

Tales of Animals in War



Service in war and peace

“Hey everyone! Here I am with my Remembrance Clubhouse friends in Ottawa. We are at a special memorial called Reconciliation—The Peacekeeping Monument,” woofed Gandy the dog excitedly. “We are so proud to be here. Did you know that we are a nation of peacekeepers? Many Canadians have taken part in efforts around the world to try to resolve conflicts. To recognize their service, this memorial was created to honour them.”

“It’s very cool and its design actually tells a story. I love flying over the statues because I have a bird’s-eye view,” squawked Squeaker the pigeon. “The three figures standing on the high wall are peacekeepers. Two of them are looking into the distance watching out for trouble. The other has a radio and is in communication with other soldiers. On the ground, the broken concrete symbolizes the destruction caused by wars. My feathers ruffled just visiting this unique place.”

“Yeah, and the monument’s walls rise and form a point, like an arrow,” Win the bear growled. “That represents looking toward the future, to a time when the fighting is over and there is hope for reconciliation. Peace is so fragile. This monument helps

us reflect on the brave Canadians who have done so much to help protect others around the world. Did you know that 2023 is the 75th anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping?”

“It is pretty amazing that Canadians have been helping keep peace in countries around the world for so long,” neighed Bonfire Jr. the horse. “But this year we are also remembering important anniversaries from the Second World War and the Korean War. Not only did our troops serve in these conflicts but animals did too. For example, my relative was a donkey who carried supplies for our soldiers in the mountains of Italy during the Second World War.”

“I am so proud of Canadian military members across the generations,” purred Simone the cat. “They have fought in wars and have been peacekeepers. But they have also served here in our own country. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they performed important duties from coast to coast to coast. This is only one recent example. For instance, 25 years ago they also assisted in search and recovery efforts after a passenger jet crashed off the coast of Nova Scotia. Canada’s service members are always ready to help when tough situations arise.”

“Yes, and that also includes natural disasters across our country,” Ellie the elephant trumpeted. “You may have heard of Hurricane Fiona that hit Atlantic Canada last fall? The wind knocked down so many trees and power poles! Tens of thousands of people had no electricity and water for many days. The residents needed help to clear the debris and get life back to normal. Canadian Armed Forces members were called to assist during the recovery efforts there. I wish I had also been on the scene to use my powerful trunk to move large branches from the roads!”

“It’s important to remember that many Canadians in uniform served and sacrificed here at home and around the globe,” Gandy barked. “We will always remember them. Canadian Armed Forces members have always given the best of themselves to help others. What can you do to make your school and community a better place?”



The special blue beret



Hey everyone, this year is the 75th anniversary of United Nations (UN) peacekeeping. Why are we honouring our brave peacekeepers? Because what they do is important!

The very first UN peacekeeping mission started in 1948. More than



Three Canadian peacekeepers wearing their blue UN caps during a patrol in Egypt in the 1960s. Photo: DND

125,000 Canadian Armed Forces members have taken part in these efforts over the years. Peacekeepers are soldiers who go to troubled places to calm things down. They are sort of like referees in a hockey game.

Referees wear striped shirts so people can tell them apart from the players. But how can people easily know who is a peacekeeper and who is a regular soldier? The solution to this challenge had a Canadian connection.

The first large-scale UN peacekeeping mission was in Egypt in 1956. But the Canadian peacekeepers' uniforms looked a lot like the uniforms worn by the British soldiers who were part of the fighting. What could be done to help figure out who was who?

The answer was to give the UN peacekeepers special blue headwear so they stood out from the crowd. Decades later, blue berets and helmets are still worn by brave UN troops around the world.



Very big awards



The Nobel Peace Prize is one of the most important awards in the whole world. It is given to people or groups who help keep conflicts from breaking out. It is also for those who rebuild peace in war-torn countries.

Lester B. Pearson was a Canadian politician. He won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to help expand United Nations (UN) peacekeeping. He had suggested a great idea to prevent the 1956 Suez Crisis

in Egypt from erupting into a global conflict. The UN sent in a large force of peacekeepers from other countries to get between the warring sides. His diplomatic efforts worked! Pearson later became Canada's prime minister.

In 1988, the Nobel Peace Prize was also awarded to all UN peacekeeping forces that had served over the years. Tens of thousands of Canadians received this recognition. This special honour led to the creation of the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal. Our military members and Veterans proudly wear this medal to show they have served in these kinds of missions. Thank you, Canadian peacekeepers, for working to help others around the world be safe and free!



Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal Photo: VAC

Did You Know?

Canadian police officers serve as peacekeepers, too! More than 4,000 police officers have taken part in peace operations since 1989. They have been to a lot of places, serving in more than 30 countries around the world. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).



