

CANADA REMEMBERS TIMES

Veterans' Week Special Edition — November 5-11, 2024

Canada's mission in Afghanistan

More than 40,000 Canadian Armed Forces members served in Afghanistan between 2001 and 2014. It was the largest deployment of Canadian troops since the Second World War.

The best known part of our country's mission in Afghanistan was also the most dangerous. Canadians deployed to the volatile Kandahar Province in 2005. Taliban forces were very active there. Canadians faced a risk of attack every time they left their military camps to go *outside the wire*. Our troops carried out many combat operations and patrols in Kandahar until 2011.

Many Veterans also proudly remember other kinds of Canadian contributions in Afghanistan. Humanitarian efforts, infrastructure development and nation-building projects were important, too.

This included building roads, a major dam and training the Afghan police and military. They also helped girls access schooling, something the Taliban had not allowed.

Serving in Afghanistan was very dangerous. Sadly, 158 Canadian Armed Forces members died. Many more returned home with injuries. March 2024 marked the 10th anniversary of the end of Canada's mission in Afghanistan. We recognize the brave Canadians who served there. We also remember those who died defending peace and freedom.



A Canadian soldier standing watch during a visit to an Afghanistan village in March 2007.

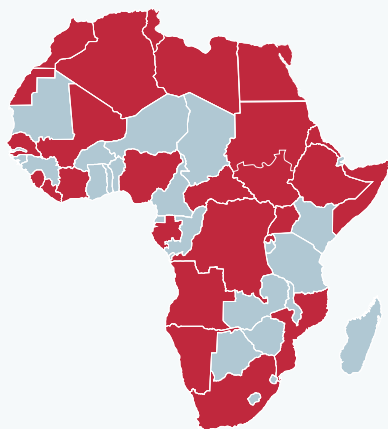
Photo: Department of National Defence IS2007-1018

Canadian service in Africa

In 2024, we are highlighting Canada's military efforts in Africa. Thousands of Canadians have served in many missions on this huge continent over the years.

African countries where Canadians have served

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Algeria | Mozambique |
| Angola | Namibia |
| Central African Republic | Nigeria |
| Congo | Rwanda |
| Egypt | Senegal |
| Eritrea | Sierra Leone |
| Ethiopia | Somalia |
| Ivory Coast | South Africa |
| Liberia | South Sudan |
| Libya | Sudan |
| Mali | Tunisia |
| Morocco | Uganda |
| | Western Sahara |



Our troops sailed overseas to take part in the South African War in the late-1800s. Canadian aviators, soldiers and sailors fought in Allied campaigns around North Africa during the Second World War.

Canadians have also served in Africa as part of many peace operations since 1960. Canadian peacekeepers tried to help societies torn apart by unrest in places like the Congo, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan and Mali. Canadian Armed Forces members

took part in other kinds of missions in Africa too. For example, they participated in NATO operations against Libya in 2011. Anti-piracy efforts in the dangerous waters off the African coast are also ongoing.

An old African proverb says, *the eye never forgets what the heart has seen*. Many of the brave Canadians who have served and sacrificed during challenging missions in Africa could say the same.



A member of Team Canada in the pool during the 2023 Invictus Games in Germany.

Photo: Soldier On

THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE TAKES OFF



RCAF pilots running to their Hurricane fighter planes in the United Kingdom in 1941.

Photo: Department of National Defence PL-4484

Our country has a long and proud tradition of military service in the air. The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) was formed on April 1, 1924, and has made many contributions over the years.

More than 20,000 Canadians served with British air forces during the First World War. They were some of the best fighter pilots on Europe's Western Front. Many Canadian aviators became aces by shooting down five or more enemy planes.

Building on this success, the RCAF was created 100 years ago. It grew slowly at first but expanded greatly during the Second World War. More than 250,000 Canadian aviators served at home and around the world in that conflict.

Their efforts came at a high cost. More than 17,000 of our airmen and airwomen lost their lives.

