / Canadian First Special Service Force (FSSF). This formation was to be part of Prime Minister Winston Churchill's top secret Operation Plough designed to conduct operations in Norway to attack the hydro-electric and heavy water plants in that country to disrupt the German war industry and the Nazi atomic weapons program

The Americans and Canadians accepted to take on the operation and as a result, a US / Canadian brigade sized formation was created with Americans and Canadians serving side by side, wearing the same American uniform, in a military command that was completely integrated.

As the initial focus of the FSSF was to be sabotage, raiding and guerrilla type warfare, the Forcemen were trained in a wide spectrum of skills including parachuting, demolitions, unarmed combat, extensive weapons handling, mountaineering and arctic warfare. Physical fitness very quickly became the decisive selection tool. Only the hardest of men could persevere the training.

By September 1942, due to political and operational reasons Operation Plough was cancelled. The American and Canadian governments, however, decided to retain the FSSF. In August 1943, the FSSF participated in the assault on Kiska Island in the Aleutians. Since the Japanese had already withdrawn from the Aleutians, the FSSF was quickly returned to the mainland and prepared for operations in Italy.

Once in Italy, the Force made a name for itself because of its successful daring assault on Monte La Difensa, a seemingly impregnable German defensive position on the top of a 945 metre high mountain. The FSSF subsequently fought through a prolonged mountain campaign that continued until the end of January 1944, when the Force was deployed to Anzio where a meagre 1,200 all ranks, held an extended portion (13 kilometres) of the vital Mussolini Canal sector. Through aggressive night raiding they struck fear into the enemy, who believed they were facing up to a small division. The German soldiers were so terrified of the FSSF raids that they nick-named them the "Black Devils."

After 99 days in the front lines, the FSSF led the breakout and advance to Rome. First to enter the Eternal City and secure its capture, the FSSF next participated in Operation Dragoon in August 1944. The Force seized two of the Hyères Islands in the Mediterranean Sea to protect the left flank of the landings during the invasion of Southern France. The FSSF then joined the Sixth Army Group in the advance through Southern France to the Italian border.

Facing a manning shortage and as a result, a conscription crisis back home, the continuing demands of the Canadian contingent to provide reinforcements for the FSSF, prompted the Canadian Government to make a simple decision. The time had come to pull the Canadians from the Force. As a result, the FSSF was disbanded at Villeneuve-Loubet, France, on 5 December 1944.

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REASONS TO ACCEPT THIS MISSION

Our expeditions are life-changing experiences for those who are up for the challenge. These are just some of the benefits you can expect from True Patriot Love Foundation's Expedition.

Unplug and refocus

Stepping away from your phone, laptop and hectic daily schedule will allow you to focus on yourself, your team's mission, the present moment and the silence of some of the most beautiful scenery in the world.

Build your physical strength and endurance

This adventure will motivate you to get in the best shape of your life! We'll provide you with the necessary skills for training, as well as one-on-one coaching with a professional personal trainer to ensure you're in optimal physical health as you prepare for this fitness challenge.

Build new relationships

You'll have the unique opportunity to enrich your life with new personal and professional relationships with other like-minded career executives and the brave individuals who serve, or have served, with the Canadian Armed Forces. Our expeditions offer a safe and supportive environment in which to bond with your teammates, listen and learn from each other.

Be a role model

After facing the physical and mental obstacles during your time in Helena, Montana you'll be a trailblazer, an inspiration across the country for your strength, tenacity and contribution to the well-being of our military members, Veterans and their families.

Experience the rewards of mentorship

The individuals of our military serve, or have served, Canada with great strength and courage while making enormous sacrifices. Some have sustained both visible and invisible injuries. This is your chance to give back to them. As a civilian participant of this expedition, you'll provide much-needed support to them as they face the challenges of transitioning to a fulfilling civilian life. At the same time, you'll learn from the valuable experience and skills of our Canadian Armed Forces members and Veterans.

Support an important, Canadian cause

You'll generate public awareness surrounding the critical issues facing the military community, from Post Traumatic Stress to limited healthcare access for military children with special needs, and will fundraise to address these needs. True Patriot Love Foundation has changed the lives of more than 37,000 military members, Veteran and families in Canada over the past decade. By participating in this expedition, you'll help us impact even more.

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TESTIMONIALS

...they inspired us with their determination, resilience and unwavering commitment to the team.

Ellie & Ben Rusonik, Himalayas 2018

CIVILIAN PARTICIPANTS

“The True Patriot Love Women’s Expedition provided an extraordinary opportunity to disconnect in this hyperextended world. Civilians, Veterans and Canadian Armed Forces members alike were reminded of the isolation that exists in our society, despite technological advances – from the Northern Communities we visited to the challenges our Veterans face when they transition to civilian life. Paradoxically, the remoteness of Baffin Island itself enabled us to build deep, meaningful relationships that will last a lifetime. I learned first-hand that the need to serve those who serve our country has never been more acute. I look forward to continuing the journey with this outstanding group of women and True Patriot Love Foundation for years to come!”

