



ALL ABOARD! Transportation in Times of War

"Woof!" barked Gandy the dog. "Here we are, the Remembrance Clubhouse members reunited in Halifax, Nova Scotia! Today we came to greet a Canadian military ship returning from a mission overseas. It was so exciting to see the massive vessel sail into the harbour, and so many people turned out like us with flags, signs, and balloons to welcome the returning sailors. It made my fur fluff!"

"Yesterday we visited Pier 21 and learned that Canadians in uniform have been passing through Halifax for over 100 years on many different missions," roared Win the bear. "They were constantly coming and going throughout the First and Second World Wars and it was busy around the clock! The rail yards saw steady traffic as trains loaded with soldiers and supplies arrived daily from across Canada."

"The harbour was also often crowded. Ships were under repair and ships prepared for the voyage to Europe. Passenger ships loaded soldiers, and cargo ships loaded war supplies, food and munitions. There were even hospital ships with medical staff and supplies. Many animal mascots such as dogs and cats also joined the people on the ships to keep them

company during the long voyage!" meowed Simone the cat.

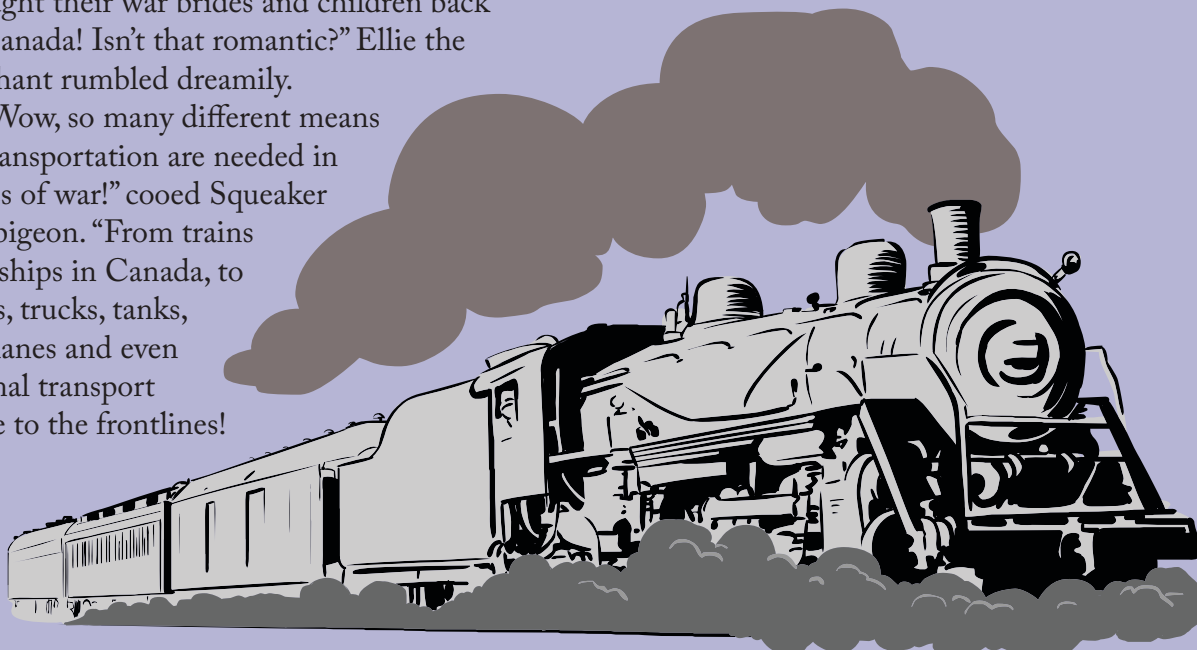
"And did you know that thousands of horses like my ancestor Bonfire were also loaded onto ships to serve overseas in times of war?" whinnied Bonfire Jr. the horse.

"Even when wars were over, Halifax was still a busy place. The city was bustling with the thousands of returning soldiers, ready to take trains back to their home towns. Some soldiers fell in love while overseas and even brought their war brides and children back to Canada! Isn't that romantic?" Ellie the elephant rumbled dreamily.

"Wow, so many different means of transportation are needed in times of war!" cooed Squeaker the pigeon. "From trains and ships in Canada, to jeeps, trucks, tanks, airplanes and even animal transport close to the frontlines!"

I know that my relative Beachcomber flew in nasty conditions to deliver messages in the Second World War. Hey, why don't we do our history fair projects on how Canadian troops traveled in wartime?"

"Cool, let's get our engines roaring!!" replied Gandy. "Why don't you do a remembrance research project, too?"



