

Canada Remembers Times

Veterans' Week Special Edition – November 5 to 11, 2011

Weather



July 1, 1916
Beaumont-Hamel
France
75°F Sunny

Newfoundlanders at Beaumont-Hamel

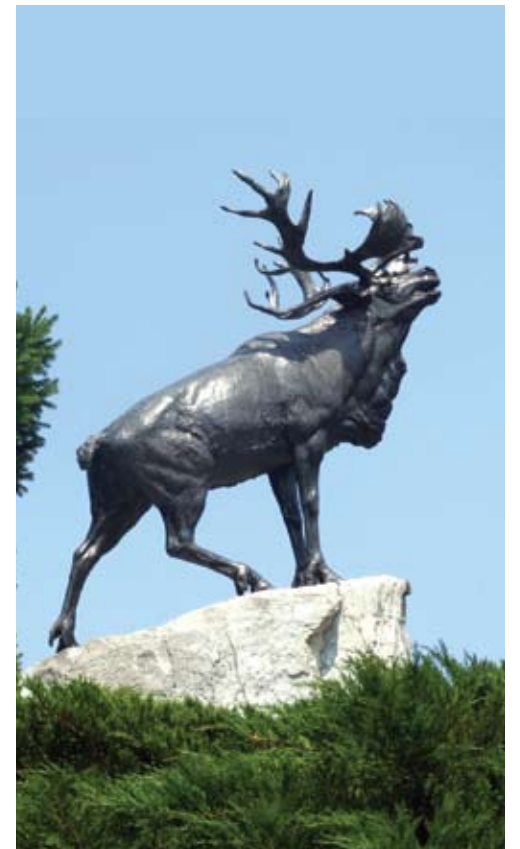
July 1st is known as Canada Day, but in Newfoundland and Labrador it has an additional and more sombre meaning. There, it is also known as Memorial Day—a time to remember those who gave so much in the cause of peace and freedom.

On this day in 1916, approximately 800 men from the 1st Newfoundland Regiment went forward into a thick hail of enemy fire on the first day of the First World War's Battle of the Somme. They tucked their chins in as they walked through the bullets and shrapnel, as if they were walking through a snowstorm. In less than half an hour, the Regiment was torn apart. The next morning, only 68

were able to answer the roll call. It was a day that would never be forgotten in Newfoundland.

However, the Newfoundlanders would rebuild the Regiment and go on to earn the name Royal Newfoundland Regiment for their brave actions in battles during the war.

Today, the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial overlooks the old battlefield. This site commemorates all Newfoundlanders who fought in the Great War, particularly those who have no known grave.



The Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial in France.

Veterans Affairs Canada



Library and Archives Canada PA-107907

A Consolidated VLR Liberator provides air cover for a transatlantic convoy.

The Black Pit

Many of the vehicles, weapons and ammunition needed by the western Allies to fight Germany during the Second World War were made in North America. The Merchant Navy transporting these critical supplies across the Atlantic had to evade hundreds of enemy submarines, called U-boats. If Germany could cut this supply route, it would win the war.

U-boats were hard to find in the vast ocean and Allied convoys often consisted of dozens of merchant ships protected by just a handful of armed naval escorts.

Early in the war, a portion of the mid-Atlantic was out of range to most aircraft. This area was particularly dangerous and came to be known as "the Black Pit." When convoy SC 107 sailed from Sydney, Nova Scotia, to England in the fall of 1942, 17 U-boats converged on the 42-ship convoy, sinking a total of 15 ships.

By mid-1943, technological advances like long-range aircraft helped turn the tide in the Battle of the Atlantic. Courageous Canadians helped keep the supplies flowing when they were needed most.

Korea's "Little Gibraltar"

More than 26,000 Canadians served with United Nations (UN) forces in the Korean War between 1950 and 1953. Korea's rugged terrain made it a hard place to fight. Hill 355—nicknamed "Little Gibraltar"—was the highest hill for kilometres around and that made it important to have. The hill had been the scene of several fierce battles, and in October 1952, Canadian soldiers there found themselves fighting for their lives.

