



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
TEACHING GUIDE

Legion 

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OTHER RESOURCES

D-DAY POSTER

100TH ANNIVERSARY NAVY POSTER

CANADA AND THE VICTORIA CROSS POSTER (PART 1)

CANADA AND THE VICTORIA CROSS POSTER (PART 2)

INTRODUCTION

This Guide to Remembrance has been created by The Royal Canadian Legion to assist primary and secondary school teachers to foster the Tradition of Remembrance amongst Canada's youth.

It is not the intention that Remembrance be a daily practice, but there is a need to ensure that today's youth have a fundamental understanding of what their great-grandparents, grandparents and in some cases their fathers and mothers were called upon to do to defend the freedom and democracy that we enjoy today. Also, it has often been said that those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

The guide addresses the following subjects: brief notes on Canadian military history and The Royal Canadian Legion; important Canadian symbols; Remembrance themes in stories, songs and poems; information about the annual Poppy campaign and how the money donated is used; information concerning our National Literary and Poster contests; and last, but not least, suggested school Remembrance activities.

It is believed that most children, by the time they begin formal schooling, will have had some exposure to Remembrance Day through television, radio, movies, reading and through family observance of the day. The Canadian education system has a responsibility to enrich these early experiences so that each student may develop a real understanding and appreciation for Remembrance Day. Children new to Canada must also have an understanding of the sacrifices that many Canadians made to preserve and protect the way of life that they now embrace. In short, we must ensure that Remembrance Day is afforded the respect and dignity it rightly deserves and maintains its place among the great traditions of our country.

In addition to the information available in the guide, your local branch of The Royal Canadian Legion can be of much assistance. There are members at the branch who would be more than willing to share their time and experiences.

The Legion's Web Site is www.Legion.ca which provides Remembrance material, amplifies Legion activities, contains a Branch Locator and links to other sites presenting both Remembrance and general information.

It is our hope that you find the information both useful and meaningful. As you prepare for the Remembrance period please do not forget the assistance that is available at your local Legion branch.

Lest We Forget

Look for these icons throughout this guide for additional media and online resources.



READING RESOURCES



VIDEO



AUDIO

DEFINED BY MILITARY HISTORY



Canada remains one of the best countries in the world in which to live. From its politics to its economy to its geography, this country has a tremendous amount to offer its citizens who are blessed with freedom, opportunity and a comparatively high standard of living. But much of what Canadians enjoy today is also owed to history, in particular the men and women who persevered through good and bad towards a future defined by creativity and commitment. This trait is especially evident in our military history which on the whole needs to be better understood to be appreciated. "The truth is that we are a country made by war and composed in some important measure of warriors," notes the preface in the *Oxford Companion to Canadian Military History*. Indeed, from the time of the First Nation empires through the Plains of Abraham, the War of 1812, South African War, the world wars, Korean War and the war in Afghanistan, the long and braided storyline of our military history runs through costly lessons learned as well as moments of unparalleled pride. Students do need to learn about this past, and many teachers—from the primary grades through Grades 6, 7 and 8, and high school—have discovered innovative ways to pass on the knowledge and truly engage their students. Canada's military history is far-reaching, and events that occurred a hundred or even 200 years ago still reverberate today. What follows is a thumbnail sketch of an amazing timeline.

ARMED FORCES BEFORE 1914

W

Well before Canada became a country, there was a military presence here.

The colonization of North America by Europeans and the protection of it depended greatly on regular military forces or militia forces raised from the civilian population. In 1759, many militia battalions were involved in the struggle between European powers for supremacy in the colonies that would one day become Canada. The brunt of the fighting during the War of 1812 was borne on the British North American side by a permanent force composed of British and colonial volunteer units aided by First Nation allies. The militia was also on active service in 1837 in the short-lived rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada and again in 1866, 1867, during the Fenian Raids, and in 1870 during the Riel Rebellion in Manitoba.

The need for troops during the Fenian Raids caused Canada's military forces to be reactivated and reorganized under the Militia Act of 1868. Eight years later government funds were earmarked for the construction of The Royal Military College of Canada at Kingston, Ontario.

The Northwest Rebellion of 1885 in Saskatchewan saw the service of some 5,000 members of the militia, permanent force and Northwest Mounted Police. That same year, a quasi-military Canadian force was participating in a perilous expedition on the Nile River from Egypt into the Sudan, with the aim of relieving a British garrison besieged at Khartoum by a powerful Muslim leader opposed to Britain's presence in the region. Lieutenant-General Sir Garnet Wolseley's Nile Expedition included nearly 90



^
The coatee worn by Major-General Sir Isaac Brock when he was fatally shot.



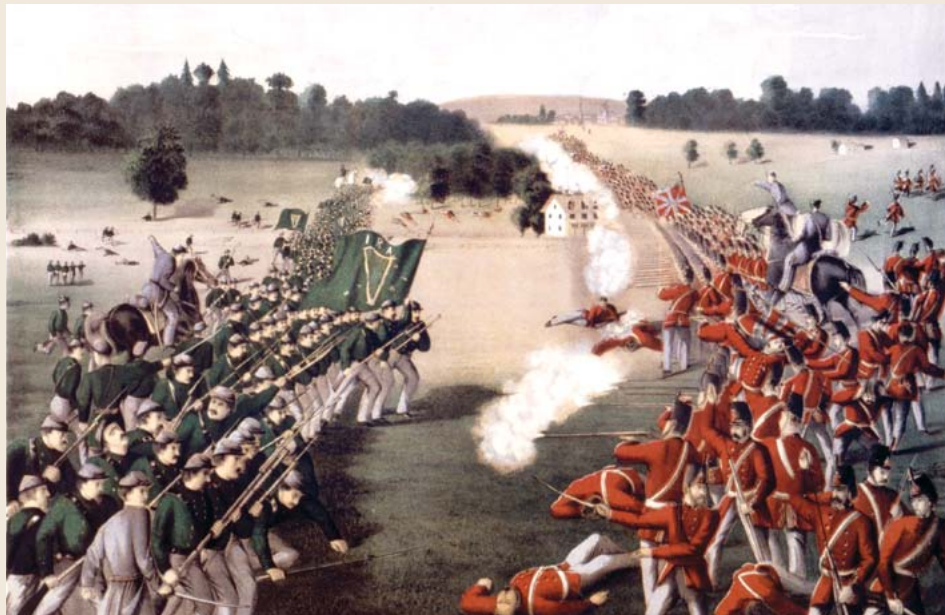
< J.D. Kelly's painting *The Battle of Queenston Heights* depicts the death of Major-General Sir Isaac Brock.



Canadian boatmen or voyageurs who helped manoeuvre around and over the river's dangerous rapids.

Canada also provided 7,368 men and 12 nursing sisters for service in the South African War, also known as the Boer War, 1899-1902. The nurses were the first women to be posted overseas. Overall, the war claimed 222 Canadian lives, including 87 killed in action and 135 from disease. Another 250 were wounded.

On May 4, 1910, the Naval Service Act came into effect, establishing the Department of Naval Service and opening the way for a small Canadian navy to serve with the Royal Navy in time of war. The act was not popular among Quebec nationalists opposed to providing military assistance to Britain, nor did it sit well with imperialists who felt it was not strong enough. The act's unpopularity helped defeat the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but not before the former British cruiser *Rainbow* was commissioned on August 4, 1910, as the first ship of the Canadian Navy. She was soon joined by the commissioning of a second cruiser, His Majesty's Canadian Ship *Niobe*.



Clockwise from top left: Lieutenant General Sir Garnet Wolseley; the Fenians under Colonel John O'Neil charge in this painting depicting the Battle of Ridgeway in 1866; troops of the Royal Canadian Regiment cross Paardeberg Drift during the South African War; HMCS Niobe.



READING RESOURCES

(CLICK TO GO TO LINK)

- WAR OF 1812
- BOER WAR
- THE NAVAL SERVICE ACT

ARMED FORCES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND WORLD WARS

Interest in Canadian military history is strong, reinforced by generations of Canadians who believe it is important to properly understand Canada's military contribution at home and abroad. Canadian interest has also been piqued by major, government-led commemorations and anniversaries primarily focused on remembering wartime events. The Battles of the Somme and Vimy Ridge, the Dieppe Raid, the Italian and Normandy campaigns and the Battle of the Atlantic are but some. It is very significant that much of the renewed interest is driven by individual Canadians who have a personal

connection to wartime through a relative or family acquaintance who served.

Army

In the last hundred years, Canadian men and women have filled combat roles in two world wars, the Korean War, the Cold War and in Afghanistan. The country as a whole has come a long way since 1914 when the population was seven and a half million. Canada's militia at the outbreak of the First World War numbered some 57,000. Within three weeks of that, 45,000 citizens had volunteered for military service. On October 3, 1914, the first 30,000 Canadian troops embarked for England, comprising the largest armada (more than thirty ships) ever to set sail from Canada. The "Great War", as it came to be known, lasted until the end of 1918, and after four years of bloody conflict Canada emerged as a significant player on the world stage. The Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917 is enshrined in the Canadian conscience as a "nation-building event" or where "Canada came of age," but Vimy would not have been Vimy without the lessons learned during the lead up to it, and the victories that followed.

With the signing of the Armistice at Compiègne, France, on November 11, 1918, there was initial hope that the

A sergeant leads his mud-spattered men out of the line on the Somme, October 1916.





1914-1918 war would be the “war to end all wars.” Indeed, few would have wanted to predict then that a child born in 1918 would be marching off to war in just over twenty years time.

The Second World War saw some 237,000 Canadian men and women serve in Northwest Europe, and 92,757 in Italy. And at the time the Japanese commenced hostilities in the South Pacific there were 1,975 Canadian servicemen on garrison duty in Hong Kong. Nearly 560 of those Canadians were killed or died in prisoner of war camps after the Japanese invaded what was then a British colony. At Dieppe, France, Canadians suffered a terrible defeat on August 19, 1942. Two years later, on June 6, Canadians stormed ashore at Juno Beach on the Normandy coast, joining other Allied forces to crack Hitler’s Fortress Europe. More than 100,000 Canadians were directly involved in preparations for D-Day and the long and costly Normandy Campaign. By then, a million Canadians were on active service in the navy, army and air force.

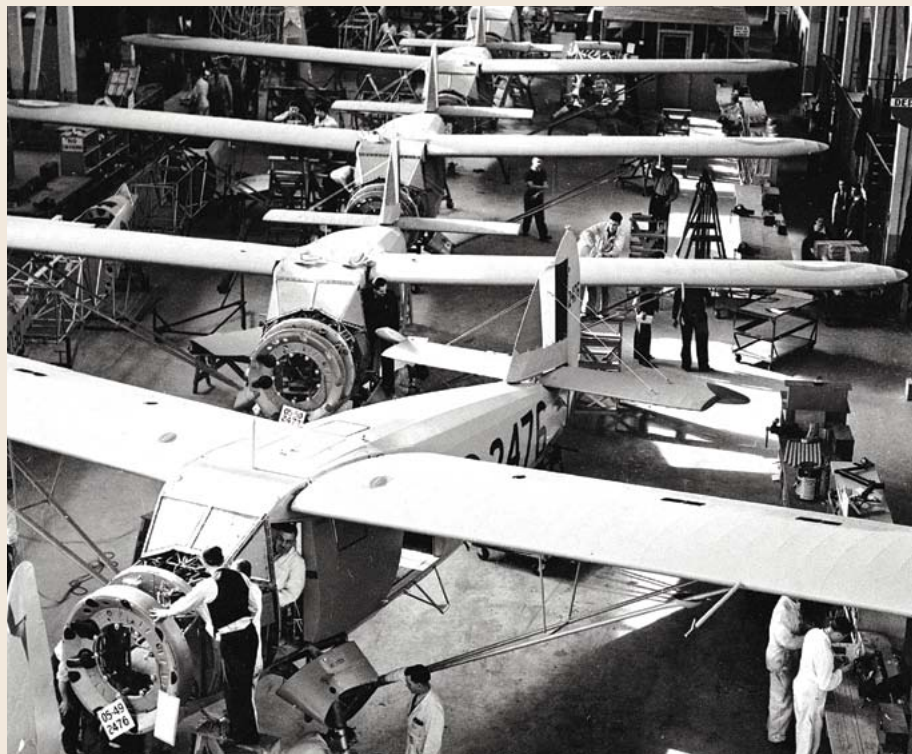
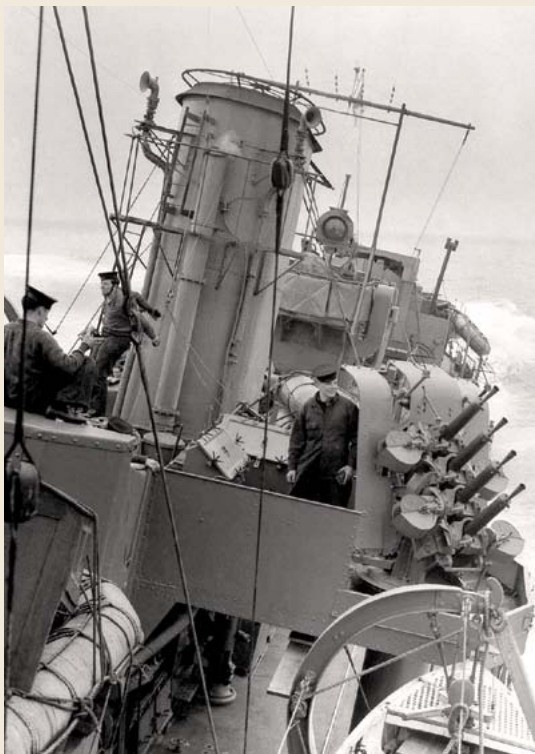