Tracks in Time



Choo! Choo! In times of war, thousands of Canadian soldiers were transported across our vast country by train on their way overseas. Animals travelled by train, too! My great grandmother Winnie met Lieutenant Harry Colebourn at the White River train station in Ontario during the First World War. Harry, from Winnipeg, liked her at first sight (she was such a cute cub) so he named her after his hometown and brought her on board the train as a mascot for

his regiment! Not only troops were transported by trains. Food and supplies also had to be taken by train across Canada to be shipped to the front lines. In fact, did you know that they even had to transport actual railway lines overseas?



A troop train leaves Hamilton, Ontario in 1914.
Photo: Library and Archives Canada e011084104

Tracks were needed on the battlefields to bring ammunition and food to the front lines, and also to take the wounded soldiers back for medical help. Thousands of kilometers of tracks needed to be laid on the battlefield.

Our country responded by sending the Canadian Railway Troops. They were so efficient at laying the tracks that the European engineers were amazed! Sadly, some of these men were killed or wounded doing their duties. We don't often talk about this special group and the important role they played in the Allied victory on the Western Front. Let's get back on track and remember them!

Steel Horses

Horses have been a part of war for centuries. Strong and loyal, they bravely served alongside men around the world. Here in Canada, the Lord Strathcona's Horse Regiment was formed in the Prairies in 1900 and its soldiers and horses were sent to fight in the South African War.

During the First World War, however, the role of horses changed a lot. Cavalry charges became almost impossible on the rough battlefields with their trenches, barbed wire and machine guns. To help break through the enemy lines, the Allies invented tanks, a new war machine that could plow through obstacles. The first versions actually looked like water tanks and that is how they got their name!

Unlike us horses, the first tanks were slow, clumsy and made a lot of noise. Although they could run over barbed wire, cross trenches and offer some protection for the soldiers, they were easy targets

for artillery fire. Tanks would be improved, though, and they are still being used a hundred years later.

Horses were needed for transporting things but were not used as much in attacks. Regiments like the Lord Strathcona's Horse had to adapt and use tanks instead. The unit went on to serve in the Second World War, the Korean War, and in military efforts in Egypt, Cyprus, Bosnia and Afghanistan.

Bontfire Jr.



The Lord Strathcona's Horse Regiment still keeps some horses, like Starbuck pictured here, for ceremonies.
Photo: Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

DID YOU KNOW?

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the famous war poem *In Flanders Fields*, written by Canadian army doctor John McCrae in May 1915 during the First World War.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*



A Walk in their Shoes



Gandy

Arf! I'm doing my research on human foot travel during wars. I'm going to take my paws and pretend to step into the boots of an infantry soldier!

Infantry is the branch of an army that fights on foot, in areas where vehicles often can't go. My great grandfather Gander served with The Royal Rifles of Canada from Quebec and the Winnipeg Grenadiers in Hong Kong in 1941. They were the first Canadian infantry units to see combat in the Second World War. Gander bravely fought at their side but sadly he died nobly in battle while saving the lives of several wounded Canadian soldiers.

For soldiers in the infantry, life is hard. They endure an almost endless routine of drills and marching. Soldiers on guard duty in the summer sweat in their uniforms and in winter, a thick coat protects their bodies but the faces, hands and feet are often at risk of being frostbitten. Many soldiers in the First World

War suffered from trench foot. This happened because men had to stand in cold waterlogged trenches wearing wet socks and boots for days. It really was a tough life — lack of sleep, food and living in constant danger. It's amazing what these young men endured. I'm proud my relative Gander walked alongside them.



"Infantry near Nijmegen, Holland"
painting by Alex Colville.
Beaverbrook Collection of War Art
CWM 19710261-2079

Backbone of Transportation

Mingalaba! This is how we say hello in the mother tongue of my ancestor Bandoola. He was an elephant who served in Burma during the Second World War, helping build bridges, and carry soldiers and equipment. Elephants and other four-legged animals sure have helped soldiers a lot!

Horses are well-known for their work in war. Soldiers rode into battle on horseback for hundreds of years. Horses, mules and donkeys also often hauled ammunition and supplies and transported the wounded to dressing stations.

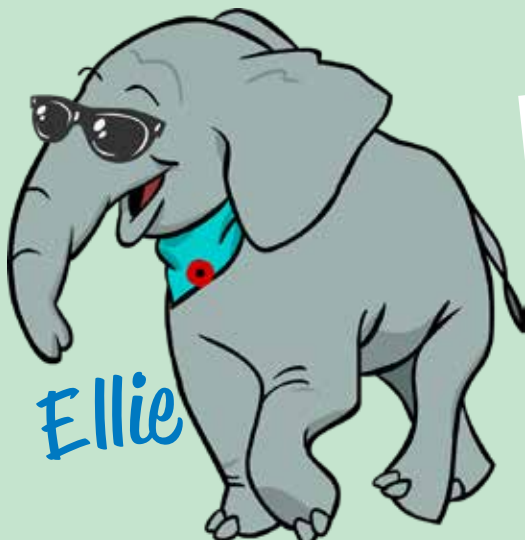
Even dogs stepped forward to help! They pulled sleds with supplies or delivered messages on the battlefield. Specially trained dogs were vital in helping medics on the

front lines as they would transport first aid materials right to where they were needed.