For days the Chinese heavily bombarded the Canadians defending the hill to smash their positions. Then, on the evening of October 23, the Chinese launched an all-out assault. The Royal Canadian Regiment was hit hard by wave after wave of enemy soldiers and one company was forced to fall back. The outnumbered Canadians had to hunker down in their trenches and request supporting artillery fire as the Chinese swarmed over the hillside. A counter-attack was then ordered to retake the lost ground. It was hard fighting and the Royal Canadian Regiment took heavy losses—18 killed, 35 wounded and 14 captured—but they had held out against the odds.



The war painting Incoming by Edward Zuber depicts Canadians under attack on Hill 355.

CWM 19890328-008. Beaverbrook Collection of War Art. ©Canadian War Museum

Canada's Engagement in Afghanistan



Department of National Defence AR2010-0177-28

Canadian Forces member providing security at a landing zone in Kandahar, July 2010.

The combat aspect of the Canadian Forces' efforts in Afghanistan is scheduled to end in 2011. The origins of Canada's involvement there go back to September 11, 2001 when al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four American airliners and attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing almost 3,000 people. Afghanistan, which was governed by the extremist Taliban regime who had harboured al-Qaeda, was quickly targeted for an international military response.

Canada's first contribution to the war on terror came at sea as our warships joined a fleet patrolling the waters off

the region. Canadian soldiers' boots hit the ground in Afghanistan soon after as they joined the American and British forces who were already fighting there. Our air force has also played an important role, by conducting patrols at sea and providing transport support to the coalition forces.

Over the past decade, Canadian soldiers have primarily been based in the capital city of Kabul and in the southern province of Kandahar. Their roles have been varied, from engaging in large-scale military operations to patrolling remote areas, helping to

improve infrastructure, and providing humanitarian aid. These efforts have come at a great cost, as more than 150 Canadians have lost their lives in trying to establish a lasting peace.

While Canada's role in Afghanistan has sparked debate, the accomplishments and sacrifices of Canadian Forces members in the country have helped foster a renewed national pride for our men and women in uniform. From 'Red Fridays' to the crowds that line the 'Highway of Heroes' when fallen soldiers return home, their efforts have not been forgotten.

Taking Courcellette

One of the bloodiest chapters of the First World War was the Battle of the Somme, which raged in northern France in the summer and fall of 1916. The Canadian Corps' first major action began on September 15 in the offensive on the village of Courcellette.

The soldiers advanced behind a creeping barrage, a new tactic that saw attackers closely follow a line of artillery fire that moved forward on a carefully timed schedule. Tanks were also used—the first time these

new weapons ever appeared on a battlefield. The main objective, a position known as the "Sugar Factory," was soon taken. The Canadians then pushed ahead to Courcellette, with the French-Canadian 22^e Bataillon playing an important role in taking the village.

In the weeks that followed, the Canadians attacked and captured a number of enemy positions. The Battle of the Somme cost our country more than 24,000 casualties, but the Canadians' achievements confirmed

their growing reputation as some of the best soldiers on the Western Front. Canada has a special memorial in Courcellette to commemorate those who fought there.

To learn more about Canada's war memorials, visit the Veterans Affairs Canada Web site at veterans.gc.ca and search for "memorials."



War painting The Capture of the Sugar Refinery at Courcellette by the Canadians on September 15, 1916 by Fortunino Matania.

CWM 19870268-001. Beaverbrook Collection of War Art. ©Canadian War Museum

Georgina Pope, Nursing Sister



Georgina Pope

Georgina Pope, from Prince Edward Island, commanded a group of nurses in the South African War. In 1903, she was the first Canadian to be awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal.

She became Canada's first nursing matron in 1908, creating training programs for military nurses. Georgina Pope went overseas again in 1917 and worked near Ypres, Belgium, one of the bloodiest battlefields of the First World War.

CWM 19830041-182 George Metcalf Archival Collection. ©Canadian War Museum

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!

Canadians on the home front during the Second World War contributed a lot to the war effort. We recycled and reduced our consumption of food and goods to support the men and women serving overseas.

Goals were set to collect tons of used rubber products which could be recycled into tires and other products important in the war effort. Tires of non-essential vehicles could even be seized! Gasoline was also rationed, with strict limits being set on how much could be used for different needs,

such as personal use or agricultural requirements. More gas could then be sent overseas to help those fighting the enemy.