Navy and Merchant Navy

The longest, continuous battle of the Second World War was the Battle of the Atlantic, lasting from September 1939 to the end of the war in Europe on May 8, 1945. During that time, transatlantic convoys, comprised of merchant ships and their escorts, delivered the sustenance, weapons and fighting men needed to defeat the Nazis. The learning curve to achieve that goal across the Atlantic was sharp, costly and extremely frustrating—up against an enemy U-boat and surface fleet that would not quit. With few ships and men, the Royal Canadian Navy grew and by war’s end was the third largest navy on the Allied side. By then, the RCN had some 100,000 men and women, and manned some 400 fighting ships. The cost was high: the RCN lost 24 ships and roughly 2,000 men.



Clockwise from top left: Assisting the wounded at Vimy Ridge, April 1917; Passchendaele; tanks were introduced for the first time in late 1916 on the Somme; soldiers pick their way through the ruins at Cambrai, 1918.



Clockwise from top left:
 The view from the bridge
 of HMCS Assiniboine;
 Noorduyn Norseman
 aircraft are produced for
 the RCAF, Montreal, March
 1941; wartime recruiting
 poster; the gun deck of
 HMCS Prince David during
 a storm off Bermuda,
 January 1941.

The true and often unsung heroes
 of the Battle of the Atlantic were the
 Allied merchant seamen who endured
 one dangerous passage after another.
 At the outbreak of war, there were
 only 37 Canadian vessels registered for
 foreign voyages. Nearly half were lost
 to enemy attacks. Starting in 1941,
 merchant seaman manning pools were
 opened in Halifax, Saint John, Montreal
 and Vancouver. These pools admitted
 medically fit and trained seamen, offering
 a basic rate of pay for their rank—with
 full board and lodging, providing
 they agreed to accept assignment to
 Canadian ships with foreign destinations.
 Eventually, Canada had the largest
 merchant fleet in the history of the
 Dominion with approximately 180
 ocean-going vessels and some 14,000
 skilled seamen. More than 70 of the
 merchant ships that flew the Red
 Ensign were sunk, and more than 2,000
 merchant seamen died while helping
 to transport cargo across the North
 Atlantic, infamous for its fierce storms
 and frigid waters which concealed lurking
 U-boats and enemy surface raiders.



Air Force

Canada's air force also began the war with insufficient manpower and outdated equipment, but by 1945 had expanded to the fourth largest air force of the Allied powers. From its key involvement in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan to its protection of shipping to its participation in every major overseas air operation, the Royal Canadian Air Force filled a crucial role. More than 232,500 men and 17,000 women served in the RCAF at home and abroad, and more than 17,000 were killed. Operations included everything from hunting U-boats in the North Atlantic to dogfights over the English Channel to bombing Germany to ferrying aircraft and other vital supplies.

While these remarkable achievements of the army, navy, air force and merchant navy tell a story of great commitment and success, it is important to remember that any proper examination of Canada's military history must also include study of the controversies and failures.

Thankfully, teachers and students have access to an enormous volume of excellent material for sourcing the Canadian military history experience—from primary sources, including tens of thousands of personnel files to secondary sources, including magazine and newspaper articles. Canada is also fortunate to have many top-notch military historians who have exercised “critical inquiry” to focus on everything from the big battles to the lesser known events.



Clockwise from top left: Canadian troops land at Arromanches, France, July 1944; Toronto is ankle-deep in paper following VE-Day; aircrew walk toward a Halifax aircraft in No. 6 Bomber Group, Yorkshire, October 1944.



VIDEO

(CLICK TO PLAY)

- D-DAY FOOTAGE



READING RESOURCES

(CLICK TO GO TO LINK)

- AIR FORCE
- ARMY
- NAVY
- BATTLE OF THE SOMME
- VIMY
- DIEPPE
- BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC
- CANADA'S MERCHANT NAVY
- NORMANDY
- ITALIAN CAMPAIGN
- THE RIDDLE OF THE D-DAY FOOTAGE



ARMED FORCES OF THE KOREAN WAR

One of the least talked about wars is the Korean War, and yet the results of that war still reverberate with existing tensions along the Demilitarized Zone between North Korea and South Korea. The hostilities on the peninsula began on June 25, 1950, when the forces of North Korea crossed the 38th Parallel, occupied Seoul on the 28th, and by early August had swept south to confine United Nations forces within a small perimeter around the city of Pusan (Busan) on the southeastern coast. Canada provided

military forces to support UN operations. All told, 26,791 Canadians served during the 1950-53 war, and another 7,000 served between the signing of the Korea Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953, and the end of 1955. Canadian casualties amounted to 1,558, including 516 killed. The war also marked the first time in history that an international organization—the UN—had intervened with a multinational force to stop aggression. While much of the hard slogging fell to the infantry, it was also

From left: Corporal John Shanahan of 2 PPCLI receives his laundry in February 1951; Canadian soldiers move in single file across a valley, May 1951.





fought by air and sea operations. The Royal Canadian Navy contributed eight destroyers, joining forces with UN and Republic of Korea forces to maintain a blockade of the enemy coast and prevent amphibious landings. Canadian ships also screened aircraft carriers from threat of submarine and aerial attack, supported UN land forces by bombarding the enemy coast, and participated in the

famous Train Busters Club, targeting North Korean supply trains. The Royal Canadian Air Force was also involved early when 426 (Thunderbird) Squadron was attached to the United States Military Air Transport Service. By June 1954, this unit had flown 600 round trips over the Pacific, carrying more than 13,000 passengers and three million kilograms of freight and mail without loss.

Clockwise from top left:

Canadian troops en route to Korea;
Pte. Steve Towstego shares food with
hungry children at the PPCLI camp
near Busan; Pte. John Hoskins, 2nd
Battalion PPCLI, advances on Hill 419;
Van Doos under fire.



READING RESOURCES

(CLICK TO GO TO LINK)

- [RETURN TO KAPYONG](#)
- [KOREA: TENSION AND REMEMBRANCE](#)

CANADA AND THE GULF WAR

On August 1, 1990, Iraqi forces—under Saddam Hussein—invaded Kuwait. In response, the United States organized an international coalition to force an Iraqi retreat. As part of the coalition, Canada provided naval assistance to the U.S.-led blockade in the Persian Gulf. Three Canadian destroyers and a supply ship sailed on August 24, and the task group handled at least a quarter of the interceptions by the multinational fleet. In time, the Canadians would direct a multinational Combat Logistics Force

comprised of ships from 10 navies. In the fall of 1990, CF-18 fighter jets began patrolling above the blockade, and in February 1991 Canadian air force personnel provided air cover over Iraq and also began targeting ground defences. By then, Canada had also agreed to deploy a field hospital. Canadian participation in the war, which lasted until the spring of 1991, launched the start of more than 20 years of Canadian Forces deployments to the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

From left: HMCS Terra Nova served in the Gulf War; a CF-18 fighter jet provides air cover over Iraq.



READING RESOURCES

(CLICK TO GO TO LINK)

- [DESERT DUTY ON THE IRAQI BORDER](#)
- [OPPORTUNITIES LOST IN IRAQ WAR](#)



PEACEKEEPING

It was the League of Nations in 1931 that conceived the idea of placing international observers or armed forces from coalition nations between combatants as a means of keeping the peace or preventing war. Unfortunately, the League itself was unable to launch such missions. The United Nations, established in 1945, was successful and prior to 1956 the UN Security Council authorized several military and armistice observer groups, including UNMOGIP, the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan and UNTSO, the UN Truce Supervisory Organization aimed at

maintaining the truce between Israel and its Arab neighbours after the formation of the Jewish state in 1948.

The concept of peacekeeping was further developed during the Suez Crisis of 1956 when Lester B. Pearson, then Secretary of State for External Affairs, initiated the United Nations Emergency Force. His work earned him the Nobel Peace Prize. Nearly 1,000 Canadians served in UNEF between then and May 1967 when they were ordered to leave Egypt by President Nasser.

Since the Suez Crisis, Canadian military forces have been at the forefront of almost every UN peacekeeping operation, including the Congo (1960-64), Cyprus (1964-93), Egypt (UNEF II, 1973-79), and non-UN operations in Vietnam and with the Multinational Force and Observers.

It is also important to note that Canada, which remains part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), participated in many of these “peacekeeping or peacemaking” operations because many could be tied directly or indirectly to the larger Cold War. Cyprus, for example, featured two NATO members (Greece and Turkey) as the combatants. Observers feared

Congolese workers listen to Canadian Signalman J.T. Shier, part of a United Nations training force in the Congo, 1963.





that a war there would make the eastern Mediterranean vulnerable to Soviet influence.

Cyprus also demonstrated how long a UN mission can last. Canadian Forces personnel were on the island for 30 years, with some soldiers serving eight tours. Life as a blue beret was often tough and dangerous—positioned as they were between determined adversaries in environments that included everything from bad water to suffocating heat to poisonous insects and snakes. Added to this was a backdrop of frustratingly slow or non-existent peace negotiation.



Clockwise from top left: A Canadian soldier mans an observation post in Cyprus; on patrol in the Sinai desert, 1957; French soldiers disembark a Canadian CC-130 transport in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2003; Pte. J.N. Maillet locates positions of UN contingents in the Middle East, 1974.



READING RESOURCES

(CLICK TO GO TO LINK)

- FIREFIGHT IN THE POCKET
- WINDING DOWN IN BOSNIA

THE COLD WAR

W

aged through espionage, propaganda, violence, the testing of new aircraft and missiles, and dire threats that could have easily spilled over to nuclear Armageddon, the Cold War between the communist and capitalist worlds began shortly after the Second World War and continued until the collapse of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact after 1989. The Oxford Companion To Canadian Military History notes that the war was “a balance of terror that teetered on a modicum of understanding: no side could likely survive war with the other, though each might sometimes be tempted to think the unthinkable.” In Canada, the defection of a cipher clerk at the Soviet embassy in Ottawa helped ratchet up the fear here, as well

as in Britain and the United States when evidence of spy networks came to light. In the mid- to late 1950s, the strategic importance of Canada’s Arctic got a lot more attention with increased sovereignty patrols and surveillance missions. The Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962 brought the world close to nuclear war, but ended when the Soviets agreed to remove the missiles from Cuban soil. At the height of the crisis, Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker decided not to bring Canada’s armed forces to high alert, wondering instead if the situation should be referred to the UN. The Royal Canadian Navy, however, still went to sea to assist U.S. warships with their blockade of Cuba while Canada’s



John Diefenbaker in the House of Commons.



Secretary of State for External Affairs Lester B. Pearson (seated) speaks with other UN officials, November, 1956.