Canadian pilots also served in the Korean War. They transported troops and supplies to East Asia and flew fighter jets. During the Cold War, our warplanes served with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces at sea and in Western Europe. Canada continues to partner with the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) to protect our continent's skies today.

D-DAY: 80 YEARS LATER

The coast of France is serene and beautiful today. But 80 years ago, the Canadian soldiers who stormed Juno Beach on D-Day saw a very different scene.

By mid-1944, Germany had occupied much of Western Europe for four years during the Second World War. They heavily fortified the continent to defend the conquered territory. Mines, beach obstacles, barbed wire, heavy artillery, machine guns and troops guarded the coast. Breaching these defences was an enormous challenge and took years of careful preparation. On June 6, 1944 (codenamed D-Day), the time for the Allied assault finally came. Canadian, British and American forces landed in the face of heavy enemy fire along an 80-kilometre stretch of shoreline in northwest France. A massive naval fleet and thousands of warplanes supported them.

About 14,000 Canadian soldiers went ashore at Juno Beach that day. Approximately 500 Canadian paratroopers also landed further inland. 359 of our soldiers died. It was only the beginning of the tough Battle of Normandy, but the Allies had finally cracked the walls of *Fortress Europe*.

John Hall of Saskatchewan remembered what happened to his buddy on D-Day.

"We were getting on the ship and I was here and he was away down farther, but I saw him and I waved at him... he waved back and said, 'Goodbye John,' and he's the first guy I saw dead on the beach."



Soldiers of the Régiment de la Chaudière approaching Juno Beach on D-Day.

Photo: Library and Archives Canada

Invictus Games 2025

The Invictus Games were first held in London, England, in 2014. These games are open to Veterans and still-serving military members from around the world. One of the main goals of the games is to motivate service members who suffered injuries to body and mind. Pushing their limits through physical challenges can be an important part of their personal wellness journey. Canada will host the first-ever winter hybrid Invictus Games

in February 2025. The Vancouver-Whistler area is preparing to welcome more than 500 competitors from over 20 countries. The events will be held on the traditional territories of four First Nations (Lilwat, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh). By working hand in hand with all partners, the games will offer the participants a remarkable experience, while embracing the region's Indigenous traditions.

veterans.gc.ca/educators

RWANDA – 30 years later

Canadians have served in many challenging peacekeeping operations. The United Nations (UN) mission to Rwanda from 1993 to 1996 was especially difficult.



Photo: Department of National Defence

A Canadian peacekeeper during the UN mission in Rwanda.

Most people in the central African country of Rwanda are from two ethnic groups: the Hutus and Tutsis. There had been tensions between them for centuries but things got worse in the early 1990s. The risk of a full-scale civil war grew. In response, the UN set up peacekeeping efforts there.

The UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) began in the fall of 1993. Canadian Armed Forces officers played an important leadership role. But even with UN peacekeepers deployed, the situation turned into a nightmare in April 1994. Hutus began to massacre hundreds of thousands of Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

The peacekeepers did what they could during the widespread killing. However, they were too few in number and limited in what they could do because of their orders from the UN. They were able to save some people but, in the end, they could not prevent the worst of the horrific violence. More Canadian Armed Forces members deployed to Rwanda after the genocide. They helped with humanitarian, health care, mine clearing and refugee resettlement efforts before leaving the country in 1996.

Witnessing terrible events can have a deep impact on peacekeepers. This has been one of the harshest results of the Canadian mission in Rwanda. Many of our Veterans who served there developed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This psychological condition can have serious and long-lasting effects.

Honouring an unknown Newfoundland soldier

On July 1 we mark Canada Day from coast to coast to coast. In Newfoundland and Labrador, July 1 is also Memorial Day—a very solemn time to remember.

On July 1, 1916, the Newfoundland Regiment attacked on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme in France. More than 700 Newfoundlanders died, were wounded or went missing in less than an hour of fighting at Beaumont-Hamel. It was the regiment's heaviest losses of the First World War.

