



2017 - A Year to Remember!

“Woof! Hey everyone, it’s me Gandy the dog. It’s July 1st and we Remembrance Clubhouse animals are here in Ottawa for the celebrations marking our nation’s *ses·qui·cen·ten·ni·al*. That is a fancy name for the 150th birthday of Canada. It is so nice here and there are so many people. It reminded us of the last time we were on Parliament Hill and saw an amazing outdoor show called *Northern Lights—Lumières du Nord*.”

“It was like an awesome movie with cool historical photos, drawings and bright lights projected right onto the Parliament Buildings. This larger-than-life show took us on an amazing journey through Canada’s history,” neighed Bonfire Jr. the horse.

“I loved it,” Win the bear happily growled. “The sound and light show highlights many stories of our country growing and changing through the years. Watching it made me so proud of Canada. My fur was standing on end!”

“We all decided that our favourite part of the show was the chapter called ‘Valour’ which means bravery,” meowed Simone the cat. “It was about remembering the men and women who have served our country in military conflicts since the First World War, one hundred years ago. I purred during the whole show because my friends and I all have ancestors who served in times of war.”

“I agree! My trunk was proudly trumpeting when it was over,” exclaimed Ellie the elephant. “It was a real tribute to those who have served and died for our country. Canada’s 150th birthday is a time of celebrating the achievements in our history and also remembering the sacrifices. This year marks the 100th anniversaries of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and the Battle of Passchendaele, as well as the 75th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid during the Second World War. We will never forget.”

“Tonight, on this very special Canada Day, fireworks lit up the sky of our nation’s capital. It was spectacular... so many colours and

sparkles. I am lucky that I could fly up to take some pictures,” squawked Squeaker the pigeon. “As I looked down on my friends in the crowd below, my feathers ruffled with mixed emotions. Even though it makes us sad to think of Canadians having to go to war, we are thankful that they helped make the peaceful country we have today. Because of what they did, we are able to enjoy the fireworks and honour their achievements. We are proud of our past and look forward to the future.”

Let’s make 2017 a year to remember.
O Canada!



Getting the job done...



Gandy

Woof! I cannot think of any job harder than being a person serving in the middle of a war. But did you know that lots of brave animals have also played important roles right beside these courageous people over the years? Animals have helped in many ways, especially in years past when motorized vehicles were still not very common. If soldiers needed to carry supplies or pull their heavy artillery guns, horses were key to getting the job done. Some soldiers—part of special units called cavalry—even rode horses on the battlefield. Elephants helped soldiers build roads and carry supplies in the jungles of Southeast Asia. Some other animals, like furry bears and even goats, became mascots for army regiments.

Other smaller creatures also did their part in surprising ways. Messenger pigeons, with their amazing sense of direction, carried important notes from soldiers on the front lines. Dogs also delivered messages, helped find



wounded people, served as watch dogs and simply kept people company. Cats helped keep rats from growing too numerous on warships.

Even today, animals can still be found serving next to Canadian Armed Forces members. Specially trained dogs, for instance, help locate buried mines and other explosives with their super sense of smell. My tail is wagging so much just thinking of how animals have been such great helpers for so long.

A Canadian soldier working with his dog in Afghanistan in 2008.
Photo: Department of National Defence IS2008-9178

Bunny goes to battle

Neigh! My ancestor Bonfire and his good friend Bunny the horse were two of the thousands of Canadian hooved heroes who served with troops in the First World War. We don't know exactly how Bunny got his name, but it could have been because of his long ears!

In 1914, Bunny was part of a group of 18 horses that were sent overseas by the Toronto police force to serve in the conflict.