Defence Minister was busy making preparations for the army and air force. Canadian Forces remained part of the Cold War scene up until it ended, with forces serving as part of NATO in Europe and in North America.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s released waves of pent-up nationalism that pushed the world toward more regionalized, but nonetheless sharp conflicts that forced another level of UN peacekeeping. Between 1996 and 2001, the UN created 24 new peacekeeping operations. The number of troops deployed worldwide on UN peacekeeping operations in late 2006 was approximately 80,000, representing more 80 different

countries. These soldiers served in countries divided by civil war or in the deep throes of bloody internal conflict. They monitored human rights, helped train police officers and tried to ensure the delivery of relief supplies. From the former Yugoslavia to Somalia and Rwanda, Canadian Forces personnel experienced new forms of conflict and widespread ethnic cleansing. Rwanda, in particular, demonstrated how a small UN force was powerless at preventing the slaughter of some 800,000 men, women and children. Many Canadian Forces members returned home from Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Somalia and Rwanda with severe psychological wounds, including post-traumatic stress disorder. As of 2010, 116 Canadians have died on UN and other peace missions.

From left: Tanks loaded with soldiers return from patrol in Korea; Lieutenant-Colonel D.H. Frink (centre) checks a map with Communist (left) and Royal Government liaison officers in Laos, 1956.



READING RESOURCES

(CLICK TO GO TO LINK)

- CHILLED BY THE COLD WAR
- INSIDE NORAD



AFGHANISTAN

It may come as a surprise, but the war in Afghanistan (2001 to present) is the longest war in Canadian military history. Not since the Second World War has Canada committed more military personnel to a single war (outside of the Cold War). The coalition military intervention in Afghanistan was a response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States by al-Qaida. More than 3,000 civilians, including 24 Canadians, were killed in those attacks. The response was aimed at destroying terrorist bases and their support networks in Afghanistan. Canadian naval, air and ground forces were deployed. Warships supported coalition operations, including naval

interdiction, in and around the Arabian Sea. In 2002, an army battle group was deployed to Afghanistan to serve with U.S. forces. While the Taliban were swept from power and al-Qaida training bases were successfully targeted and destroyed, a long and bloody insurgency followed. Canada supported efforts to strengthen the democratically elected Afghan government, and from mid-2003 on Canadian forces personnel had a major role in NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). In late 2005, the mission moved from Kabul to the highly volatile Kandahar province in the south. From early 2006, Canadian forces, supported by coalition forces, were the main ISAF field force. Between 2008 and 2011, Canadian forces

From left: A Canadian soldier on patrol in Panjwai, 2010; Cpl. Becky Hudson talks to some children in Salavat, Afghanistan, 2009.





Clockwise from top left: Warrant Officer Steve Ouellet gives out markers to village children in Afghanistan; Canadian soldiers send a runner ahead prior to springing a trap near Salavat in 2010; M.Cpl Paul Guilmane observes a town from high ground; PPCLI in Panjwahi in 2009.

sought out and engaged insurgents and most of the Canadian casualties were the result of combat—fighting a hidden enemy that used roadside bombs, rockets and orchestrated suicide attacks. The counter-insurgency or combat portion of Canada’s timeline in Afghanistan was the Canadian military’s first period of sustained combat in more than

50 years. In addition to the ground forces, Canada’s role included ongoing operations from a support base in the Persian Gulf, from nearby air bases and from warships in the Arabian Sea. As of early 2012, fatalities of Canadian military personnel numbered 158 and more than 1,830 have been wounded in Afghanistan.



READING RESOURCES

(CLICK TO GO TO LINK)

- ASSIGNMENT AFGHANISTAN: THE IMPOSSIBLE WAR
- ASSIGNMENT AFGHANISTAN: THE END OF THE LINE
- MINDS AT WAR: THE TOLL AND TREATMENT OF OPERATIONAL STRESS INJURIES
- VANISHING VETERANS: HELPING THE HOMELESS



ON THE HOME FRONT

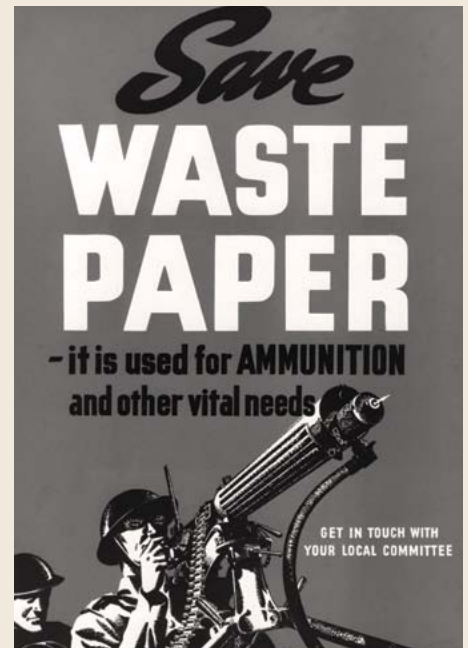
The sight of the telegraph boy riding his bicycle down a neighbourhood street was one of the most feared moments on the home front during the Second World War. Thousands of messages were delivered that way—all of them giving notice that a husband, wife, son or daughter had been killed in war. Through those uncertain times, Canadians on the home front kept themselves busy, perhaps as a way to avoid thinking about the worst. It is true that the war helped solve massive unemployment. In 1939, close to 400,000 were unemployed, and more than a million were on relief. Factories, farms and other businesses ramped up production and soon work was available

for anyone able to do it. Bumper crops were produced and pork production more than doubled as did iron and steel production. Ships, aircraft, munitions and military vehicles were manufactured in vast numbers. Aircraft production alone reached 14,700 by the beginning of 1945. By that same year, total war production was nearly \$11 billion.

Canadians also invented new technologies and production methods. The mass production of synthetic rubber, for example, was seen as a development that helped win the war. Rubber was used in everything from guns to aircraft. When the natural sources—mostly located in places

Below from left: A grocery store displays a wartime rationing sign; welding at a Bren gun plant in Toronto, 1942.

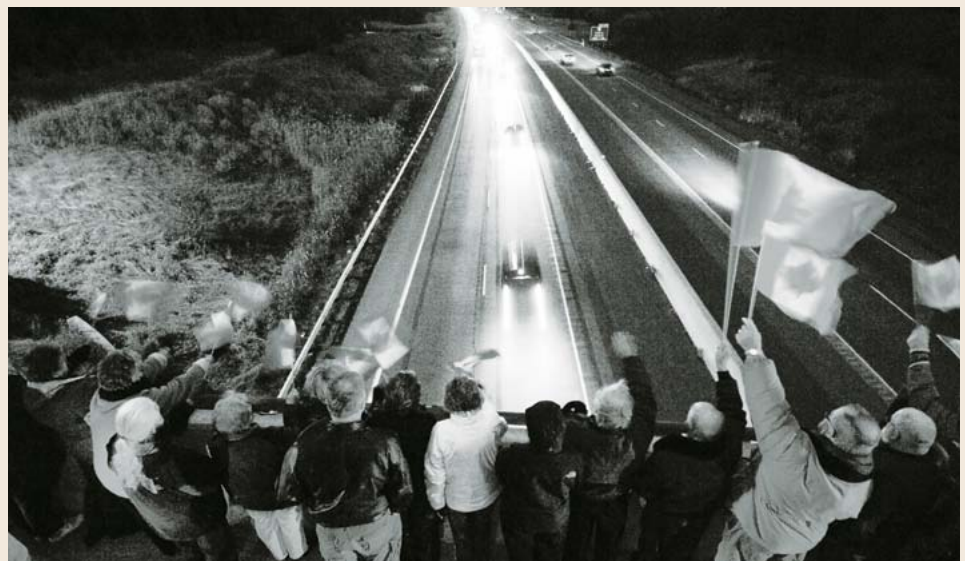




overrun by the Japanese in the South Pacific—dried up, a synthetic rubber was developed and sold through a crown corporation in Sarnia, Ont.

Rationing was another major part of the home-front experience. Without it, essential supplies would have run low or disappeared altogether, and prices would have risen dramatically. Canadians were given coupons that allowed them to purchase such essentials as gasoline and food. The neighbourhood collection of scrap, including metal and rubber, also made a difference.

Those anxious for news from a loved one overseas during the First and Second World wars often waited weeks for a letter, postcard or telegram. Likewise, letters and care packages addressed to soldiers on the front took the same amount of time or longer. The same is not true today. In a matter of seconds, messages from or to home are transmitted. Service personnel can Skype and text from remote postings anywhere in the world. Loved ones at home also get the news a lot faster, often learning of developments overseas well before it is delivered through official channels.



Canadians at home have also continued to demonstrate great respect for those who serve and do not survive war. The Highway of Heroes—a section of Highway 401 where the remains of Canadian military personnel killed overseas travel from the runway at Canadian Forces Base Trenton, Ontario, to the Ontario Coroner's Office in Toronto—is an example of how the home front pays homage for such sacrifice.

Clockwise from top left: Workers in Sarnia, Ont., supervise the baling of synthetic rubber, 1943; Canadian pork headed for Britain; a poster urging civilians to recycle paper; Cobourg, Ont., residents show respect for two soldiers travelling the Highway of Heroes.



READING RESOURCES

(CLICK TO GO TO LINK)

- THE RUSH FOR RUBBER
- THE FARMERS' WAR
- IN THE SHADOW OF WAR

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

The important point to remember when reading statistics of war service is to appreciate the fact that every number represents a person. These are men and women who grew up, had families and left loved ones behind. The numbers for the Afghanistan mission are approximations as of January 2012.

CANADA

	First World War	Second World War	Korean War	Gulf War	Afghanistan
Participants:	628,736	1,081,865	26,791	4,074	40,000+
Died:	66,573	44,927	516	0	160
Wounded	138,166	53,145	1,558	0	2,000+
Prisoners of War:	2,818	8,271	33	0	0

NEWFOUNDLAND

Participants:	16,922	19,406
Died:	1,593	704
Wounded:	Unknown	Unknown
Prisoners of War:	180	Unknown

SECOND WORLD WAR INTAKE

Approximate numbers of enrolment in the armed forces by province.

Note: Newfoundland was not a Canadian province during the Second World War.

P.E.I.	9,309
N.S.	59,355
N.B.	45,137
QUE.	176,441
ONT.	398,808
MAN.	76,444
SASK. (Incl. N.W.T.)	80,605
ALTA.	77,703
B.C. (Incl. Yukon)	90,976
WOMEN	49,963
OUT OF CANADA	17,124

MERCHANT NAVY LOSSES

The names of 578 Canadian and Newfoundland merchant sailors killed in U-boat attacks are listed in the Book of Remembrance in the Parliament Buildings. Enemy action during the war also claimed an undetermined number of Canadians serving in foreign flagged vessels.

Approximately 12,000 served in the Merchant Navy. More than 1,600 Canadian and Newfoundland men and women—perhaps as high as 2,000—lost their lives due to enemy action in the Second World War.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN CANADA'S MILITARY HISTORY

DATE	YEAR	EVENT
16 January	1991	Gulf War begins
1 February	1968	Canadian military forces unify
28 February	1991	Gulf War ends
25 March	1885	North-West Campaign
2 April	1949	NATO Accord signed
9 April	1917	Battle of Vimy Ridge
17 April	1915	2nd Battle of Ypres begins
17 April	1945	Last Canadian ship lost in WWII
20 April	1915	Gallipoli (Royal Nfld. Regiment)
29 April	1991	Gulf War official cease fire
3 May	1915	2nd Battle of Ypres ends
May	1943	Battle of the Atlantic (31 U-boats sunk)
8 May	1945	Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day)
12 May	1958	NORAD created
31 May	1902	South African (Boer) War ends
6 June	1944	Normandy Invasion (D-Day)
10 June	1940	Canada declares war on Italy
23 June	1945	United Nations created
25 June	1950	Korean War begins
1 July	1916	Battle of the Somme begins
1 July	1916	Battle of Beaumont Hamel
10 July	1940	Battle of Britain begins
10 July	1943	Invasion of Sicily
27 July	1953	Korean War ends
31 July	1917	Battle of Passchendaele begins
4 August	1914	First World War begins
7 August	1950	Canada announces entry into Korean War
15 August	1945	Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day)
19 August	1942	Dieppe Raid
2 September	1945	Second World War ends
3 September	1943	Invasion of Mainland Italy
8 September	1993	Battle of the Medak Pocket Croatia
10 September	1939	Canada declares war on Germany
11 October	1899	South African (Boer) War begins
31 October	1940	Battle of Britain ends
31 October	1914	First Battle of Ypres begins
11 November	1918	Armistice Day - First World War ends
12 November	1917	Battle of Passchendaele ends
17 November	1914	First Battle of Ypres ends
30 November	1916	Battle of the Somme ends
6 December	1917	Halifax explosion
10 December	1988	Nobel Peace Prize awarded to U.N. Peacekeepers
20 December	1915	Evacuation of Gallipoli
25 December	1941	Fall of Hong Kong

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

It was a well defined unity of purpose that launched the self-supporting Canadian Legion in 1926. Constructed on a commitment to serve and to represent Canadian war veterans, that purpose remains today in a grassroots, volunteer organization that stretches across Canada and even includes branches/posts in the United States, Mexico and Europe.