Police peacekeepers during a mission. Photo: RCMP

Standing up for peace far from home

My friends Win and Gandy have been talking about Canada's peacekeepers. But what do you think these brave people actually do during missions far from home?



A Canadian helicopter delivering supplies to a ship off the coast of East Timor in 1999. Photo: DND

That is a big question, because they can be asked to do so much! There's an old saying that peacekeeping is no job for a soldier, but only a soldier can do it. That's because they need to know how to keep a tense situation calm. But peacekeepers also need to defend themselves and others if things get violent.

Let's look at one place where Canadian peacekeepers served. East Timor is a small, tropical country in Southeast Asia. It is thousands of kilometres away from Canada.

More than 650 Canadian Armed Forces members made many contributions in East Timor from 1999 to 2001. They patrolled a large territory and provided security to the local people. Our navy sent HMCS Protecteur to join the international fleet of ships in the region. Canadian military helicopters and planes delivered many supplies, including food and medicine, for

the people of East Timor. These flights also supported the international force in the region.

Our peacekeepers helped in other ways, too. They constructed a camp and repaired a school and hospital. They delivered humanitarian relief supplies and volunteered their free time to help local people. Peacekeepers are great ambassadors for our country.



Serving in wars

My Remembrance Clubhouse animal friends have been talking about what Canadian peacekeepers have done in more recent years. But our troops have been fighting for peace for many decades!



Royal Canadian Regiment soldiers watering their mules in Italy in 1943. Photo: LAC PA-129780

80 years ago, during the Second World War, Canadians saw heavy action in Italy. When they landed on the island of Sicily in the summer of 1943, they knew they would have a long road ahead. Our soldiers had many challenges to overcome. The enemy was very skilled. Heat, dust and the mountainous terrain made the fighting even harder. But our troops battled with courage and determination. More than 93,000 Canadians helped the Allies capture Italy.

In 1950, Canada returned to action during the Korean War. Over 26,000 Canadians served in this bitter conflict. Our soldiers, sailors and aviators faced great danger to try to restore peace to the Korean Peninsula. Often outnumbered, they battled hard in the mud, snow and rain. But they were able to hold their ground! The fighting finally ended 70 years ago, on July 27, 1953.

Horses like me can walk, trot and gallop. But when I think back to what our troops did in Italy and Korea, I have to stop in my tracks. Their courage and sacrifice makes me lift my head high and neigh with pride.



Hard mission at sea

Simone



Ahoy mateys, it's me, Simone the cat. Unlike many felines, I quite like being around water! I love canoeing and kayaking.

Many Canadian Armed Forces members also spend lots of time at sea. One of the things they do is leading search and rescue missions. This takes great skill and courage. Their expertise was put to the test after a major accident 25 years ago off the coast of Nova Scotia. Swissair Flight 111 crashed into the Atlantic Ocean near Peggy's Cove on September 2, 1998.

The military and local residents rushed to the scene in the darkness to help. Sadly, none of the 229 people aboard the passenger jet survived. The initial search and rescue efforts soon became a different kind of mission.

The Canadian Armed Forces played a major role in recovering the wreckage from the crash. It was a real team effort. The Navy provided HMCS Preserver as the command ship. Divers and HMCS Okanagan, a submarine, were brought in to search the

ocean floor. Military airplanes and helicopters searched the water's surface. Soldiers combed the beaches to collect debris from the crash that washed up on shore. They also helped handle all the recovered material.

It was a very stressful mission for many of our service members. I raise my paw to salute what they did.



Aircraft landing gear on the deck of a recovery ship. Photo: DND

When disaster strikes

Hi all! Have you ever noticed that elephants like me have big ears? That makes us good listeners. You certainly know Canadians in uniform are always ready to protect our country and contribute to international peace and security. When a big natural

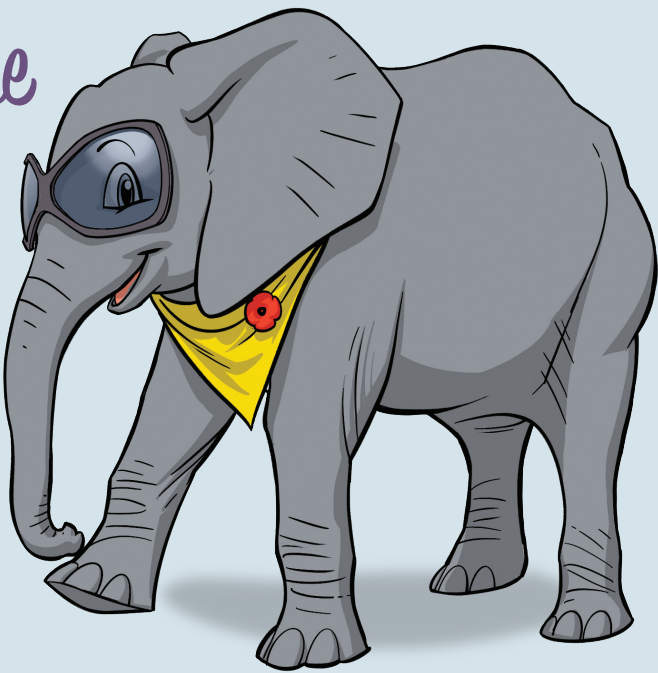


Canadian soldiers navigate through flooded roads in New Brunswick in April 2019. Photo: DND

disaster hits our nation, members of the Canadian Armed Forces also perk up their ears to respond to calls for help.