Newfoundland was a separate British colony before joining Canada in 1949.



Photo: Veterans Affairs Canada

Repatriation of a Newfoundland First World War fallen. May 2024.

They built their own National War Memorial in St. John's in 1924 to commemorate Newfoundland and Labrador's wartime achievements. The memorial recently underwent major renovations in preparation for its 100th anniversary.

This year's Memorial Day ceremony included the unveiling of a new tomb of an unknown Newfoundland First World War soldier. The remains of an unidentified service member from Newfoundland and Labrador who died in the conflict was carefully moved from a military cemetery in France to St. John's. After solemnly laying in state, he was laid to rest in front of the war memorial. The tomb symbolizes Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who served in all branches of service and have no known grave.

Six decades in Cyprus

Canadian Armed Forces peacekeeping efforts have long been a point of pride for our country. One of Canada's best known peace operations has been in Cyprus for the past 60 years.

The Mediterranean island of Cyprus has large Greek and Turkish populations. These groups have a long history of tension. Open violence broke out soon after Cyprus became an independent country in 1960. In 1964, the United Nations (UN) launched a major peacekeeping mission there and Canadians played an important role.

Our soldiers helped maintain a fragile peace in Cyprus for a decade. Then, in 1974, thousands of troops from neighbouring Turkey invaded the northern portion of the island. Our peacekeepers suddenly found themselves in the middle of a war zone. Cyprus ended up split into two parts separated by a long buffer zone called the *Green Line*.

A large group of Canadian peacekeepers continued to serve on the island until 1993. They spent countless hours patrolling the Green Line to prevent

renewed violence. In fact, every Regular Force Canadian infantry regiment deployed to Cyprus at some point. Our country no longer has a large peacekeeping force there but Canada still supports the UN efforts with a mission called Operation Snowgoose. More than 25,000 Canadian Armed Forces members have served in Cyprus over the years. Sadly, 28 of them lost their lives.



Photo: Department of National Defence

Canadian peacekeepers in an armoured vehicle on patrol in Cyprus.

THE BITTER WAR AT SEA

The Battle of the Atlantic started 85 years ago on the very first day of the Second World War. The deadly struggle at sea lasted from 1939 to 1945 and was the war's longest campaign.

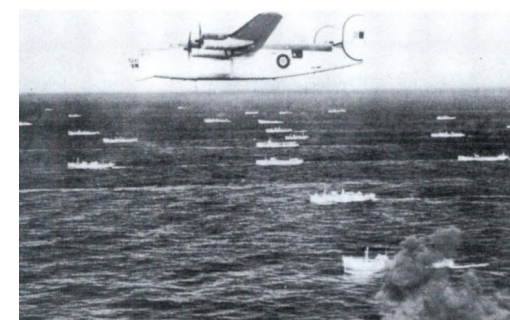


Photo: Library and Archives Canada

An Allied warplane helping guard a transatlantic convoy.

The Allies needed to transport supplies and troops from North America to Europe. These resources were vital in the fight against the enemy. Germany knew this and wanted to cut that lifeline. U-boats (enemy submarines) had great success torpedoing hundreds of Allied transport ships early in the war.

The tide began to turn thanks to the courage of Allied sailors and aviators, and their adoption of new technology and tactics. The Allies gained the upper hand and eventually triumphed in the war at sea. Members of the Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Merchant Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force played leading roles in this battle. Many died as a result. But without victory in the Battle of the Atlantic, the Allies could not have won the war.

TRAGEDY in the sky

August 9, 1974, was a dark day for peacekeeping in our country. Nine Canadian Armed Forces members were flying a routine United Nations flight in the Middle East. Their Buffalo military transport plane was shot down by missiles soon before it was scheduled to land in Syria. This was Canada's largest loss of life in a single day during a peace mission. For this reason, August 9 was declared National Peacekeepers' Day in 2008. This special day is marked with ceremonies and events every year. It is a chance to recognize all Canadian military members, police officers and civilians who have taken part in international peace operations.