Before 1917, nearly 15 local veterans groups were formed. They had both membership and good ideas but lacked a national voice. A more unified front began to appear when, on April 10, 1917 while fighting on Vimy Ridge was still in progress, the Great War Veterans Association (GWVA) was formed. Further progress began to

appear in 1925, largely through the dedication of Field Marshal Douglas Haig, Commander of the British Army, Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Turner VC, Lieutenant-General Sir Percy Lake, General Sir Arthur Currie and others, when 15 disparate national organizations including the GWVA met in Winnipeg to form the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League (BESL). It was incorporated the following year and, in 1927, the Legion held its first Dominion Convention in the same city.

Much was achieved in those early days, but the Depression of the 1930s caused major economic strife throughout society. The Legion suddenly found itself involved fulltime in local, regional and national schemes to relieve the



British Field Marshal Douglas Haig encouraged Canadian veterans to form one strong veterans organization.

✓ **The first Dominion Convention of The Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League meets in Winnipeg in 1927.**





Clockwise from top left:
Early patrons of the
Brandon, Man., Branch; the
Canadian Legion Mobile
Canteen brings tea to men
serving at a gun post in
Britain; a Legion technician
gives a lesson to a group
of projectionists.

suffering of veterans made worse by the Depression. One significant development was the coming into law of the War Veterans Allowance Act of 1930. That legislation provided assistance to veterans who were considered to have been “prematurely aged” by their wartime experience, but who in most instances were not eligible for war disability pensions.

A decade later, during the Second World War, the Legion grew in membership and faced new demands and responsibilities. Its efforts during the war were prodigious. The Canadian

Legion War Services provided amenities such as canteens, entertainment and reading material for those in uniform at home and overseas. The Canadian Legion Educational Service established correspondence courses to help prepare service members for their return to civilian life. After the war, the Legion helped ex-service members obtain disability and other pensions, a role that intensified at the end of the Korean War in 1953.

In 1960, with the consent of Her Majesty the Queen, the word “Royal” was added to the Legion name. Today, The Royal Canadian Legion is the largest veterans’ organization in Canada with more than 330,000 members. Through its various categories, membership is open to all Canadian citizens and Commonwealth subjects. Its Ladies Auxiliary boasts a membership of some 40,000. From the beginning the RCL has remained a non-profit, dues-supported organization. It receives no financial assistance from any outside agency. And like those early years, the Legion’s nationwide network of professional service officers



works to secure adequate pensions and benefits for veterans and their dependants. It deals directly with the federal government, in particular House of Commons and Senate standing committees, and Veterans Affairs Canada. The Legion has also maintained an unbending commitment to Remembrance through activities at home and abroad. With its network of volunteers, the Legion collects and disperses funds through its annual Poppy Campaign, the foundation of the organization's Remembrance program. By distributing Poppies to Canadians of all ages, the campaign raises awareness and funds to assist needy veterans, ex-service personnel and their families. Legionnaires from the more than 1,450 Legion branches across the country participate in this and organize local Remembrance Day services. They also work to maintain memorials and cenotaphs for the fallen, providing solemn visible reminders of the 117,000 Canadian men and women who have died in the wars and military missions around the world.

The organization mirrors what its forefathers set out to do. In 2011, the Legion adopted the statement:

“Our mission is to serve veterans, which includes serving military and RCMP and their families, to promote Remembrance and service to our communities and our country.”

Efforts to improve the lives of veterans continue as demonstrated by the Legion's recent work on the New Veterans Charter, and past efforts focused on improving the Veterans Independence Program, spousal benefits, and recognition for Dieppe, Hong Kong and merchant navy veterans.

At the community level the Legion also supports and donates millions of dollars in funding to a myriad of charities and community groups. This support takes the form of non-profit housing initiatives, new diagnostic equipment for hospitals, transportation for seniors and assistance for amateur sport, cadet units and scout groups.

To learn more about the Legion, visit www.legion.ca.



Clockwise from top left: Ladies Auxiliary members visit veterans in Newfoundland; a Legion member during the annual Poppy Campaign; boy scouts assist during a Remembrance Day ceremony in Wolfville, N.S.



READING RESOURCES

(CLICK TO GO TO LINK)

- THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
- BIRTHPLACE OF THE LEGION

CANADA AND THE VICTORIA CROSS

On August 3, 2005, Sergeant Ernest “Smokey” Smith, VC, died in Vancouver. Prior to his death, he was Canada’s last-surviving Victoria Cross recipient. Ninety-four Canadians have been awarded the VC, the British Commonwealth’s highest decoration for gallantry in the face of enemy. The official citations for these extraordinary awards of valour can be found in many sources, including websites of Veterans Affairs Canada and the Directorate of History and Heritage at the Department of National Defence. Another excellent source is Legion Magazine

(www.legionmagazine.com) which published a lengthy series on the individual actions as well as a two-part poster featuring short profiles on each Canadian recipient. As of 2012, no Canadian has been awarded the VC since 1945, though it has been awarded 16 times since the end of the Second World War to British, Australian and New Zealander recipients. In 1993, Canada instituted its own VC. It is identical to the previous version except the Latin words PRO VALORE have replaced the English FOR VALOUR.



Left: The Victoria Cross; Sergeant Ernest “Smokey” Smith of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.



READING RESOURCES

(CLICK TO GO TO LINK)

- CANADA AND THE VICTORIA CROSS
- VICTORIA CROSS POSTER (PART 1)
- VICTORIA CROSS POSTER (PART 2)



SYMBOLS OF COMMEMORATION



TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Every year on November 11 in front of the National War Memorial thousands of Canadians of all ages surge forward at the conclusion of the National Remembrance Ceremony and quietly surround the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. When the crowd thins and the last person moves on with their day, the tomb is left covered in red lapel Poppies. Established in May 2000 and occupying a place of honour at the foot of the National War Memorial, the tomb is the final resting place for a soldier who died in the First World War. It is also a lasting memorial to all Canadians who fell or may fall in war, past, present and future.

The Tomb is a tangible reminder of lasting commemoration, implemented as

**Left: The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier;
Bottom: The National War Memorial.**

a millenium project under the leadership of The Royal Canadian Legion and a coalition of groups, including Veterans Affairs Canada, the Department of National Defence, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Public Works and Government Services Canada. In the days leading up to its historic consecration, Canadians everywhere focused their attention as the Unknown Soldier was brought to Ottawa from France by an honour guard. Canadian Forces and Royal Canadian Military Police personnel participated every step of the way, helping to form a national tribute while the soldier lay in state in Parliament's Hall of Honour.

The determination of Legion members to perpetuate the Tradition of Remembrance in honour of their fallen comrades can be seen across the country at cenotaphs which become the focus of community attention each November 11. Canadians, thankfully, have other impressive national reminders of the cost in war, beginning with the National War Memorial.

NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL ▼

Every year the Legion organizes the National Remembrance Day service on behalf of the people of Canada which takes place at the National War Memorial in downtown Ottawa. The memorial is aptly described as the most outstanding monument erected in Canada. Unveiled by King George VI in the spring of 1939 to commemorate the unselfish response of Canadians in the First World War, the memorial has come to “symbolize the sacrifice of all Canadians who have served Canada in time of war in the cause of peace and freedom.”

It was a model submitted by Vernon March of England that won a 1925



From top: Members of the Canadian Forces commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, 2007; Silver Cross Mother Bernadette Rivait and her husband Homer find the names of three of their five sons in the Second World War Book of Remembrance in the Memorial Chamber.

design competition. His theme focused on the “Great Response of Canada”, and the completed memorial incorporated uniformed figures of men and women representing all services, passing through a granite arch. The bronze figures are each roughly two and one-half metres high and symbolize “the going of people to the triumph of their achievements overseas in a spirit of self-sacrifice and with no suggestion of glorifying war.” The two bronze figures on top of the arch represent Victory and Liberty.

the Parliament Buildings. The chamber, designed as the repository for the books, was opened by the Prince of Wales on August 3, 1927. Occupying the second level of the Peace Tower, it attracts more than 500,000 visitors annually. For many, the visit is a solemn pilgrimage to witness the name of a loved one in one of the seven Books of Remembrance. Each day at 11 a.m. guards turn the books’ pages according to perpetual calendars for each book. The calendars allow visitors from outside Ottawa to plan a trip to the Memorial Chamber to see a specific page. For others, visits have a historical significance: the walls of the chamber are pages that tell the story of Canada’s effort in the First World War.

▼ MEMORIAL CHAMBER AND SEVEN BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE

Two of the most touching commemorative efforts are also among the least conspicuous. The Memorial Chamber and Books of Remembrance are located in the Centre Block of



▲ CANADIAN NATIONAL VIMY MEMORIAL

One of the most impressive memorials to Canada’s fallen is not located in Canada, but overseas on a famous ridge in northern France. The Canadian National Vimy Memorial honours one of the finest achievements in Canadian military history and pays tribute to those Canadians who died in battle in France, but whose graves are unknown. Of the 66,000 Canadians who died in the First World War, 18,000 were never properly buried because their remains could not be found. 11,285 of them have their names chiselled into the Vimy memorial. The remainder are inscribed on various other monuments, including the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, Belgium.

The unveiling of the Vimy memorial by King Edward VIII on July 26, 1936, was spectacular. The Legion organized a massive pilgrimage that saw thousands of veterans return in chartered ocean liners to where they had fought their battles and lost close comrades.



Ed Fewer of Grand Falls/Windsor, NL, visits the Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Memorial in France, 2009.

The battle fought at Vimy Ridge began on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917, and lasted four bloody days. Thousands of Canadian infantry, supported by an impressive array of large guns, captured the ridge which had been strongly held by German defenders who at first believed no army could take it. The cost was high—approximately 3,600 dead and more than 7,000 wounded—but while it was one of the bloodiest battles in Canadian military history it stands out as a nation-building event. The battle also marked the first time all units of the Canadian Army fought together.

In honour of the Canadian achievement and sacrifice, the French government donated 250 acres at the top of the ridge, and the land became part of Canada forever. Toronto sculptor Walter Allward was chosen to design the memorial, and his work began in the mid-1920s. Constructed from nearly 6,000 tonnes of “trau” stone imported from Yugoslavia, the memorial features twin pylons that rise 40 metres above the ground as well as several sculptured figures.

In 2007, on the 90th anniversary of the battle, and after months of restorative work, the memorial was rededicated by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. There to witness the ceremony were thousands of Canadian schoolchildren who eventually returned home with a sacred promise to remember those who fought during the war, including those soldiers who never returned home. “In any national story there are moments and places, sometimes far from home, which

in retrospect can be seen as fixed points about which the course of history turns—moments which distinguish that nation forever. Those who seek the foundations of Canada’s distinction would do well to begin here at Vimy,” said the Queen on April 9, 2007.

REMEMBERING THE ^ NEWFOUNDLANDERS

Newfoundland, which was not part of Canada until 1949, contributed greatly during the First and Second World Wars, and in the years beyond. The largest of the battlefield parks in memory of Newfoundlanders who fell during the First World War is at Beaumont Hamel, just north of Albert, France, on the Somme. There, a great bronze caribou, emblem of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, overlooks the sloped battlefield still marked by old shell holes and trench lines. Bronze tablets at the base of the monument list the names of 814 members of the regiment, the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve, and Mercantile Marine who died in the war and have no known grave.