Soldiers and horses experienced very harsh conditions. Bunny and his battalion saw action in

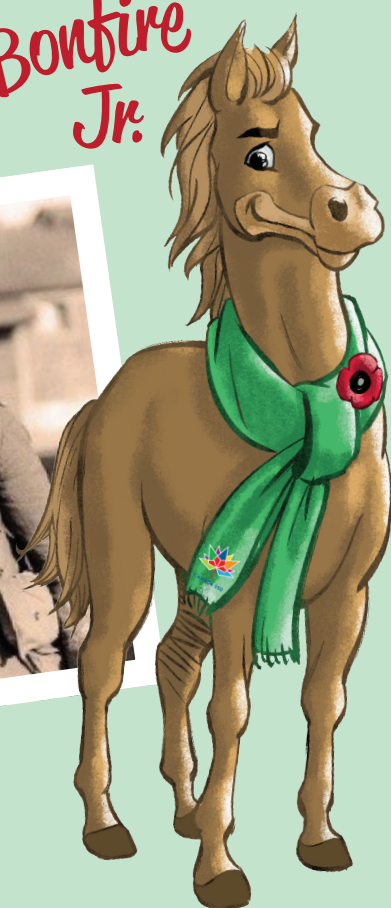
the first gas attack in Belgium. It was awful. Soldiers and horses could barely breathe and many lost their lives. But Bunny survived and went on to later serve in one of Canada's best known battles of the war at Vimy Ridge, France, in April 1917. Bunny must have had a lucky horse shoe because he was the only one of his original group of 18 horses to survive the war.

During this special 100th anniversary year of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, let's remember brave horses like Bunny and Bonfire.



Gas masks were invented to help protect soldiers and horses during the First World War.
Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-005001

Bonfire Jr.



Teddy in the trenches

Win



When I was just a wee cub, my mama bear gave me a blanket. I still have it today! Did you know that things like favourite blankets and old teddy bears can often comfort grown-ups, too?

Even tough soldiers can get lonely during times of war. Ten-year-old Aileen seemed to understand this when her father Lawrence Rogers went off to serve in the First World War. She gave him "Teddy," her favourite stuffed bear, hoping the present would keep her daddy company and bring good luck. Lieutenant Rogers kept Teddy with him for more than two years as a cherished connection to his family back home in Quebec.

Sadly, Aileen's father died during the muddy Battle of Passchendaele in Belgium in 1917, with the



tiny stuffed bear lovingly tucked away in his pocket. Teddy was returned to Aileen and today, a hundred years later, is on display at the Canadian War Museum. I even took his picture when I visited there!

Despite the devastation of the First World War, cherished keepsakes like teddy bears provided comfort and a reminder of home for the brave Canadians serving overseas.

Teddy the tiny bear.
Photo: Canadian War Museum CWM 20040015-001

Air mail at Dieppe



This was a special year of remembrance for my family and me as it marked 75 years since the Dieppe Raid during the Second World War. My ancestor Beachcomber was there on August 19, 1942, when the Canadians landed on the beaches of Dieppe, France. It was a sad day as more than 900 of our men lost their lives.

Back in 1942, soldiers had different ways of sending messages than people do today. There were no cell phones. Walkie-talkies had just been invented but were not widely used yet. Radios were so big that you had to wear them on your back! Therefore, the Canadian Army sometimes relied on pigeons like me to carry important messages. These notes were written on tiny pieces of paper that were put in small containers on pigeons' legs. We are so clever... we know where to go without a fancy GPS!



Beachcomber had a really important message to carry all the way to Britain from the beaches of France. He had to dodge gunfire and fly over the English Channel to deliver news about the Dieppe Raid. It was not easy, but he made it! For his courage, Beachcomber received the PDSA Dickin Medal, the highest award for bravery an animal can receive. What an honour! When I think about it, my feathers fluff with pride.