Julie Cowan, Baffin Island 2019 Expedition Co-Chair

“Some of the soldiers on the expedition – those we now consider close friends – are struggling. We hope that by being a part of this expedition, we eased their struggle in some small way. In turn, they inspired us with their determination, resilience and unwavering commitment to the team. We gained as much from them as they did from us.”

Ellie & Ben Rusonik, Himalayas 2018

MILITARY/VETERAN PARTICIPANTS

“True Patriot Love’s Baffin Island expedition was an incredible experience for me as an injured service member; having the opportunity to take in the raw beauty of Canada’s North with so many amazing women was inspiring and empowering. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to visit Nunavut and look forward to the mentorship and support from my Baffin Island sisters as I approach the transition from military to civilian life. Thank you, ladies, and thank you True Patriot Love Foundation for an experience I will treasure for the rest of my life.”

Kathryn Ward, Baffin Island 2019 Expedition

“I am forever indebted to the True Patriot Love Foundation and all the brave corporate leaders that chose to embark on this beautiful journey. An unprecedented amount of funds were raised and much awareness brought to the subject of mental health and PTSD, and I know this will make a huge difference in so many lives... We all created unbreakable bonds and shared moments through our hardships and triumphs that cannot be achieved in any other environment. It has been a difficult time and I was finally able to lay to rest many things at the Pole. I am so honoured and proud to have been part of such an epic adventure and an initiative so much greater than myself.”

Shauna Davies, North Pole 2014

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Montana - September 29 - October 5, 2023

ITINERARY

Please note, details are subject to change

Day 1 Arrival in Helena, Montana, welcome dinner

Day 2 Visit to the Montana Military Museum at Fort William Henry Harrison, gear preparation, training

Day 3 Depart MacDonald pass trek to Greenhorn Mountain camp (18km)

Day 4 Trek to Dana Spring (19km)

Day 5 Trek to Black Mountain camp (18km)

Day 6 Trek to Stemple pass pick up point, celebration dinner

Day 7 Expedition ends; individual departures

ITALY - June 1 - 5, 2024

In June of 2024, the expedition will continue in with an educational tour in Italy where participants will visit the locations where the FSSF demonstrated the value of their unique skills and intense training.

Potential sites include, Monte la Difensa, Mount Majo, Radicosa, and Mount Sammucro, where you will learn more about the relentless battles that took place during the Italian Campaign. The tour will end with a special night in Rome.



GENERAL DETAILS AND REQUIREMENTS

Please note, details are subject to change

Availability: Participants must be available during the following dates:

Training: True Patriot Love and the guiding team will develop a series of virtual training exercises to provide the necessary skills required for the expedition

Expedition: September 29 - October 5, 2023 & June 1 - 5, 2024.

•Participants have the option to do either Montana, Italy, or participate in both expeditions.

Fundraising Goal: In addition to the participant fees, each civilian team member is responsible for fundraising \$20,000 per person. True Patriot Love will provide full support to participants in the form of fundraising materials and strategic support. *(Note: participants cannot fundraise for the participant fee).*

Medical Requirements: This is a physically demanding experience. Participants must complete a medical screening, receive written approval from their doctor, and sign a waiver in advance of the training camp.

Filming and Media: Participants must be comfortable with the presence of photographers, film crew, and/or members of the media during the expedition. From time to time, media outlets may request interviews or photos from select participants. *(Note: participation does not guarantee film/photography elements following the expedition).*

PARTICIPANT FEE:

MONTANA: \$7,500 | ITALY: \$9,500

MONTANA & ITALY: \$16,500

INCLUDES

- Experienced guides, medical, and support staff throughout the expedition
- All transportation detailed as part of the expedition itinerary
- All meals within the dates of the expedition as identified on the itinerary
- Accommodations throughout the expedition including a combination of hotels and lodges
- Guides will be equipped with weather reports, navigation systems, communal satellite phone (for emergency use only), GPS, etc.
- Comprehensive first aid kits and trained wilderness first responder guides
- Team welcome dinner and completion celebration

DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Round-trip travel to Montana and Italy for the expedition
- Personal expedition clothing and personal specialized gear
- Personal items for daily use (note: these should be kept to a minimum due to baggage and weight limitations)
- Excess baggage charges (if applicable)
- Evacuation Rescue Insurance – required for each participant
- Trip cancellation insurance (if desired)
- Tipping for guides – at the discretion of the participant
- Alternative food and beverages throughout the expedition
- All expenses incurred in the event of early departure or significant delay before, during or after the expedition (evacuation fees, transportation, extra hotel nights, etc.)

To reserve your spot please submit a deposit of 50% of your desired trip. The balance of your expedition fees will be due on July 1, 2023. Please note we are abiding by government health restrictions and should the expedition be unable to proceed all monies submitted to True Patriot Love prior to February 1, 2023 will be refunded. A tax receipt will not be available for participation fees.



Spaces are limited!

To reserve your spot, please contact:



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