It was here, on July 1, 1916, during the opening day of the Battle of the Somme, that the Newfoundland Regiment fought its first engagement in France. The results were catastrophic. In less than half an hour the regiment of some 800 men was nearly annihilated. More than 230 were killed or died of wounds; 386 were wounded and 91 were missing. No single unit had suffered more on that day. Overall, Allied casualties during the first day on the Somme totalled 57,470 of which 19,240 were fatal. The Newfoundland Regiment, however, would survive, adding greatly to its storied reputation during the war and receiving royal consent to use the word “Royal” as part of its name.

Closer to home, the Newfoundland National Memorial in St. John’s commemorates all of Newfoundland’s wartime contributions on land and sea, including the Newfoundland Forestry Corps. It is located on Water Street, facing the historic harbour. During the First World War—out of a population of 250,000, Newfoundland sent 8,500 soldiers and sailors off to war. More than 1,500 gave their lives.

THE HALIFAX MEMORIAL

Canadian service and sacrifice upon the sea during two world wars is commemorated on the Halifax Memorial in Point Pleasant Park. Nearly 2,000 members of the Royal Canadian Navy died during the Second World War, many during its longest continuous battle—the Battle of the Atlantic. Sailors served and paid with their lives protecting the vital convoys that delivered supplies to

From top: The Peacekeeping Monument in Ottawa, July 2005; South Korean sentries at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Busan.

the United Kingdom through U-boat infested waters. Twenty-four RCN ships were lost during the war. The memorial, which features a Cross of Sacrifice with a height of more than 12 metres, was erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission on November 11, 1967, and is visible to ships approaching Halifax Harbour. Its large bronze panels are inscribed with the names of 3,257 Canadian men and women of the navy, army and merchant navy who were buried at sea between 1914 and the end of the Second World War.

▼ KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

Located in Brampton, Ontario, the Korean War Memorial Wall commemorates Canadians who served in the Korean War. Curved and made of polished granite, the wall is more than 60 metres long, and features 516 bronze plaques, one for every Canadian soldier killed in the 1950-53 war. Another bronze plaque lists all of the Canadian units that served in the war. Nowhere is the sacrifice more clear than

in South Korea at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan. There are 2,267 service personnel buried at the UN cemetery, including 378 Canadians. Sixteen other Canadians, with no known grave, are listed on the cemetery's bronze plaques. In 2002, ceremonies were held to unveil the Korean War Monument to the Canadian fallen. It features a bronze sculpture of a Canadian soldier holding a Korean child in his arms with another child at his feet. An identical monument is located in Ottawa, both inscribed with the words "We will never forget you brave sons of Canada."

RECONCILIATION – THE PEACEKEEPING MONUMENT

The Peacekeeping Monument in Ottawa was commissioned by the federal government shortly after the 1988



Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to UN peacekeepers. At the time, Canada was the only country that had participated in all UN peacekeeping operations. The monument, titled *Reconciliation*, was unveiled in 1992 by Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn. It features three 10-foot tall figures dressed as UN observers standing on converging limestone walls. The names of peacekeeping missions from Korea in 1947 to Somalia in 1992 appear on the wall. The work is the creation of sculptor Jack Harmon, urban designer Richard Henriquez and landscape architect Cornelia Hahn-Oberlander, all of British Columbia.

Tens of thousands of Canadians have served in more than 40 international peace support operations around the world. More than 120 have lost their lives and many more have returned home with injuries to both body and mind.



READING RESOURCES

(CLICK TO GO TO LINK)

- THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER
- CANADIAN NATIONAL VIMY MEMORIAL
- WHERE NEWFOUNDLAND REMEMBERS



THE POPPY CAMPAIGN

For several decades the Legion has depended on a small, but sacred symbol to express the importance of remembering those killed in war or on other Canadian Forces missions. Each year, millions of red Poppies blossom on jackets, dresses and hats, but where did the idea come from?

A BRIEF HISTORY

The origins of the Poppy's use in Remembrance date back a full hundred years before it was adopted in Canada. During the Napoleonic Wars a news correspondent noted how quickly Poppies grew over the graves of soldiers in French Flanders. No one strengthened Canada's bond to the Poppy more than

Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae of Guelph, Ont., a Canadian medical officer who served in the First World War. The soldier-poet penned "In Flanders Fields" on a scrap of paper while serving on the Western Front, and to this day the words of that poem remain enshrined in the inner-most thoughts and hearts of all soldiers who hear them.

In the United States, a woman working in a New York City canteen began wearing a Poppy in memory of the thousands who died on First World War battlefields. Moina Michael's simple show of respect inspired others, and the American Legion soon adopted the Poppy as the symbol of Remembrance.

From left: Princess Alice (centre), wife of Canada's Governor General the Earl of Athlone, launches the Poppy Campaign during the Second World War; veterans assemble wreaths and Poppies in Montreal.





In 1920, a French woman, Anna E. Guerin, visited the U.S. and was also inspired. After returning to France, she used handmade Poppies to raise money for destitute children in wartorn areas of the country.

In addition to the famous John McCrae poem, first published in December 1915, Canada's connection to the Poppy gained official status when it was adopted by the Great War Veterans' Association in 1921. There is little doubt that the decision was influenced by the poem and by Mme. Guerin's work.

Since then, generations of Canadians have proudly worn the Poppy each November.

WHY WEAR A POPPY?

By making a donation and wearing a Poppy, Canadians of all ages support the Legion's mission to serve veterans and their dependants while also promoting Remembrance. The sale of wreaths and the Poppy Campaign make it possible for the Legion to operate a national Service Bureau which acts

as an advocate for veterans and their dependants seeking compensation from government for service-incurred disabilities. Every year, more than a million dollars of the money raised through the campaign is used for direct assistance for ex-service people and their dependants in financial distress. The funds are used to pay for food, accommodation, utilities, dental and optical services and hospital comforts. It is also important to note that over the years many millions of dollars have been given to worthy charities or spent providing valuable services, such as Meals on Wheels, to seniors. The campaign's expenses, meanwhile, remain low owing in large part to the national network of volunteers who distribute the Poppies. The money collected is held in trust and cannot be spent on anything other than the purposes specifically authorized in the General By-laws of the Legion.

⤴
Clockwise from top left: Legion members in Fort William (now Thunder Bay), Ont., distribute Poppies to students; the Peterborough, Ont., Ladies Auxiliary assist with the campaign; a school visit in the mid-1970s emphasizes the importance of wearing a Poppy.



READING RESOURCES (CLICK TO GO TO LINK)

- THE ROOTS OF THE POPPY
- SUMMER'S BLOOM
- FROM FIELDS OF RED
- WHERE POPPIES BLOW

POPPY TRUST FUNDS Q&A

QUESTION

1. What does the Poppy represent?
2. Why should I wear a Poppy?
3. How do I help Veterans in need and their families?
4. Are there any other uses for Poppy funds?
5. Are Veterans eligible for government pensions?
6. Do you have to be a Legion member to get assistance from the Poppy Funds?
7. What is the Legion Service Bureau?

ANSWER

1. The Poppy is the Symbol of Remembrance.
2. By wearing a Poppy or displaying a wreath, you honour the war dead and their sacrifices for our freedoms and also help Veterans and their families.
3. Contribute to the Poppy Campaign. Poppy funds provide immediate assistance to Veterans in need. This may include food, shelter or medical attention for them or their families.
4. Yes. Poppy funds can be used for low-rental housing and care facilities for the elderly or disabled, community and medical appliances and medical research, meals-on-wheels, transportation and related services for Veterans and their families. Donations may be given for relief of disasters declared by the federal or provincial/territorial governments. Scholarships and bursaries are also provided for needy Veterans or their families.
5. Many Veterans do get pensions, but many others, although disabled, do not. No pension can provide for eventualities such as fire, a long illness on the part of the breadwinner or other medical expenses.
6. No. Any veteran or family member is eligible to apply for financial aid from Poppy funds. Poppy funds also support the Legion Service Bureau and the work of Legion service officers who act as Veterans advocates
7. Each year, service officers represent thousands of veterans and their families seeking disability benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada. There is no charge for this service. Legion Service Officers at all levels also provide financial assistance to Veterans and their families from the Poppy Funds. The national and provincial/territorial commands also advocate for changes to legislation affecting veterans. Legion service officers are located in all Legion branches across Canada, in the 10 provincial/territorial commands and at Dominion Command in Ottawa.

POPPY TRUST FUNDS Q&A

8. Where does the money collected through the distribution of Poppies and wreaths go?

9. How are Poppy Funds held? ?

10. Are campaign expenses high?

11. How much should I give?

8. After expenses, such as the cost of the Poppies, wreaths and other supplies is deducted, all remaining money is placed in trust to be allocated for purposes authorized in the Legion's General By-Laws

9. The Legion's General By-Laws specify that Poppy funds must be held in trust. They are subscribed to by the public. They are held in a bank account separate from that of the branch or Command and cannot be used for any purpose other than those stipulated

10. Poppy Campaign expenses are usually low because most of the work is voluntary.

11. In considering your donation, you might remember that the cost of all the things provided by Poppy funds is always on the rise; therefore, it takes more money from year to year to continue to provide the same service to our Veterans and their families.

POEMS, STORIES AND SONGS

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

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.

—Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae



◀ John McCrae and his adopted special friend Bonneau.

First published in England in Punch magazine, John McCrae's In Flanders Fields came to symbolize the sacrifices of all who were fighting in the First World War. Today, it remains an important part

of wartime commemorations and Remembrance ceremonies. The poem's author was born in Guelph, Ontario, on November 30, 1872. He served in the artillery during the South African War (1899-1902) and by 1915 was described as a person with the eye of a gunner, the hand of surgeon and the soul of a poet. McCrae returned from the bloody April 1915 battles around Ypres, Belgium, with several lines scrawled on a scrap of paper. The first line read: "In Flanders Fields the Poppies blow..." The poem's subject is universal because soldiers fear that in death they will be forgotten. The poem and the Poppy have worked against that fear, reminding each of us why we remember. Sadly, Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae died of pneumonia on January 28, 1918 and was buried with full military honours at Wimereux near Boulogne, France. He was 45 years old.

HIGH FLIGHT

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds—done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, nor even eagle flew—
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

—Pilot Officer John G. Magee, Jr.

Born in Shanghai, China, on June 9, 1922, John Gillespie Magee spent three years at the Rugby School in England before travelling to the United States in 1939 to attend Yale University. In the following year—at age eighteen—he came to Canada and enrolled in the Royal Canadian Air Force for flight training. He was commissioned an officer and returned to England where he was assigned to make high altitude test flights. After one such flight he went to his quarters and wrote his now famous sonnet on the back of a letter to his mother. He died in a mid-air collision during practice manoeuvres on December 11, 1941. He was 19 years old.

POEMS, STORIES AND SONGS

FOR THE FALLEN

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death August and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;
As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

—*Laurence Binyon*

These words, in particular the fourth stanza, are spoken during Remembrance Day services throughout the world. They are also engraved on countless monuments. The Royal Canadian Legion adopted these words as the official Act of Remembrance, spoken at all official meetings in addition to Remembrance services. They were written by the son of clergyman, Laurence Binyon (1869-1943). Educated at St. Paul's School and Trinity College, Oxford, England, he was a Red Cross orderly during the First World War, and a chevalier of the French Legion of Honour.



^
Autumn colours surround the Cross of Sacrifice in the veterans section of the National Military Cemetery in Ottawa.

POEMS, STORIES AND SONGS

RECESSIONAL

God of our fathers, known of old—
Lord of our far-flung battle line
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget - lest we forget!

The tumult and the shouting dies;
The captains and the kings depart:
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget - lest we forget!

Far-called, our navies melt away;
On dune and headland sinks the fire:
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget - lest we forget!

If, drunk with sight of power, we loose
Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe—
Such boasting as the Gentiles use
Or lesser breeds without the law—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget - lest we forget!

For heathen heart that puts her trust
In reeking tube and iron shard—
All valiant dust that builds on dust,
And guarding, calls not Thee to guard—
For frantic boast and foolish word,
Thy mercy on Thy people, Lord!