Canadian soldiers have also encountered more exotic beasts of burden, such as camels, when they served in deserts during

peacekeeping missions and more recently in Afghanistan.

There is no doubt that animals had been a backbone of transportation during war. I can't wait to get back to school to talk about my project!



Canadian soldier puckers up for a kiss during a patrol in Afghanistan in 2005.
Photo: Department of National Defence KA2005-R105-0156d

Riding the Waves



Being here in Halifax makes me think about how important boats are during conflicts. I should know – my relative Simon was a cat on a British warship years ago, catching pesky rats and being a furry friend to the sailors serving far from home.

In the First and Second World Wars, convoys of Allied transport ships carried soldiers, equipment and supplies across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe. It was very dangerous. Enemy

submarines tried to sink our boats but the Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force helped protect them. Without this vital life line, the wars could have been lost!

Boats were useful in other ways, too. There were special 'hospital ships' that carried sick and wounded soldiers. Imagine a floating hospital with lots of helpful doctors and nurses! My favourite kind of boats, though, were the ones that brought war brides to

Canada. Our young men went overseas to fight for peace and many of them met a special someone. Love bloomed and marriages took place. These wives – and little sons and daughters! – would sail to our country to begin new lives here.

Our navy has served in many places around the world over the years. During the Korean War of 1950 to 1953, our warships patrolled the waters of the Far East. More recently, they operated in the Indian Ocean during Canada's efforts in Afghanistan between 2001 and 2014.



A war bride and her son aboard a ship coming to Canada in 1946.
Photo: Karen Hermiston, CWAC photographer

Courage in the Air

Pigeons were used during the First and Second World Wars to deliver messages when radio or telephone communication was not possible. With our great sense of direction, just tie a note to our legs and we become 'air mail'!

Being a bird, I like things that can fly. Aircraft have played a big role in our military efforts over the years. The first warplanes were very simple by today's standards but soon fighter pilots swooped across the skies, trying to shoot down other planes. Aircraft dropped bombs on enemy targets or observed soldiers below to find out what they were doing. Transport planes were developed that could quickly deliver soldiers and supplies long distances. Jet-powered warplanes appeared

at the end of the Second World War, with helicopters first seeing action during the Korean War.

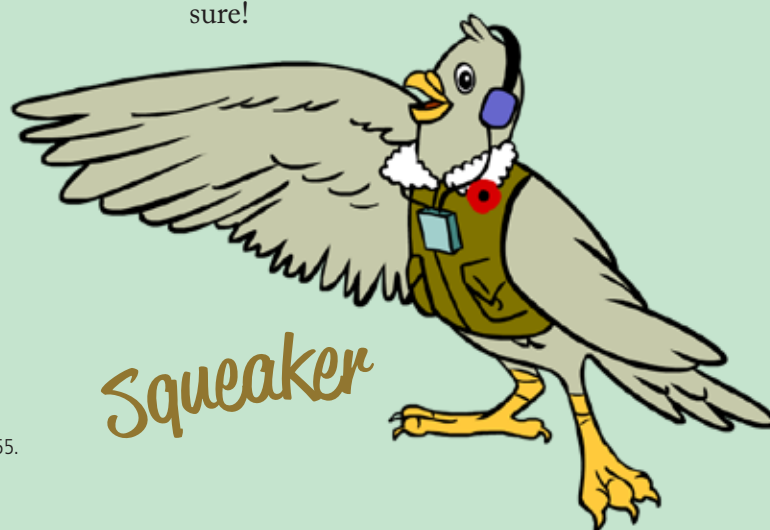
There are other ways for people to fly in war – paratroopers are special soldiers who parachute from the sky. Military nurses also sometimes had to be able to parachute out of aircraft, in case people in remote locations needed emergency medical care.



A Royal Canadian Air Force parachute rescue nurse in 1955.
Photo: Department of National Defence PL-130186

The courage of Canadians in the air continues today. The Royal Canadian Air Force helps protect our country and aid others. The evolution of new kinds of aircraft has not stopped – special remote control drones are now often used to see a battlefield from above without putting a pilot in danger.

I am going to do my project about how aircraft have been used in times of war, for sure!



DID YOU KNOW?

Canadian Armed Forces aircraft often rescue people on ships in trouble or planes that have crashed in the wilderness. Imagine hanging from a cable over a stormy ocean, being lowered from a helicopter to help sailors on a sinking boat. Now that is brave flying!