Fifty years have now passed since the Buffalo 9 tragedy. As Canadians, we must remember the sacrifices made by our peacekeepers—no matter how long ago they happened.



Photo: Department of National Defence

The Buffalo plane soon before it was shot down.

IN THE LINE OF FIRE

Canadian Armed Forces members have served around the world to help protect peace and freedom. But our men and women in uniform also carry out important duties right here at home.



Photo: Department of National Defence 20230804VCE0021D002

Canadian Armed Forces members fighting fires in British Columbia in 2023.

Canada is a huge country with a challenging environment. Hurricanes, floods, blizzards, forest fires and ice storms have affected hundreds of thousands of people. They also stress our country's infrastructure and economy. Sometimes, the threats are so overwhelming that local authorities need a hand. This is why the Canadian Armed Forces created Operation Lentus more than a decade ago.

Municipalities, provinces and territories can ask our military for support when natural disasters strike. For example, large forest fires have threatened many communities across Canada in recent years. The summer of 2023 was very intense for wildfires. Thousands of Canadian Armed Forces members were sent to hot spots in Alberta, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. With water hoses, shovels and axes they joined forces with local firefighters to beat back the flames.

Determined to serve

More than 17,000 Jewish Canadians joined the army, navy, air force and merchant navy during the Second World War. Nearly 450 of them lost their lives. Here is one sailor's story.



Courtesy of harry-hurwitz.project44.ca

Harry Hurwitz in uniform during the Second World War (colourized).

Harry Hurwitz was born in Lachine, Québec, in 1921. He was one of 13 children in a large Jewish family. Harry was 18 in the spring of 1940 when he volunteered for service in the Second World War. The great discrimination faced by Jewish people in Europe was a strong motivation to enlist. In fact, eight Hurwitz siblings served in the conflict.

Harry served with the Royal Canadian Navy and departed for the United Kingdom in 1943. As a gunner aboard HMCS Athabaskan, Harry and his fellow crew members helped defend merchant ships on the frigid waters of the Atlantic Ocean. They also escorted Allied convoys delivering supplies to northern Russia and were later sent to patrol the English Channel. It was dangerous work and on April 29, 1944, HMCS Athabaskan was sunk off the coast of France. Sadly, 128 sailors died.

Harry and 82 of his surviving crewmates were captured by the Germans and became prisoners of war. He had to lie about his name and hide his Jewish roots for fear of being killed. After a year in captivity, Harry's prison camp was liberated by the British Army. He returned to Canada and died peacefully in 2020.

Strength and unity

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an important political and military alliance. It was created in April 1949 at the start of the Cold War.

Canada was one of NATO's 12 founding nations. The group's central goals are to protect the freedom of its members and to defend the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

Canada's army, navy and air force have all played key roles in our country's contributions to this alliance over the past 75 years. NATO continues to grow and be a major force for stability in today's complicated world. NATO members work together for peaceful resolutions when international conflicts arise. Use of force is always the last resort. However, freedom is not free. Canadians understand the great commitment it

takes from our men and women in uniform to stand up for peace and freedom. Let's never forget those who put their lives on the line for Canada and the world.



Photo: Department of National Defence

A Canadian Armed Forces member helping a Polish paratrooper during an exercise in 2018.

RIDING THE WAVES TO THE TOP



Photo: Department of National Defence

Commodore Geneviève Bernatchez in 2017.

Geneviève Bernatchez grew up in Gaspé, Québec, on the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. As a child, she dreamed of becoming a ballet dancer, but an injury forced her to rethink her career path. The discipline and

commitment she developed in dancing probably helped when she joined the naval reserves in 1987.

Geneviève first worked in the reserves as a way to help pay for her law studies. But her love for being in the Canadian Armed Forces grew. She eventually joined the Regular Forces in 1997 as a lawyer with the Judge Advocate General office. Geneviève made a successful career of offering expert guidance on many high level military legal matters.