Messenger pigeons were also used during the First World War, like the one being released by Canadian soldiers in this photo. Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-001378

Helping to heal

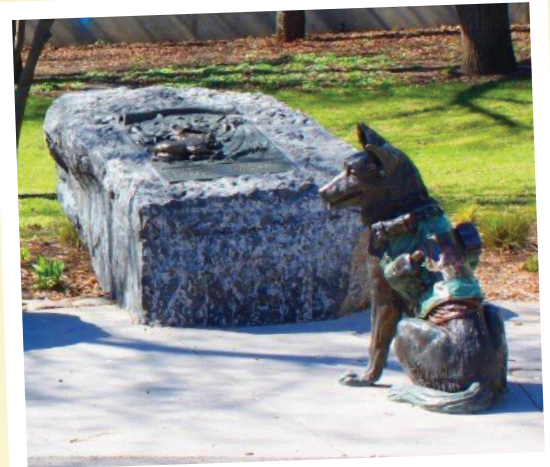
Animals not only helped soldiers fight battles, they sometimes also helped them when they got hurt. During the First World War, medical service dogs carried special packs on their backs and were sent across dangerous battlefields to deliver first aid supplies. Horses often pulled ambulance wagons to transport the wounded men to the doctors and nurses who could treat them.

Did you know, though, that animal pals have given special help even after soldiers return home? People serving in uniform often have to go through very hard situations. They may get hurt physically, but their minds can also be affected by their experiences. Seeing friends around them get hurt can leave even the toughest person feeling sad, scared or angry.

Support to help these people heal comes from many sources: doctors, family, friends or fellow Veterans. Some Veterans feel that animals play an important role in making them feel better. Lots of children, maybe even you, have animals at home that can be of comfort when they are having a bad day. A hug to your pet



can go a long way. We Remembrance Clubhouse members think it is very important to continue to learn and explore ways our Veterans can receive the support they need. Now that is good work worth trumpeting!



The Animals in War Dedication in Ottawa includes a beautiful bronze statue of a medical service dog. Photo: Veterans Affairs Canada

Humans helping animals

My ancestor Simon was one brave cat. He was a mascot on a warship that came under attack and was wounded along with some of the sailors. They helped him get better and in return, he gave them lots of affection. Purrrrrrr! We have heard some great stories of animals helping men and women in war, but Canadians also took care of their animal friends in many ways.

These friendly beasts needed to be fed, bathed and, sadly, sometimes bandaged as well. During the First World War, some Canadians fought on horseback as part of what was known as the cavalry. As you can imagine, horses were sometimes hurt on the battlefield. There was even a special group of soldiers called the Royal Canadian Army Veterinary Corps,

dedicated to treating sick and wounded animals. This important job no doubt reminded the men of the animals they had cared for back home.

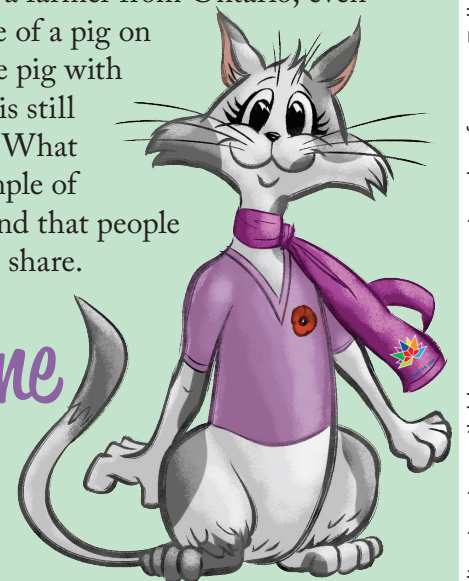
In fact, I recently saw photos of carvings etched by soldiers in the soft chalk walls of tunnels



A Canadian soldier giving his dog a bath during the First World War. Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-002491

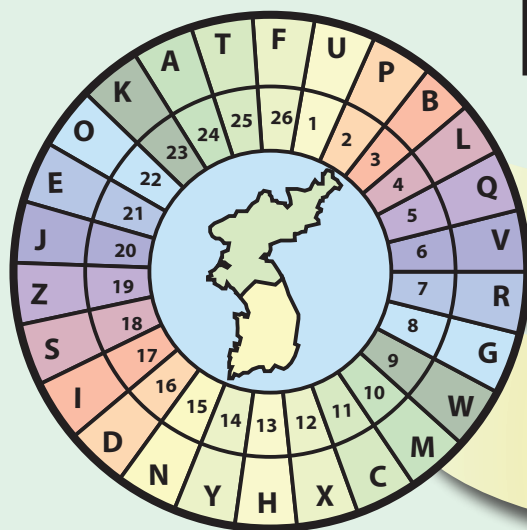
near Vimy Ridge. Some men carved their names and others their regiment's emblem. One soldier, a farmer from Ontario, even left an image of a pig on the wall! The pig with its curly tail is still there today. What a great example of the close bond that people and animals share.