—*Rudyard Kipling*

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) was born in India and educated in England before beginning a career as a journalist, poet and short story writer. He is best known for his adventure novel *The Jungle Book* and the poem *Gunga Din* which capture the spirit of colonial empires. Kipling lost his only son in the First World War and served as an adviser to the organization that became the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The refrain at the end of the first two stanzas has become the traditional way for ending Legion meetings.

POEMS, STORIES AND SONGS

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her fame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

O VALIANT HEARTS

O Valiant hearts, who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

Proudly you gathered, rank on rank to war,
As who had heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave
To save mankind—yourself you scorned to save.

Splendid you passed, the great surrender made;
Into the light that nevermore shall fade;
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,
Who wait the last clear trumpet-call of God.

Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,
While in the frailty of our human clay,
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self-same way.

Still stands His Cross from that dread hour to this,
Like some bright star above the dark abyss;
Still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes
Look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

POEMS, STORIES AND SONGS

The following essay and poem were the national winners in the senior categories of the Legion's 2010 competition.

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

By Katelyn Major, St. Brieux, SK

Yes, there's a voice that begs us listen,
And lo! The text is plain.
"We have paid the price of freedom,
Let it not have been in vain!"

—An excerpt from the poem *The Man We Never Knew* by Don Crawford

What is the price of freedom? What could possibly be exchanged for the right to live? On Nov. 11, every year, we honour those who have paid the price of our freedom. These people are the brave men and women who fought in the trenches, in the hospitals and on the blood-stained battlefields. These are the people who left their homes, families and familiarity, for the foreign, war-ravaged, and frightening places of Europe, Asia and Africa. These people gave up their lives and their innocence, so that we could live in a world of peace.

Many of these heroic men and women are passing on after a long life of serving their country. It is their memories that keep the flame of Remembrance alive. Without these memories, however, the flame is beginning to flicker. How can we let it die, this fire that bonded a world so broken and tired after years of war? How can we let it smoulder, and let war happen again? We cannot.

We cannot forget. We must keep these memories alive, in all of us, in every Canadian. We must remember the sounds of bullets cutting the silent air, and the shrill ring of the bomb siren in the dark night. We must remember what it was like to face the enemy, so cold in a prejudiced hate, and what it was like to see a best friend fall. Even if we were not there, we cannot let the memories of those who were, fade like whispers in the wind.

We must also remember the shouts of joy when surrender was declared, and the millions of thanks, and tears, and praise that the soldiers received when they finally came

home. We must remember the looks on war prisoners' faces when they were rescued, and the cries of exultation when whole countries were liberated.

It is on Remembrance Day that I think of my grandfather. My grandfather served as an engineer in the Second World War. And like many of the soldiers who survived, war scarred him. I do not remember the sadness or the hardships my grandfather went through after the war. Even as I was told about them, when I saw my grandfather at the Remembrance Day services, I saw no hardships in his eyes. I saw pride as he walked up the church aisle in his navy blue suit. I could hear honour with every jingling step of his medals, and in every note of the Last Post. I did not see scars.

We have to honour these men and women, and the most profound way to do that is to never forget what they did for us. Remember their sacrifice or risk losing a major part of our history, and national pride. Remembering is not just reading about the battles in history books. It is wearing the Poppy on your heart, and bowing your head in a moment of silence. Remembering is visiting the war memorials scattered around the world. Remembering is never letting young men and women give their lives for such a cause ever again.

Remembrance Day is not only about remembering those who paid the ultimate price; it is about fighting for what they gave their lives for, fighting for their cause. To forget this, to forget the reason but to remember the fight, to forget the casualties but to remember the glory, is to forget them. Lest we forget those who paid the price for our freedom.

POEMS, STORIES AND SONGS

POPPY

By Laura Rhiannon Howells, St. John's NL

Poppy always smiles with jet black eyes,
Through sealed red lips he filters careful thought,
He's forced into the present from the pain
Of drifting back to days when young men fought.

He will not soil clean sleeves with his own heart,
But I saw his shirt one day the staunch wall fell
It's stained with ruby handprints—his best friend
Who clung to him while slipping out of hell.

My mother's life replaced his friend's that day
But Poppy did not hear her firstborn cries,
The gunshots were too loud, the smoke too thick
And joy is hard to see through bloodstained eyes.

But Poppy's walls are strong and rarely fall
(Perhaps his weakness is his lock and key)
No words he speak can make us understand
The tragedy of what he had to be.

I go to Poppy's house, I see his room –
Lone tribute to his dark and taboo past—
Where centered 'midst the medals and the pride
Beloved flag is hanging at half mast.

Now standing on a cold November morn
I watch him march—a shadow of the days
Where men were men and brandished willing hearts
To hold a nation in their jet black gaze.



POEMS, STORIES AND SONGS

A CANADIAN AT WAR

By Jennifer Morse

CLICK FOR VIDEO 

Verse

There was a man who loved the sea
He said, "It's grey out there, but it's greyer inside of me"
In the morning I face the day
But by nightfall there's no keeping the grey away."

There was a girl, and she loved that man
But he left her for Kabul, Afghanistan
He lost his legs up to the knee
In a brutal blast from a roadside IED

Chorus

And do you know, just who they are
When they're done being a Canadian at War

There is no peace, not anymore
If you've ever been a Canadian at War

Verse

That smiling man who went away
Dreams of war each night and battles every day
And though he's home, he'll always be
Fighting that miserable counter-insurgency

Chorus

And do you know, just who they are
When they're done being a Canadian at War

There is no peace, not anymore
If you've ever been a Canadian at War

And what's the cost, do we know what for
When we send them off as a Canadian At war

Verse

There was a man who loved the sea
But he lost himself in pain and misery
Now he's gone and she'll never be
Sure there wasn't another way to be free

There was a girl, and she loved that man
But she lost him in that fierce and distant land
In the morning she'll face the day
But by nightfall there's no keeping the grey away."

Chorus

And do you know, just who they are
When they're done being a Canadian at War

There is no peace, not anymore
If you've ever been a Canadian at War

And what's the cost, do we know what for
When we send them off as a Canadian At war

And do you know who she cries for
The smiling man, the Canadian at War

Canadian soldiers on patrol >
in Afghanistan.





SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

I“It’s like an episode of CSI (Crime Scene Investigation),” was the excited response from a student who had just opened a soldier’s personnel file from the First World War. The discovery took place during a school visit to Library and Archives Canada. Laid out in front of her—on a large table—were the 90-year-old attestation paper and casualty/service forms of a young man who died in France. The knowledge gained made the student’s understanding of the war more personal; she could build a snapshot of the man behind the service number—a soldier who up until then was a name on a local cenotaph. The transformation that came about because of that new-found knowledge is why the teaching of Canadian military history is so important to primary and secondary school education. Military history is a source of understanding, one that can help students know the past and why Canada continues to maintain armed forces and—when needed—send troops abroad.

Teachers searching for activities to add to this understanding have found excellent ways of incorporating military history into the classroom and beyond. History, social studies, current events, literature, math, music, art, dramatic arts and creative writing can all be used to help tell the story, and improve awareness of the tradition of Remembrance. All of this can encourage even greater participation in events leading up to and including Remembrance Day.

The nature of a Remembrance Day program will vary from school to school. Some teachers may prefer a short service in their classroom while others might choose to hold a more formal ceremony in

the auditorium or take their students to community ceremonies organized by the Legion. When school ceremonies are planned, teachers and students are encouraged to prepare their own material and make use of some of the suggestions in this guide. Some schools may wish to invite a local speaker or use a suitable video tape, film or internet source. There can be many variations, but the active participation of students is key. Legion members are eager to help in any way possible. Simply contact your local Legion branch for any material or assistance you may require.

It is important to note that it will be the responsibility of tomorrow’s adults to ensure our society continues to remember those who fell, were maimed or those at home whose lives were forever changed by war. Organizing Remembrance Day activities and incorporating military history into classroom studies are effective ways of ensuring that memory is kept alive.

REMEMBRANCE DAY MESSAGE, STUDENTS AGES 6-11

The eleventh of November is called Remembrance Day. On Remembrance Day most people wear a Poppy. This flower is worn to remind us of people killed on the battlefields of the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War and more modern military operations around the world, including those in the Balkans and in Afghanistan.

In Belgium and in France, it is easy to discover plenty of red Poppies. They are easily found in Flanders fields where much of the fighting in the First World War took place. The war was known as the “Great War” because



◀ A veteran leads a procession of students learning about Remembrance.

it was the first time in history that almost every country in the world was at war. However, it was not a “great” place to be. The war lasted four years and every spring the soldiers, who lived and fought in the trenches, noticed the red flowers blooming on the battlefields and on the graves of friends killed in the fighting.

When the war ended and the people who were in the military came home they continued to think about their friends who were buried overseas. Each time they thought of the graves, they remembered the Poppies which grew around the graves. They did not want Canadians to forget that their friends died serving Canada. The Poppy became a symbol that everyone could wear to show they remembered.

Why do we remember them on the eleventh of November each year? The war stopped on the eleventh hour of November 11th, 1918. Those who were in the war decided it would be right to remember their friends on the day the fighting stopped. Many Canadians also died in the Second World War, the Korean War, on peacekeeping missions and in more modern conflicts, including Afghanistan. These men and women are also remembered on November 11th. When you wear a Poppy, you remember all of those brave Canadians.

REMEMBRANCE DAY MESSAGE, STUDENTS AGES 12-17

The eleventh day of the eleventh month—this is Remembrance Day in Canada. We gather at cenotaphs and memorials in more than 2,000 cities, towns and villages throughout Canada. We stand with our hats off, our heads bowed and we wear a Poppy. We participate in a simple, but very moving ceremony to honour the many Canadian service personnel who have died in war and in other missions throughout the world.

Canadians remember those who paid the supreme sacrifice in many ways. But what should the Remembrance Day ceremony mean to you—today? Perhaps the most important thing to remember is that many of those who were killed were not much older than you. In fact, some were even the same age as you, even though eighteen years was the minimum age for enlistment. Some of these men and women left high school and university classes to fly warplanes while still in their teens. Others stormed the beaches of Sicily, Italy and France or fought in the Battle of the Atlantic in tiny warships known as corvettes. Many of them did not reach the age of twenty-one before they were killed in action, but their plans for the future were as bright as yours today. They left the excitement and promise of graduation—of sharing more good times at home with friends—to serve.

The war turned their world upside down. More than once in the last hundred years, generations of young Canadians were thrust into massive conflicts which threatened their way of life. Thousands volunteered to serve in Canada’s military, becoming sailors, soldiers



◀ A high school student examines a soldier's personnel file.

ESSAY AND DEBATE TOPICS

1. Why is it important to maintain world peace? Is it necessary for a country to have military forces?
2. Should Canada be involved in conflicts in other parts of the world? Should everyone in the world have the same rights and freedoms?
3. How should we honour our Canadian war veterans?
4. Is it important to study our military history?
5. Who is the Silver Cross Mother and why does she participate in the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the National War Memorial?
6. What are some modern examples of courage and heroism?
7. How would you define a war veteran? What are some modern examples of military service?
8. How well do you think Canada as a whole honours and provides for those who are prepared to lay down their lives for their country?
9. What does the Poppy symbolize?
10. Why is it important to develop a good understanding of the role Canadians have had in places such as Afghanistan? Do you think younger Canadians have an appreciation for what Canadian military personnel have accomplished there?

and air force personnel. They knew going in that enlisting would probably put their lives at risk, but they went ahead anyway.

The reasons they cited for enlisting varied, but most of them did so because they were concerned for the future and the security of their way of life. Today, most of us have been exposed to conflict or reports of conflict. The war in Afghanistan and Canada's involvement there has come alive on our TV screens and through internet videos. The results of warfare are easily seen, but what's often missing in the storyline is how Canada has filled an important role there, providing security and helping with nation-building initiatives. It is also important to remember Canadian contributions in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, the Gulf War and other places. Remembrance Day is the time to honour those who paid the supreme sacrifice. It also gives us the opportunity to reflect on how we would feel if our whole pattern of life was threatened. Would we have the courage to do what our grandfathers and grandmothers did?

This is why it is important to wear the Poppy, and relate to those who left their homes, loved ones and friends to fight for Canada, and to remember those who are serving today. But above all, we must remember those who did not return.