Geneviève served as the Judge Advocate General from 2017 to 2023. She was the first woman to become the top lawyer in the Canadian Armed Forces. With hard work and dedication, she has never shied away from navigating uncharted waters.

Did you know?

The Battle of the Scheldt raged in Belgium and the Netherlands in the fall of 1944. The bitter fighting across flat, flooded terrain made it one of the hardest battles of the entire Second World War. Canadian soldiers

never gave up and the shores of the Scheldt River were liberated. It was an important step in helping the Allies win the war in Europe. Sadly, more than 6,000 of our troops were killed or wounded.

Going to war in 1914

Britain declared war on Germany on August 4, 1914. At the time, Canada and Newfoundland were separate dominions of Great Britain. That meant both were also automatically at war. Our service members made many important contributions in the First World War. Some battles are still a source of pride more than a century later, such as the:

- 2nd Battle of Ypres (April-May 1915)
- Battles of the Somme and Beaumont-Hamel (July-November 1916)
- Battle of Vimy Ridge (April 1917)
- Battle of Passchendaele (October-November 1917)
- Battle of Amiens (August 1918)
- Canada's Hundred Days (August-November 1918)

More than 650,000 men and women from Canada and Newfoundland served during the First World War. Over 66,000 died and about 172,000 were wounded. A peace agreement called an armistice finally ended the fighting on November 11, 1918. That is why Remembrance Day takes place each year on November 11.



Photo: Library and Archives Canada

Canadian soldiers transporting artillery shells before the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Reading between the lines



Photo: Public domain

First World War recruitment poster

Take a look at this First World War recruitment poster created by British artist Arthur Wardle.

- What is the message of this poster?
- What does the word *Empire* refer to?
- What other word could replace *men*?
- Who are the young lions?
- Who is the old lion?
- Who are the foes?

Do you think this poster was effective for getting people to join the military during the First World War?

The Italian Campaign

More than 93,000 Canadian soldiers served in Italy during the Second World War. They overcame great hardships to help push back enemy forces there over a 20-month period.

Canadian and other Allied troops invaded Sicily the morning of July 10, 1943. Codenamed Operation Husky, the assault resulted in the sun-baked Mediterranean island being captured after weeks of hard fighting. This was only the beginning of the Italian Campaign.

The Allies' next task was attacking mainland Italy. Our soldiers came ashore there on September 3, 1943. Italy was a challenging place to fight. Much of the country is mountainous with many deep valleys cut by rivers. The climate could be harsh, with scorching summers and surprisingly cold winters. The German defenders were skilled and used the

terrain to their advantage. Attacking Allied forces often faced heavy fire from the hills above as they fought their way northward.

The fighting was bitter. Battles at places like Ortona, the Liri Valley and the Savio River were never forgotten by the Canadian Veterans who were there.

Canadians fought bravely in Italy, but their success came at a high cost. They suffered approximately 26,000 casualties, including almost 6,000 dead. The Italian people still remember today. *Come li ricorderai?* (How will you remember them?)



Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-136198

Canadian soldiers preparing to take out an enemy sniper's position in Italy in October 1943.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

1950-1953

Veteran pride in Korea

The Korean War raged in East Asia from 1950 to 1953. More than 26,000 Canadians served on land, at sea and in the air during this bitter conflict.



Noel Knockwood served in uniform for six years.

Noel Knockwood was a member of Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq community. He attended the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School as a child. In 1951, he joined the Royal Canadian Artillery and shipped out for Korea at the young age of 18. Noel spent more than a year overseas and saw heavy action on the front lines. He fondly remembered the comradery that grew between the Canadian artillery and infantry soldiers.

"When we used to meet up with the infantry boys and go back on leave... [they accepted] us as real brothers and they often told us that, 'If it weren't for the artillery, we wouldn't be here today. Thank you!'... That made us feel very proud."