Canada's kitchens also did their part. Meat, eggs, sugar, chocolate and coffee were a luxury. Ration books were distributed to keep track of what people were allowed to have. Most dishes had to be made with readily available ingredients, so many recipes were simplified.

Everyone tightened their belts to support the troops.



War posters like this one encouraged Canadians to pitch in on the home front.

CWM 19920196-001 ©Canadian War Museum

A Mountainous Achievement



Photo courtesy of Lorraine Humphrey

Sergeant George Alexander Campion.

A Métis from Alberta, George Alexander Campion served with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment during the Second World War.

He was awarded the Military Medal for his heroic actions during the Battle of Ortona in Italy on December 22, 1943. His company was trapped inside buildings under enemy fire. As a minefield blocked the advance of Allied tanks, Sergeant Campion twice ran into the open street, throwing smoke grenades.

This provided enough cover for engineers to clear the mines, allowing for the advance to continue.

Sadly, Campion was killed in 1944 and is buried in the Cassino War Cemetery. A mountain in Jasper National Park is named in his honour. To learn more about him and other Canadians who gave their lives for their country, visit the Canadian Virtual War Memorial at veterans.gc.ca.

The Trainbusters Club

The Royal Canadian Navy played a role in the Korean War for most of the conflict. Canadian destroyers saw action off both the east and west coasts of the Korean peninsula.

The Canadian destroyers were part of the "Trainbusters Club." The mountainous terrain in eastern Korea often forced rail lines to hug the coast, which made trains tempting targets for the United Nations naval force. Damaging trains and railway tracks disrupted the enemy's supply line.

This was a difficult and dangerous task. On October 2, 1952, HMCS *Iroquois* was exchanging fire with an enemy gun battery on shore when the ship took a direct hit. Three Canadian sailors died and ten were wounded in the explosion.



Department of National Defence

HMCS Iroquois during the Korean War.

Canadian Hospital Ship Torpedoed



CWM 19890086-534 ©Canadian War Museum

This Canadian war poster used the outrage over the sinking of the Llandoverly Castle to encourage people to buy Victory Bonds to help fund the war effort.

Life for Canada's Nursing Sisters in wartime was often dangerous. At times, they served close to the front lines so they could better help the wounded. This put them within range of enemy attack.

On June 27, 1918, this danger was proven tragically true when the Canadian hospital ship *Llandoverly Castle* was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland by a German submarine. In all, 234 people lost their lives, including all 14 Canadian Nursing Sisters who had been serving on board.

Woman Flies Through Glass Ceiling!



Department of National Defence

Maryse Carmichael

Canadian women's history has been full of trailblazers—women who fought for equal rights, and who made great strides in fields like science, politics and sport.

Many women have also made remarkable accomplishments in the Canadian Forces, such as Maryse Carmichael. Inspired by her brother who was a pilot, she started out as an air cadet at the young age of 13 and joined the military full-time at 19. In the decade to follow, her career took off as she perfected her technique as a pilot.

She worked as a flying instructor, served with the 434 Combat Support Squadron and even flew the Prime Minister of Canada. In 2000, she became the first woman to be part of the famous Snowbirds Precision Flying Team, based in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan!

In 2010, Lieutenant-Colonel Carmichael, a busy mother of two, soared to even greater heights as the first woman ever to become the commanding officer of the Snowbirds.

Ronnie the Bren Gun Girl

During the Second World War, Canadian women helped the war effort by working side by side with men in factories, in office buildings, at the job site, and on farms.

Taking on traditionally male dominated jobs, they built parts for, and helped assemble, ships and aircraft, as well as guns and ammunition. Women also drove buses, taxis and streetcars. At home they knitted socks, scarves and mitts, and they prepared parcels for Canadians overseas. They gathered materials for scrap collection drives, and helped people displaced by the war by providing clothes and setting up refugee centres.

At the height of the war, more than 800,000 women worked in the service, manufacturing and construction sectors.

Veronica Foster, popularly known as "Ronnie the Bren Gun Girl," became a national symbol for all Canadian women who supported the war effort. Propaganda posters were produced featuring images of Ronnie working on the production line at a Toronto plant that made Bren light machine guns.