In recent years, skilled service members have taken part in many assistance efforts across the country. Flooding in Yukon, wildfires in Manitoba, hurricanes in Prince Edward Island and ice storms in Quebec are just some examples. When they get the call, Canadian Armed Forces members quickly deploy to the affected areas. Sometimes, even their own houses or families are impacted. Unselfishly, they always stand on guard for us.

Ellie



Showing respect

Memorials are important. They are ways to remember special people or events. The National War Memorial in Ottawa honours all Canadians who have served and died for our country. When we visit monuments like this one, we show that we care. That also means we must treat memorials with

respect. What our soldiers, sailors and aviators did matters a lot!

Many communities across our country have memorials honouring Canadians in uniform. Visit one in your hometown and take time to remember.



A school group in front of the National War Memorial in Ottawa. Photo: VAC



Newspaper activities

WORD SEARCH

Find all the words from the list. They are placed horizontally and vertically, both forward and backwards.

- BLUE HELMET

BRANCHES

BRAVE

COURAGE

DEBRIS

DETERMINATION

EFFORTS

FIONA

FRAGILE

INTERNATIONAL

INVICTUS
- MISSION

MONUMENT

NOBEL

OTTAWA

PEACEKEEPER

RECONCILIATION

RESPECT

SACRIFICE

SECURITY

STATUES

D	E	B	R	I	S	D	T	N	E	M	U	N	O	M
E	J	C	G	W	M	B	R	A	N	C	H	E	S	G
T	L	W	M	T	E	M	L	E	H	E	U	L	B	D
E	F	F	O	R	T	S	J	C	H	N	O	B	E	L
R	E	S	P	E	C	T	S	E	C	U	R	I	T	Y
M	I	S	S	I	O	N	E	L	I	G	A	R	F	S
I	N	T	E	R	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	A	E
N	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	S	L	B	N	U
A	C	P	E	A	C	E	K	E	E	P	E	R	O	T
T	E	G	A	R	U	O	C	B	C	J	Y	A	I	A
I	N	V	I	C	T	U	S	W	D	G	N	V	F	T
O	T	Z	D	W	A	O	T	T	A	W	A	E	D	S
N	N	O	I	T	A	I	L	I	C	N	O	C	E	R

Remembrance Day

The tradition of Remembrance Day began after the First World War. The fighting in that deadly conflict stopped in 1918 on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. That's why we take two minutes of solemn silence at 11 a.m. every November 11.



Our country played an important role in helping the Allies win the First World War. This victory came at a very high price, though. More than 650,000 Canadians served in the conflict and over 66,000 lost their lives. Compare that to the number of people who live in your city or town. The First World War ended 105 years ago this November. We still remember the brave Canadians who have served and died in the cause of peace over the years.

UNSCRAMBLE

Several locations where Canadians served are mentioned in the newspaper. Can you unscramble the letters to spell them?

O	N	U	Y	K

L	T	Y	I	A

R	A	O	E	K

O	A	N	V		O	C	A	S	I	T

P	G	E	T	Y

S	E	A	T		M	I	R	O	T

Left, right, up, down or diagonal

Spell out the name of the Peacekeeping Monument in Ottawa. Start with the circled letter and connect the rest of the letters without lifting your pencil from the page.

Ⓡ	I	T	A	I
E	O	N	C	L
C	O	N		I

HIDDEN MESSAGE

What important award was given to United Nations peacekeepers in 1988? Black out the shaded letters to reveal the response. Print it in the blank space below.

APNVOBXELWPEQACTEYPLRCIRZYEQ

Did You Know? The Invictus Games

The Invictus Games started in 2014. It is a special competition for wounded or sick Veterans and military members. When these games took place in Toronto in 2017, a very cool mascot rallied up the crowd: Vimy the dog! The Invictus Games will be held in British Columbia in February 2025. Get ready to cheer on Team Canada!



Missing letters

Some letters are missing from this alphabet. Find and unscramble the missing letters to spell the last name of a Canadian who won the Nobel Peace Prize.

BCDFGHIJKLMNOPQTUVWXYZ

Missing letters _ _ _ _ _

Lester B. _____ won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957.