Students have questions for a visiting veteran. >

PROJECT IDEAS

1. Design posters announcing Remembrance Day ceremonies at school and in the community. Tweet or use Facebook and email to remind people of the importance of attending or participating directly in Remembrance Day activities.

2. Tweet or send email messages to people about current events involving Canada's military and its missions abroad.

3. Contact Canadian Forces personnel overseas through Skype, Facebook, by tweeting or by regular post.

4. Invite a veteran from your local Legion branch to speak to your class or community group.

5. Take time to visit a veteran in a local nursing home or hospital.

6. Plan a field trip to study the names on a local cenotaph and then conduct research to learn about the people behind those names. Help organize a trip to visit overseas war cemeteries and battlefields.

7. Visit your local archives to learn more about your community's response during times of war.

8. Select a military unit and do a class report on its history and involvement in the First or Second World War or in a more modern conflict.

9. Find out what assistance your local Legion branch may need during the busy Poppy Campaign.



10. For geography class, make a map or scale model showing significant battle sites, such as Vimy Ridge, the beaches of Normandy, the island of Hong Kong, Italy's Ortona or training sites across Canada used during the war.

11. For theatre arts or English class, write a play or short story telling of Canadian involvement in the war overseas and on the home front.



READING RESOURCES

(CLICK TO GO TO LINK)

- LEST WE FORGET PROGRAM BRINGS NAMES TO LIFE

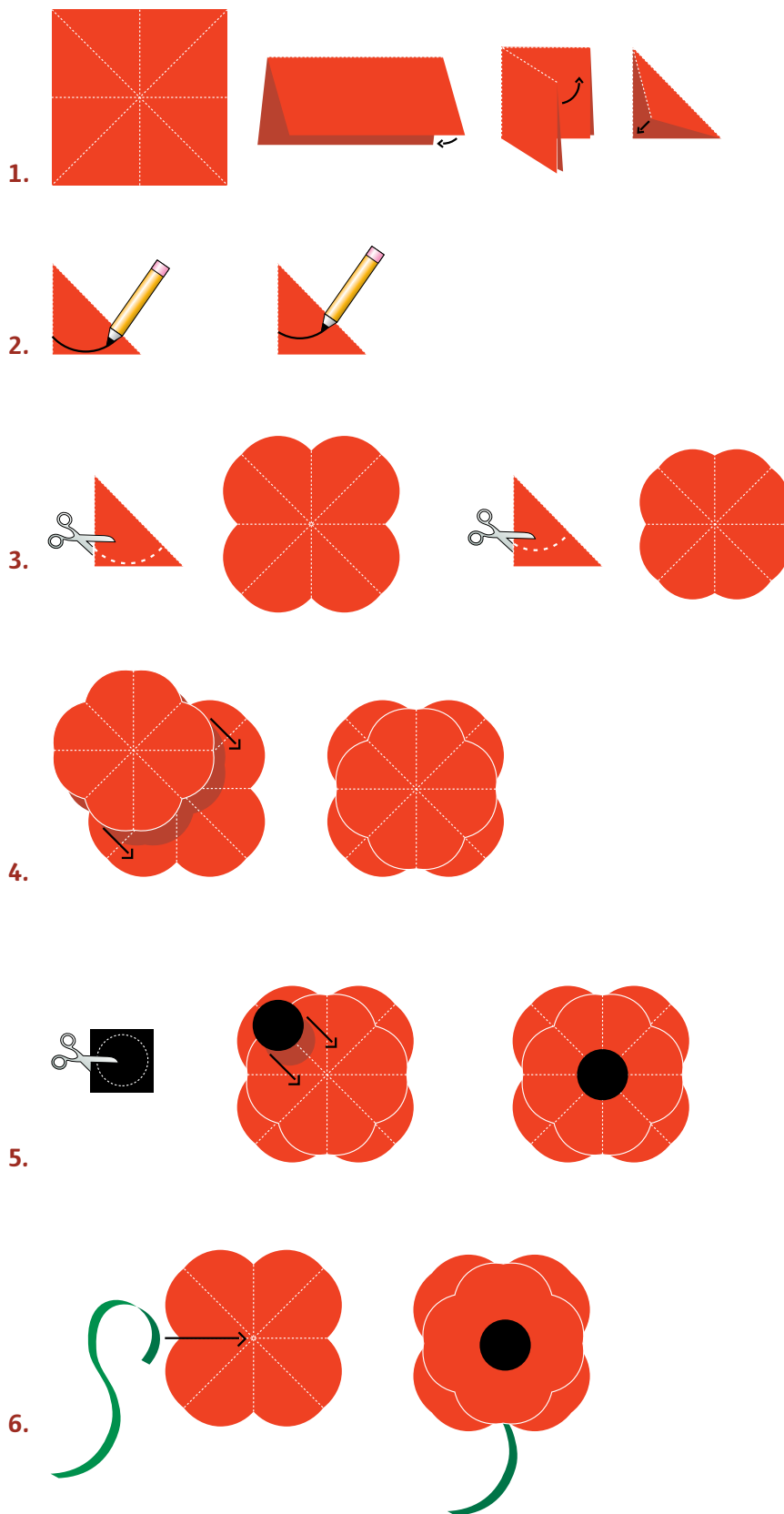
MAKE POPPIES

Materials needed: two 12cm (5 in) squares of red paper, small piece of black paper, twist tie, glue, scissors.

DIRECTIONS

1. Fold squares of red paper into quarters, then diagonally into eighths, as shown in the diagram.
2. Trace the two patterns on the two folded squares as shown, one on each square.
3. Cut the folded squares on the pattern lines and unfold the shapes. They will have a slight bowl shape.
4. Glue the smaller shape inside the larger one.
5. Cut a small (2cm or 3/4 in) circle of black paper and glue it in the centre of the flower.
6. Glue the twist tie on the back of the flower so that it can be tied onto a shirt button or other object.

Without the twist tie glued on, the Poppies can be used to decorate a bulletin board by using a push pin or tack in the centre. A wreath can be made by bending a coat hanger into a circle and covering with crumpled black paper, and attaching Poppies with twist ties. Cut a strip of paper long enough to go from one side to the other of the wreath and attach, with an inscription lettered on it like "We Remember," or "Lest We Forget."



NATIONAL LITERARY AND POSTER CONTESTS

For over 50 years, The Royal Canadian Legion has sponsored annual Poster and Literary contests open to all Canadian schoolchildren in the Canadian school system. The youths who participate in the contests assist the Legion in one of its primary goals—fostering the tradition of Remembrance amongst Canadians.

The contests are divided into categories. The Poster Contest has four: (**Primary**—Grades 1, 2 and 3; **Junior**—Grades 4, 5 and 6; **Intermediate**—Grades 7,8 and 9; and **Senior**—Grades 10, 11 and 12). The Literary Contest has three: (**Junior**—Grades 4, 5 and 6; **Intermediate**—Grades 7,8 and 9; **Senior**—Grades 10, 11 and 12). Initial judging takes place at the community level by volunteers at local Legion branches and the winning entries progress to judging at the provincial level. The winning entries at this level are forwarded to Ottawa where they are judged and the national winners declared. The names and work of all the national winners are published.

The Poster Contest has two divisions—Colour and Black & White. The national first-place entries for the four categories from each division are displayed at the Canadian War Museum from June to May of the

following year. The entries winning second place and those receiving an honourable mention at the national level are displayed in the foyer of the Parliament Buildings during the annual Remembrance period in November.

The Literary Contest also has two divisions—Essay and Poems. The Senior First Place entries in each division are also displayed at the Canadian War Museum from June to May of the following year. Students may enter as many divisions as they wish.

The Legion also sponsors a trip to Ottawa for the senior winners in all four divisions (Colour Poster, Black & White Poster, Essay and Poem) to attend the National Remembrance Day Ceremony where they place a wreath on behalf of the Youth of Canada. They also have an opportunity to meet and visit with the Governor General and other dignitaries.

For more information on the Poster and Literary Contests, please contact The Royal Canadian Legion branch nearest your residence.

Lest We Forget



< From left: 2011 Senior Colour Poster 1st place – Atalanta Shi, Burnaby, B.C.; 2011 Senior B/W Poster 1st place – Tim MacDonald, Malagash, N.S.

POSTER CONTEST



**CLICK HERE
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO
DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION FORM**

COLOUR OR BLACK & WHITE

WIN A TRIP!

Win a trip for two to Ottawa to represent Canada's youth at next year's National Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11th.

REMEMBRANCE

Contestants are challenged to exercise their creativity and submit a poster on Remembrance in either colour or black and white.

This is a contest to select the most suitable posters submitted by students in the Canadian school system.

The posters will be judged at the local branch and then at the provincial level. The provincial winners in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories will then be submitted to Ottawa for judging at the national level.

NATIONAL PRIZES

CATEGORY 1: SENIOR Grades 10, 11, 12

	Colour	Black & White
1st Prize*	\$1000.00	\$1000.00
2nd Prize	\$500.00	\$500.00

*The first prize winners in Category 1 will be invited to Ottawa, accompanied by a parent, relative or guardian, at the expense of The Royal Canadian Legion to represent Canada's youth at the National Remembrance Day Ceremony.

CATEGORY 2: INTERMEDIATE Grades 7, 8, 9

	Colour	Black & White
1st Prize	\$500.00	\$500.00
2nd Prize	\$250.00	\$250.00

CATEGORY 3: JUNIOR Grades 4, 5, 6

	Colour	Black & White
1st Prize	\$250.00	\$250.00
2nd Prize	\$200.00	\$200.00

CATEGORY 4: PRIMARY Grades Kindergarten, 1, 2, 3

	Colour	Black & White
1st Prize	\$200.00	\$200.00
2nd Prize	\$150.00	\$150.00

REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTEST

1. Entries will be no larger than 56 cm x 71 cm.
2. Please choose which contest you would like to enter and use only the following:
Colour poster: Full colour
Black and White: Pencil, charcoal and/or India Ink
3. Entries will be judged on originality, expression of designated subject, drawing and illustration. **COMPUTER GENERATED ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
4. The poster shall reflect Remembrance with a Canadian theme. If symbols are used, Canadian symbols shall be pre-eminent. Such national symbols are Canadian and provincial flags, coats of arms, and representative flowers, birds or animals, as well as all forms of Canadian historical and current military dress.
5. Candidates must complete an official Registration Form, available from the local Legion branch or on line at www.Legion.ca, and attach it to their entry (no staples please).
6. Winning posters, at the national level, will be framed and placed on display at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa for one year. Second and third place national level winners will be displayed at Parliament Hill during the week of Remembrance. All artwork will be returned to the artists through provincial commands.
7. Students who have been out of the educational system for more than two consecutive years are ineligible to compete in the Poster Contest at any level.
8. Contestants may enter both the Colour Contest and the Black and White Contest, but may submit only one entry for each category.
9. All entries are to be submitted to the local Legion branch.

A plaque will be awarded to the winner in each category, and to the winner's school. Prizes will be awarded on the recommendation of the judges, whose decision will be final. On notification of having been selected as a winner at the Dominion Command level, the artist or writer agrees to the full and exclusive non-profit use of the art or literary work by The Royal Canadian Legion for the period of one year, after which all rights for usage revert to the artist or writer.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Please contact the Legion branch nearest you for the specific deadline date for entries.

LITERARY CONTEST



**CLICK HERE
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO
DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION FORM**

ESSAYS AND POEMS

WIN A TRIP!

Win a trip for two to Ottawa to represent Canada's youth at next year's National Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11th.

REMEMBRANCE

Contestants are challenged to exercise their creativity and write an essay and/or poem on Remembrance.

This is a contest to select the most suitable essays and poems submitted by Canadian students in the Canadian school system.

The essays and poems will be judged at the local branch and then at the provincial level. The provincial winners in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories will then be submitted to Ottawa for judging at the national level.

NATIONAL PRIZES

CATEGORY 1: SENIOR Grades 10, 11, 12

Candidates will submit a composition in prose of not more than 800 words or a poem of not more than 32 lines.

	Essay	Poem
1st Prize*	\$1000.00	\$1000.00
2nd Prize	\$500.00	\$500.00

*The first prize winners in Category 1 will be invited to Ottawa, accompanied by a parent, relative or guardian, at the expense of The Royal Canadian Legion to represent Canada's youth at the National Remembrance Day Ceremony.