All Canadian women who supported the war effort at home deserve recognition and the thanks of a grateful nation.



Veronica Foster in front of a poster of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Library and Archives Canada PA-117563

News from the Front

Many of you may have seen war correspondents on television, covering military conflicts from around the world. During the First World War, news came primarily by newspapers. In the Second World War, however, news came regularly by radio and newsreels. Today's technology allows for live coverage of events direct from war zones via satellite.

Ever since they took their pens into battle, journalists have placed themselves in danger to report on military conflicts. Sometimes, in pursuit of their stories, journalists also become casualties of war.

The Voice of Doom



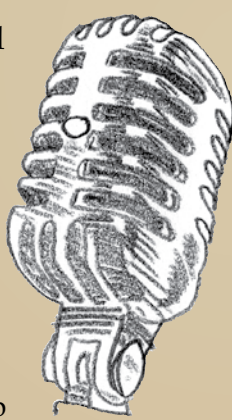
Lorne Greene in 1942.

Lorne Greene was born in Ottawa in 1915 to Russian Jewish immigrants. He joined the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in 1939 as a radio announcer. Listeners loved his deep voice and he soon became their principal newsreader, earning the nickname "Voice of

Canada." Soon after the start of the Second World War, he earned a new nickname, the "Voice of Doom," because of the gloomy war reports he had to read.

By 1942, to boost morale for troops going overseas, the government established broadcast units at Canadian bases and Greene was asked to help. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps in June 1943 and served until January 1944.

Following the war, he had a successful career in film, television and music. In 1969, he was inducted as an Officer of the Order of Canada. He passed away in 1987 and was honoured on a Canada Post stamp in 2006.



Library and Archives Canada PA-116718.

Giving Her All

Michelle Lang was assigned to cover Canadian military efforts in Afghanistan for the *Calgary Herald* and the CanWest News Service. On December 30, 2009, hoping to find stories of civilian reconstruction, she ventured out with a team of soldiers and social workers who were helping Afghans repair damages done by war. Sadly, she and four soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb south of Kandahar City. Lang's death at the age of 34, the first Canadian journalist to die in Afghanistan, was felt at home and in newsrooms across the world.



Michelle Lang and General Walt Natynczyk in Afghanistan on Christmas Day 2009.

Photo courtesy of the Honourable Gary Lum.

Lang and the four soldiers were repatriated back to Canada, and travelled the Highway of Heroes in honour of their ultimate sacrifice.

Journalists who risk their lives reporting alongside the men and women of the Canadian Forces should not be forgotten.

The War Correspondent who Became Premier



René Lévesque in Korea, 1951.

Library and Archives Canada C-077793

René Lévesque was born in Campbellton, New Brunswick, in 1922 and was raised in New Carlisle, Quebec. He studied at Laval University, prior to becoming a liaison officer and a European war correspondent for the U.S. Army during the Second World War.

Lévesque joined Radio-Canada International in 1946. He again served as

a war correspondent during the Korean War.

He turned down an opportunity to work as a journalist in the United States, deciding to stay in Quebec where he hosted a very popular TV show. Lévesque later entered politics, becoming the 23rd Premier of Quebec in 1976.

Agent 50 in China



Bill Chong.

William "Bill" Chong was born in Vancouver in 1911. While visiting his sister in Hong Kong, he was taken prisoner when the Japanese attacked in December 1941. However, he escaped to China and joined the British Military Intelligence Section 9 (MI9). Known as Agent 50, he served with an intelligence unit, under dangerous and hostile conditions.

From 1942 to 1945, Chong traveled alone in China, dressed as a peasant, avoiding bandits and enemies. His mission was to bring escapees from occupied territories and deliver medical supplies. His courage was recognized with the British Empire Medal.

To see his interview and explore similar stories, visit veterans.gc.ca and search for "Chinese Canadian Veterans."

Photo courtesy of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum.

Recognized at Last

During the First World War, most Black Canadians serving in the army did so in support roles behind the front lines. One who did serve in actual combat was Jeremiah Jones of Truro, Nova Scotia. In his mid 50s, Jones lied about his age and enlisted in 1916.