Use this QR code to hear more personal reflections from Canadian Korean War Veterans!

1960-1964

Standing up for peace in the Congo

One of the first large-scale United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions was to the Congo. Hundreds of Canadians served in the troubled African country in the early 1960s.



Ron Knapton served in uniform for 38 years.

Serving in the Congo was very challenging for our peacekeepers. The country had suffered greatly during its 75-year colonial period. It finally gained its independence from Belgium in 1960, but the society was torn apart. Political in-fighting, inter-tribal tensions, famine, an army mutiny and international interference led to widespread violence.

Canada's peacekeepers performed important communications and logistical duties in the Congo. Ron Knapton of Ontario was there and remembered the stress of being in a place so different from home.

"You hear rustling in the grass, you don't know what it is. And... the hair on the back of your neck starts to stand up because you're not sure what's in there..."

In the end, UN peacekeepers were unable to stop the greater forces of upheaval rocking the Congo. They left in 1964. Sadly, two Canadian soldiers lost their lives there. The political situation in the country has remained volatile. A small Canadian Armed Forces contingent has also served in the Congo in more recent years.

There is a long connection between sports and the Canadian military. What do you think this object was used for?

1990-1991

A Canadian woman in the Gulf War

The Gulf War began when Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990. An alliance of countries quickly decided to intervene. Canada was part of that international coalition.



Bettina Fuchs served in uniform for 25 years.

The Canadian Armed Forces called its efforts to support international action against Iraq Operation Friction. In the months that followed, they sent more than 4,000 sailors, aviators and soldiers to the Middle East. Bettina Fuchs, a military driver, was one of them. There was a catch, though. In Saudi Arabia, the local authorities did not allow women to drive.

"We ended up not being able to do our jobs for the first week we were there, until the governments talked and decided that we weren't women—we were soldiers."

Bettina's team was soon busy carrying out important duties like delivering water and supplies.

The Gulf War was short but intense. The fighting came to an end on February 28, 1991. It was one of the first times that an armed conflict was covered live 24/7 by the international media. The world witnessed almost in real-time the air strikes, ground campaign and burning oil rigs. Many Canadians like Bettina stepped up to help a country in need and Kuwait was liberated.

Hint: These were seen at the 2017 Invictus Games that were held in Toronto!

Answer: A stick for playing sledge hockey

HIGH ACHIEVER



Ken Rock (left) and T.S. Wong studying for a Flying School exam in 1943.

Kenneth "Ken" Rock was born in Windsor, Ontario. He excelled at sports as a young man and even won his province's high school 120-yard hurdle championship. In January 1943, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force at the height of the Second World War.

Ken trained as a pilot. He finished near the top of his class when he earned his wings in June 1944. He became one of several Black Canadian air force officers to serve during the war. Pilot Officer Rock served at air bases in Canada where he helped train other airmen. Being an instructor was a testament to his character and skill in the cockpit.

Ken also continued his athletic pursuits while in uniform by competing in track and field events and football. When he left the military, he studied at the University of Toronto and became a doctor. Dr. Rock set up a medical practice in his hometown and was an important member of the community in the decades that followed.

Military Medal awarded for acts of wartime bravery.