Simone



A group of six cartoon animals are posed together against a yellow background. From left to right: a white cat with a pink bow, a grey elephant with a blue bow, a brown bear with a blue bow, a brown horse with a green bow, a black dog with an orange bow, and a small grey bird with large white wings and a red bow.

The new Visitor Education Centre at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial opened in April 2017. If you ever get a chance to go to France, make sure you check it out! There is a lot to see and do.



During the Korean War, messages sometimes needed to be sent using codes so the enemy could not read them. Use the key below to "crack" the secret code.

Two yellow ribbons are shown. The top ribbon has a sequence of numbers: 7, 21, 10, 21, 10, 3, 21, 7, 17, 15, 8, followed by a gap, then 22, 1, 7. The bottom ribbon has a sequence of numbers: 3, 7, 24, 6, 21, followed by a gap, then 6, 21, 25, 21, 7, 24, 15, 18.

Below is a list of words found in this year's newspaper. Write the word that fits each clue in the blanks given. Then, unscramble the letters in the squares to solve the question at the bottom.

GANDY **PASSCHENDAELE** **PIGEON** **VIMY**

Place in Belgium where Canadians fought in the fall of 1917.

Type of bird that flew with secret messages attached to its leg.

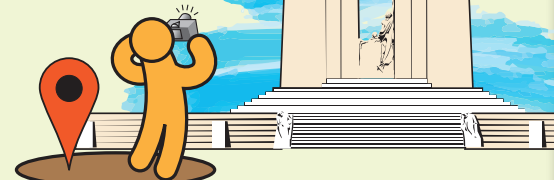
Remembrance Clubhouse member that mentioned the role of dogs in the military.

Famous First World War Canadian battle that took place in France in April 1917.

Question: What is the name of the port city in France where Canadians fought in August 1942?

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If you have not traveled overseas to visit First World War battlefields and memorials, try exploring them from here at home using a computer, tablet or smartphone! Google Canada recently unveiled spectacular views of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial. Using “street view,” you can navigate the monuments, preserved trenches and tunnels, as well as nearby cemeteries. You can even experience aerial views of the twin white pylons of the magnificent Vimy memorial and with Google Expeditions, turn it into a virtual reality tour of remembrance.



How well did you understand the stories in this newspaper? If a statement given here is true, circle the letter under the "True" column. If a statement is false, circle the letter under the "False" column. Using only the letters you circled from the "**True**" column, answer the question below.

Question: *What was the last name of Aileen, the little girl who gave a teddy bear to her father during the First World War?*

True False

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|----|---|---|---|
| 1 | Cats helped soldiers build roads and carry supplies in the jungles of Southeast Asia. | C | E |
| 2 | Today, specially trained dogs help soldiers locate buried mines and other explosives. | R | B |
| 3 | Bunny the horse and his battalion saw action in the first gas attack in England. | A | J |
| 4 | Bunny the horse served in the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917. | O | N |
| 5 | Aileen gave "Fluffy," her favourite blanket, to her father Lawrence before he went off to serve in the First World War. | F | H |
| 6 | Aileen's father, Lawrence, fought during the muddy Battle of Passchendaele in Belgium. | G | I |
| 7 | In 1942, soldiers used cell phones to communicate. | A | O |
| 8 | In 1942, the Canadian Army sometimes relied on pigeons to carry important messages. | E | U |
| 9 | People serving in uniform may get hurt physically, but their minds can also be affected by their experiences. | R | M |
| 10 | Some Veterans feel that animals can play a role in helping them feel better. | S | K |
| 11 | During the First World War, some Canadians fought on horseback as part of what was known as the rodeo. | N | V |
| 12 | No horses were hurt during the First World War. | E | L |