At the Battle of Vimy Ridge, he single-handedly captured a German machine gun post. He marched the survivors, who carried their heavy machine gun, back to the Allied lines. Impressed with his courage, Jones' commanding officer stated he would recommend him for the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the second highest award for bravery

after the Victoria Cross. Wounded at Vimy and at Passchendaele, Jones was discharged from service in Halifax in 1918.

Jones, who died in 1950, never did receive the medal. After years of public pressure, he was posthumously awarded the Canadian Forces Medallion for Distinguished Service at a large ceremony in 2010. Jeremiah Jones had finally received the recognition he so justly deserved.

To learn more about the achievements of Black Canadians in wartime, check out veterans.gc.ca and search for "Black Canadians."



Private Jeremiah "Jerry" Jones.

Public Domain



Léo Major (right) in Korea.

Photo courtesy of Jocelyn Major.

A Major Contribution

Montreal's Léo Major enlisted in 1940, at the age of 19. He first saw action in France on D-Day with the *Régiment de la Chaudière*. He helped capture a German armoured vehicle on that very first day. A few days later, Major lost his left eye in combat but refused to return to Canada.

During the Battle of the Scheldt in the fall of 1944, he captured 93 prisoners but

declined a decoration for bravery. On April 13 and 14, 1945, Léo Major single-handedly freed the city of Zwolle, Netherlands, from German occupation. He fooled the Germans into thinking a large attack was underway by throwing grenades and shooting his machine gun. This earned him his first Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM).

Major volunteered again during the Korean War. In November 1951, he led a platoon that successfully repelled a massive enemy attack on Hill 355, for which he received his second DCM. Léo Major is the only soldier to be awarded DCMs in two wars.



Canadian Forces members aboard a United Nations patrol boat in Cambodia in 1992.

Department of National Defence

Peacekeeping in Cambodia

Imagine being a Canadian Forces peacekeeper in a war-torn country where a genocide had taken place, and where corruption, crime and weapons were everywhere. This was the situation often faced by more than 1,000 Canadian peacekeepers who served in the Southeast Asian country of Cambodia over the years.

Canadians first travelled to Cambodia in 1954 to help in the rocky transition from being part of the colony of French Indochina to becoming an independent country, along with Laos and Vietnam. The general unrest in the region and the harsh Khmer Rouge regime that sparked a genocide in Cambodia in the 1970s caused great instability. The Canadians returned to the country

in 1991 as part of the UN effort to help restore peace. Approximately 700 Canadians shared their peacekeeping expertise in logistical support, ceasefire monitoring, headquarters duties and landmine clearing operations. Indeed, Canadian Forces members contributed to landmine clearance efforts until 2000 in a country littered with millions of the deadly weapons.