A decorated Indigenous warrior

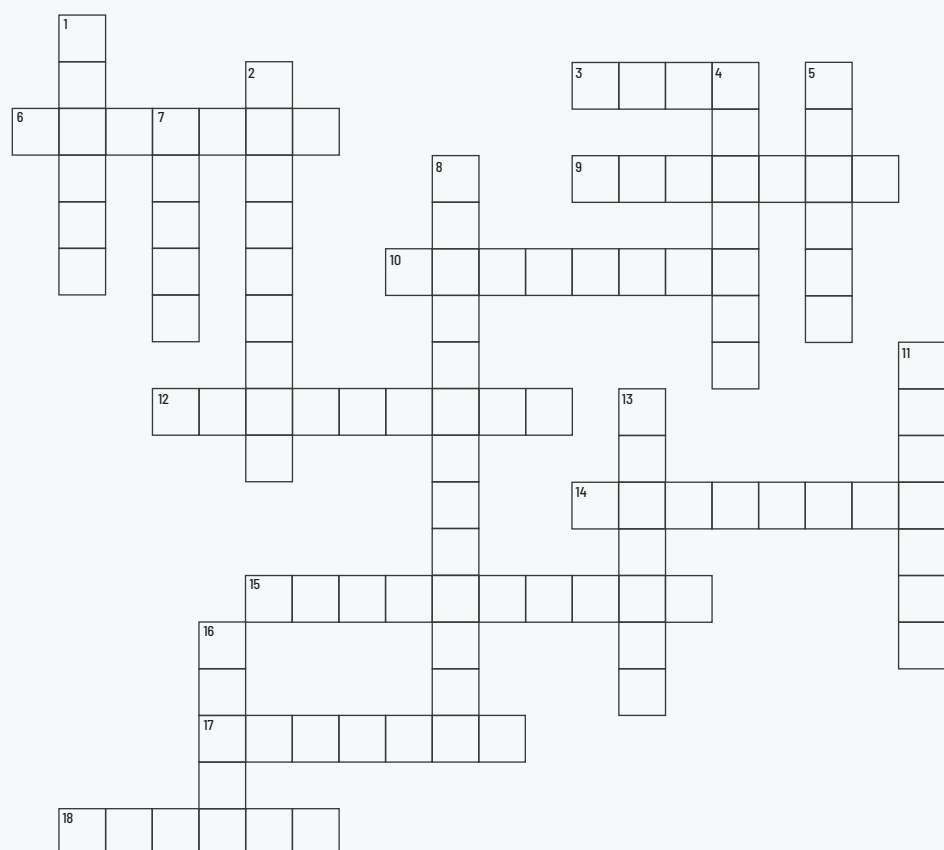


Joseph Roussin was born in 1887 in Oka, Quebec, west of Montreal. The Mohawk man was a lumberjack before joining the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1915 at the age of 28.

Joseph sailed overseas in April 1916. He saw heavy action on the Western Front with the French-Canadian 22nd Battalion. Private Roussin never shied away from combat. In August 1917, he earned the Military Medal for his bravery during the Battle of Hill 70. During the attack, he single-handedly neutralized eight enemy soldiers. Joseph was one of the most frequently injured soldiers in his unit (he was wounded five times), but he kept returning to the fighting. He survived the war in spite of his hard experiences in uniform.

What's this?!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Did you read the newspaper stories carefully? All the answers to the crossword clues are found in the newspaper.

Across

- 3 Codename of the beach in France where Canadians landed on D-Day.
- 6 Birthplace of Canadian Second World War sailor Harry Hurwitz.
- 9 First name of a military driver who served in the Gulf War.
- 10 Afghanistan province where Canadians served 2005-2011.
- 12 Codename of Canadian peacekeeping mission in Cyprus.
- 14 Special games for sick and injured service members being held in BC.
- 15 Last name of the first woman to become Judge Advocate General.
- 17 Type of Canadian military plane shot down on August 9, 1974.
- 18 German submarines that sank many Allied ships during the war.

Down

- 1 African country where Canadian peacekeepers deployed in 1993.
- 2 Last name of Mi'kmaq soldier who served in the Korean War.
- 4 Home province of Canadian peacekeeper Ron Knapton.
- 5 Codename of military response to natural disasters in Canada.
- 7 Codename of Allied invasion of Sicily on July 10, 1943.
- 8 Place where the Newfoundland Regiment fought on July 1, 1916.
- 11 Last name of Indigenous soldier who was wounded five times.
- 13 First name of a Second World War RCAF pilot who became a doctor.
- 16 African country where NATO operations took place in 2011.