Newspaper Activities



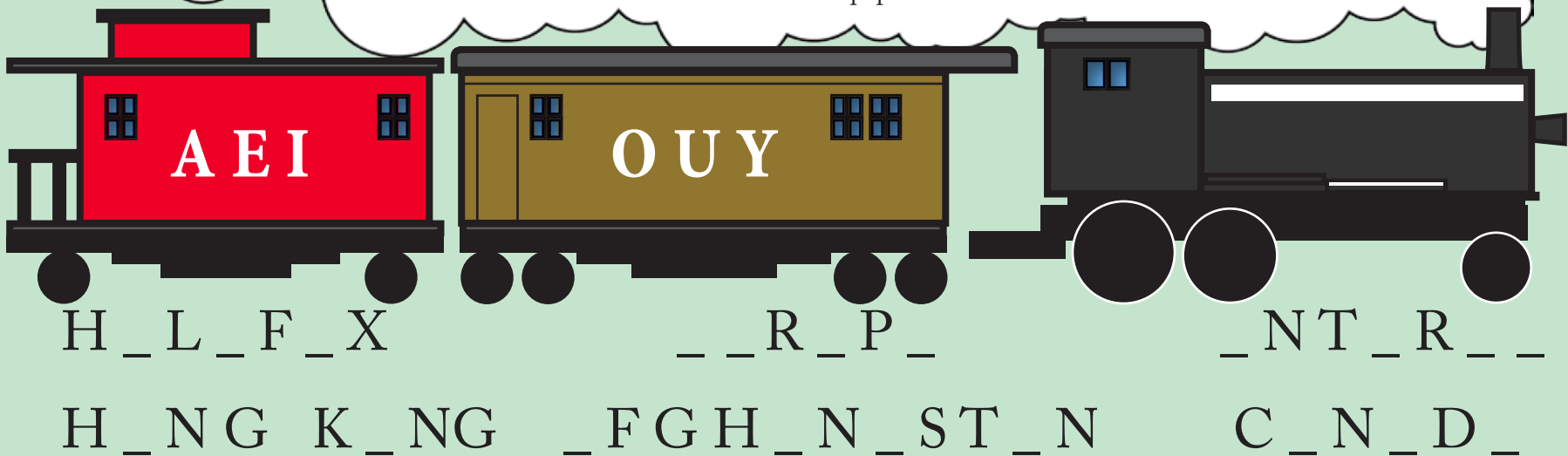
Some letters are missing from the alphabet below. Find and unscramble the missing letters to spell the type of modern military vehicle that can fly without a pilot.

A B C F G H I J K L M P Q S T U V W X Y Z

Missing letters: _____

Vehicle: _____

The rail cars transporting the vowels just arrived at the word station. Insert the missing vowels into the incomplete words listed below (letters may be used more than once). All words are mentioned in the newspaper stories.



CRACK THE CODE



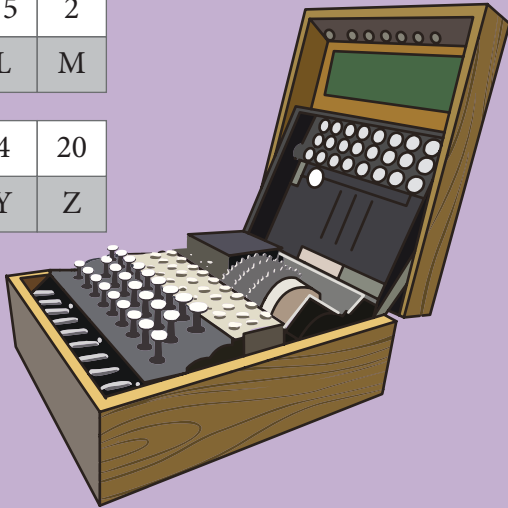
Coded messages are often used in wartime to keep important information from falling into enemy hands. Solve the equations below then match the number to the proper letter to break the code.

Code Key												
8	14	23	1	7	13	21	9	26	12	6	15	2
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

19	22	10	16	5	25	17	3	24	11	18	4	20
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Equations to Solve											
$6 + 2$	$10 + 5$	$21 - 6$		$4 + 4$	$22 - 8$	$19 + 3$	$5 + 3$	$12 - 7$	$8 - 7$		

$21 - 8$	$17 + 5$	$2 + 3$		$9 - 4$	$6 + 1$	$12 - 10$	$14 - 7$	$13 - 11$	$9 + 5$	$14 - 9$	$4 + 4$	$16 + 3$	$26 - 3$	$15 - 8$



DID YOU KNOW?

The new Coast Guard ship *Captain Goddard M.S.M.* is named after Nichola Goddard who sadly died in Afghanistan in 2006 – the first female Canadian Armed Forces combat soldier to die in action.

Find out the hidden name of a regiment that you have read about in the newspaper. Use each letter only once.

Answer _____

W	I	R	E	N	D
N	N	G	G	I	A
I	P	E	E	R	S