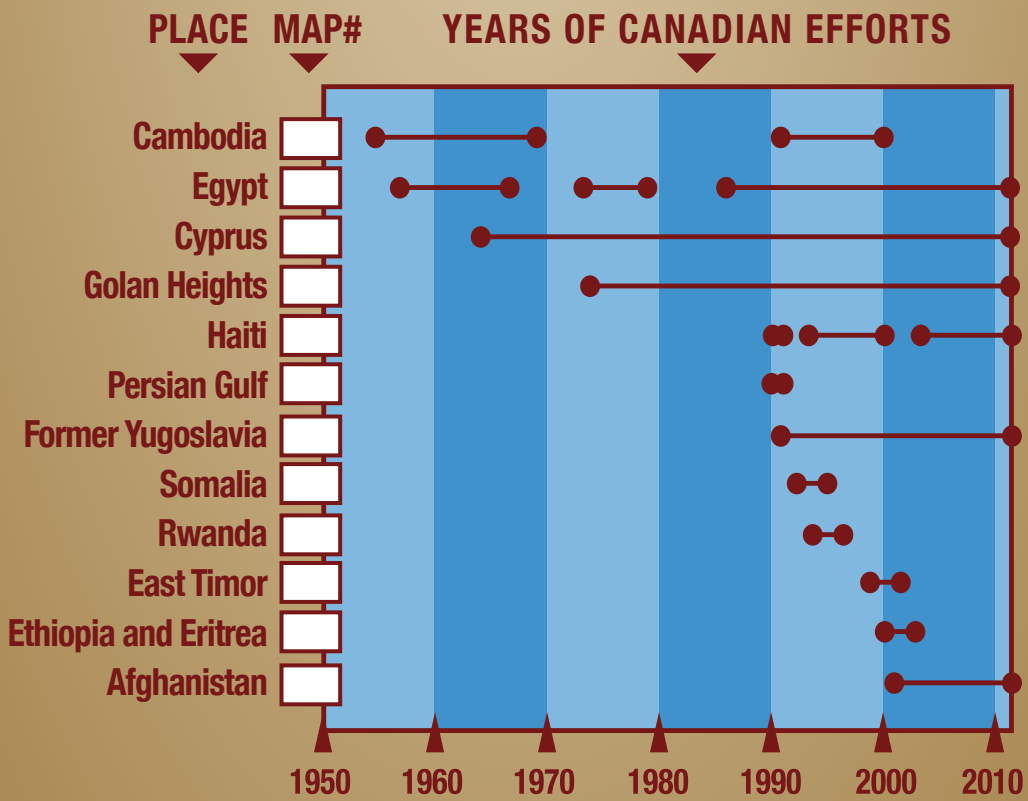
Canadian Forces Timeline



Canadian Forces members have served around the globe over the years, putting their lives on the line to help restore peace and freedom to countries in turmoil. Here is a world map with maple leaves representing some of the places in which Canadians have served in the post-war years.



Match the names of the places with the correct numbers on the map.



The Memorial Cross

The Memorial Cross was instituted following the First World War in 1919. The silver crosses are engraved with the name and service number of Canadians who were killed in active military service. Initially, they were only awarded to mothers or widows. The criteria were recently updated to include widowers and next of kin of Canadian Forces members who die in active service. When Captain Nichola Goddard became the first Canadian woman to be killed in combat in Afghanistan in 2006, her husband Jason Beam became the first widower to receive the Memorial Cross.



Memorial Cross awarded during the Second World War.

Veterans Affairs Canada

He Shoots, He Scores!

The Memorial Cup is awarded each year to the junior hockey champions of the Canadian Hockey League. It was donated in 1919 by the Ontario Hockey Association in honour of those who died during the First World War. The Cup is a symbol of remembrance, and it highlights a special connection between the Canadian military and the sport of hockey.

At the 2010 Memorial Cup Tournament in Brandon, Manitoba, the championship trophy was rededicated to recognize Canada's war dead from all conflicts. Veterans from the Second World War and the Korean War escorted the Memorial Cup to the ceremony which took place at CFB Shilo.



The Memorial Cup arrives at the rededication ceremony at CFB Shilo.

Department of National Defence

A Scarf from the Queen

More than 7,000 Canadians served in the South African War between 1899 and 1902. During the war, four Canadians earned the Victoria Cross, the highest award for military valour. Private Richard Rowland Thompson, a Canadian medical orderly, enlisted with the 2nd Special Service Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment in Ottawa. He was actually nominated for the honour twice but was not awarded the medal. Queen Victoria learned of this and decided to do something special—she knitted long wool scarves to be given to him and to a handful of other soldiers whose great courage had not been officially recognized.



Private Thompson's Queen's Scarf.

CWM L11965033-001. Courtesy of the Canadian War Museum.



Library and Archives Canada Postal 0248, Postal 0232 and Postal 0238.

Every Stamp Tells a Story

Canada Post has issued hundreds of stamps over the years related to our military heritage and to remembrance. Three of these touch on powerful symbols of remembrance located in the heart of our national capital.

The Peace Tower in Ottawa was dedicated to Canadians who died during the First World War.

Inside can be found the Memorial Chamber which houses the seven Books of Remembrance, listing the names

of more than 115,000 Canadians who have died in military service since Confederation.

Ottawa's National War Memorial was unveiled by King George VI in 1939, just weeks before the outbreak of the Second World War. Every November 11, thousands of Canadians gather there and at local cenotaphs across the country to remember those who served.

Why not explore Canada's military heritage on stamps for yourself?