CATEGORY 2: INTERMEDIATE Grades 7, 8, 9

Candidates will submit a composition in prose of not more than 500 words or a poem of not more than 32 lines.

	Essay	Poem
1st Prize	\$500.00	\$500.00
2nd Prize	\$250.00	\$250.00

CATEGORY 3: JUNIOR Grades 4, 5, 6

Candidates will submit a composition in prose of not more than 350 words or a poem of not more than 32 lines.

	Essay	Poem
1st Prize	\$250.00	\$250.00
2nd Prize	\$200.00	\$200.00

REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTEST

1. This contest is open to all Canadian students in the Canadian school system.
2. Entries may be submitted in either English or French.
3. Entries will be marked on the basis of originality of thought, expression, presentation, grammar, spelling and Canadian content.
4. Candidates must complete an official Registration Form, available from the local Legion branch or on line at www.Legion.ca, and attach it to their entry (no staples please).
5. Candidates will use only one side of the page.
6. Entries must not exceed the word or line limit.
7. Contestants may enter both the Essay Contest and the Poetry Contest, but may submit only one entry for each category.
8. Students who have been out of the educational system for more than two consecutive years are ineligible to compete in the Literary Contest at any level.
9. All entries are to be submitted to the local Legion branch.

A plaque will be awarded to the winner in each category, and to the winner's school. Prizes will be awarded on the recommendation of the judges, whose decision will be final. On notification of having been selected as a winner at the Dominion Command level, the writer agrees to the full and exclusive non-profit use of the literary work by The Royal Canadian Legion for the period of one year, after which all rights for usage revert to the writer.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Please contact the Legion branch nearest you for the specific deadline date for entries.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION'S PILGRIMAGE OF REMEMBRANCE

Standing in front of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial or between rows of headstones in one of the vast Canadian overseas war cemeteries is usually a life-changing experience. In more recent times, teachers from across Canada have recognized the significance of visiting these places with their students. They have come to view them as “teachable moments”—when the student finally understands why it is we remember the fallen and must learn from the past. Every two years, the Legion organizes and hosts the

Pilgrimage of Remembrance which visits and holds commemorative services at First and Second World war battlefields and cemeteries in Northwest Europe. Important stops have included Vimy, Beaumont Hamel, Dieppe, Juno Beach in Normandy, Ypres, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The participants range from youth leaders—many of them teachers and leaders in their communities—to Veterans. Most are transformed by the experience, and go on to write about it or to speaking engagements in their communities.

From left: Pilgrim David Andrews of Stewiacke, N.S., finds a hometown name on the Canadian National Vimy Memorial; Brian Vessey of Oromocto, N.B., will use a gravestone rubbing during talks to students back home in Canada.



CLICK HERE
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO
DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION FORM



READING RESOURCES
(CLICK TO GO TO LINK)

• A JOURNEY OF LEARNING

THE LEGION IS HERE TO HELP



For more than 85 years, the Legion has been committed to community service. That commitment includes doing whatever is necessary to perpetuate the tradition of Remembrance in schools and among the youth of Canada. Should your school need information or assistance in carrying out a Remembrance Day event or any other occasion that would serve to improve general understanding of Remembrance and Canada's military history, the Legion is ready to assist with support at the local, provincial and national levels. Addresses or contact information for all levels of the Legion are available on line through the Branch Locator found at Legion.ca.

The Royal Canadian Legion website is:

www.Legion.ca

The National Headquarters (Dominion Command) is located in Ottawa at:

The Royal Canadian Legion
Dominion Command
86 Aird Place
Ottawa, ON K2L 0A1
613-591-3335

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

www.legion.ca

CANADIAN LETTERS AND IMAGES PROJECT

www.canadianletters.ca

CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM

www.warmuseum.ca

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

www.cwgc.org

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

www.forces.gc.ca

JUNO BEACH CENTRE

www.junobeach.org

LEGION MAGAZINE

www.legionmagazine.com

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca

THE MEMORY PROJECT

www.thememoryproject.com

VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA

www.veterans.gc.ca

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PHOTOS: ADAM DAY, LEGION MAGAZINE

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PHOTOS: CPL. TINA GILLES, COMBAT CAMERA CANADA—AR2011-
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PHOTOS: MONTREAL GAZETTE—PA108300; LIBRARY AND
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PHOTOS: LEGION MAGAZINE ARCHIVES; A. LOUIS JARCHÉ,
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PHOTOS: LEGION MAGAZINE ARCHIVES; GREGORY COOK,
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PHOTOS: GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA ARCHIVES;
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PHOTO: DONALD FRASER MEMORIAL SCHOOL

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PHOTO: DAN BLACK, LEGION MAGAZINE ARCHIVES

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AN ARTIST'S RECONSTRUCTION OF D-DAY, JUNE 6, 1944. ILLUSTRATION: DAVID COGHE

TIMELINE The following timeline on the D-Day invasion and Normandy Campaign represents a rough sketch of how the fighting progressed for Canadians during the summer of 1944. More specific details can be found in many fine books on the subject.



AUGUST 1943 The plan to invade France is endorsed during the Quebec Conference attended by Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, Winston Churchill and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.



JUNE 4, 1944 Thousands of military personnel begin to embark on ships, but the weather takes a nasty turn and the invasion is postponed.



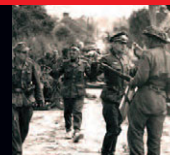
JUNE 7-8, 1944 Fierce and bloody fighting ensues at Bure, Authie and Puteu-en-Bessin. Canadian units suffer almost 600 casualties in two days of fighting.



JULY 7-9, 1944 Allied bombers cause extensive damage to Caen. The Germans are severely shaken, but many remain dug in on the outskirts of the city. Many French civilians are among the dead and wounded.



AUG. 16-17, 1944 Canadians fight their way into Falaise. Canadian and Polish forces move to block the enemy's escape route east of Falaise. Soon, most of the German forces in Normandy (between 150,000 and 200,000) are trapped in a small pocket.



AUG. 18-20, 1944 At St Lambert-sur-Dives, Major David Currie of the South Alberta Regt. earns the Victoria Cross after his small mixed force of infantry, tanks and self-propelled guns is ordered to cut one of the main German escape routes. The enemy, which attacked repeatedly, is repulsed and while casualties are heavy, Currie and his unit never give up. Hundreds of enemy are killed or wounded and seven enemy tanks, 12 88-mm guns and 40 vehicles destroyed.

May 8, 1944
General Dwight D. Eisenhower settles on June 5, 1944, as the date of the cross-Channel Normandy invasion. It is also decided that in the event of bad weather, the invasion could be mounted on June 6 or 7.

May 26, 1944
Amid tight security and great secrecy, Canadian, British and American forces are concentrated on the south coast of England. The camps are sealed and no one can enter or leave without special authorization.

June 5, 1944
The massive invasion force begins to cross the English Channel, heading for the Normandy coast.

Under cover of darkness, Allied paratroopers, including approximately 450 Canadians, jump from aircraft or are landed in gliders behind enemy coastal defences. Part of their mission is to seize or knock out key positions, such as road junctions. In the morning light, a Canadian force of approximately 14,500 begins to land on a beach or sector codenamed Juno. The aerial attack, meanwhile, includes personnel from The Royal Canadian Air Force. RCAF bombers from No. 6 Bomber Group go after German coastal defences while Canadian fighter pilots fight the Luftwaffe and enemy formations on the ground. The Royal Canadian Navy contributes 10,000 sailors and more than 100 vessels, including destroyers, armed cruisers and minesweepers. By day's end, the Atlantic Wall is breached.

July 4, 1944
Canadians advance toward Carpiquet airport on the outskirts of Caen, but the enemy is ready. Canadian units are ravaged by machine-gun and shellfire.

July 9, 1944
Canadians work carefully to clear Caen of booby traps, mines and snipers. After retreating from Caen, the enemy sets up defensive positions over the Orne River.

July 25, 1944
Disaster and carnage is the result when Canadian units try to attack a well-positioned, well-armed and experienced enemy force on Verrières Ridge. Canadian casualties number more than 1,500, including approximately 450 dead. It is the second bloodiest day for Canada in the war.

Aug. 8, 1944
South of Caen and on the heels of a heavy aerial bombardment, the Canadians mount a massive and well-planned armoured attack, and in the process move closer to Falaise. A plan is hatched by the Allies to form a pocket with the idea of trapping 21 German divisions west of Falaise and Argentan.

Aug. 18-19, 1944
Arriving from the north, 4th Canadian Arm'd. Div. occupies the village of Trun while American and French forces move up from the south toward Chambois. The Canadians work to prevent the Germans from escaping out of the Falaise pocket to the east while Polish forces work to prevent the enemy from breaking into the pocket to rescue those trying to get out. Polish forces also move to Chambois where they meet up with the Americans. The gap in the Falaise pocket is closed and the enemy is either defeated or on the run.

BY THE NUMBERS

The following is presented for quick reference only. In some cases the numbers are approximations.

06/06/44
Date of Allied Normandy landings

1 MILLION
Canadian men and women active in Canada's armed services by June 1944

12 MILLION
Population of Canada in June 1944

100,000
Canadians directly involved in the prep work for D-Day and subsequent Normandy campaign

8
length (in kilometres) of Juno Beach

14,500
Canadians landed on Juno Beach by the end of the day, June 6, 1944

110
Royal Canadian Navy vessels that contributed to the common cause of the invasion

10,000
RCN sailors that supported the invasion

16
Canadian Bangor-class minesweepers deployed to help "sweep" approach channels to the assault area

6
Approximate speed (in mph) of an amphibious, dual propeller-driven Duplex Drive (DD) Tank, nicknamed Donald Ducks by the troops

42
Royal Canadian Air Force operational squadrons overseas on D-Day. Thirty-nine of them either flew sorties on that day or were on standby

14,000
Landmines planted by the Germans between the towns Courseulles-sur-Mer and Bernières-sur-Mer, a distance of some three kilometres

340
Canadians killed or died of wounds while serving with 3rd Canadian Infantry Division on June 6, 1944

328
1st Canadian Parachute Battalion losses (killed, wounded or missing) between early June and late August

47
Canadians taken prisoner on D-Day

18,444
Canadians wounded or killed in the Battle of Normandy between early June and late August 1944

5,021
Canadians killed in Normandy between early June and late August 1944

OPERATION OVERLORD Codename for the 1944 Allied invasion of occupied Northwest Europe.

OPERATION NEPTUNE Codename for the assault phase (the Normandy landings and associated operations) of the 1944 Allied invasion of Normandy.

D-DAY Allied staff term for the unnamed day on which an operation commences or is to commence. The letter D is a military symbol standing for the day the operation is to happen.

JUNO The Allied codename given to the Normandy beach where Canadians landed on June 6, 1944.

Sources: Bloody Victory: Canadians and the D-Day Campaign 1944 by J.L. Granatstein and Desmond Morton; D-Day: The Illustrated History by Stephen Badsey; June: Canadians At D-Day, June 6, 1944 by Ted Barris; Legion Magazine; Normandy 1944: The Canadian Summer by Bill McAndrew, Donald E. Graves and Michael Whitty; Oxford Companion to World War II; The Legion Campaign: The Operations in North-West Europe, 1944-1945 by C.P. Stacey; Veterans Affairs Canada.

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A large blue and white naval ship, the USS Zumwalt (DDG 1052), is shown sailing on the ocean. The ship is viewed from a low angle, emphasizing its size and the white wake it leaves behind. The hull number '339' is visible on the side. In the top left corner, there is a graphic overlay with the text 'NAVY' in large blue letters, '100TH ANNIVERSARY' in smaller blue letters, and '1910-2010' in even smaller letters below it.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS ON THE SEA

HMCS Charlottetown (3rd) in the Northern Arabian Sea, February 2008.

UNION FLAG
1867-1945

CANADA RED ENSIGN I
1922-1957

CANADA RED ENSIGN II
1957-1965

MAPLE LEAF
1965-PRESENT



 UNION FLAG 1867-1945	 CANADA RED ENSIGN I 1922-1957	 CANADA RED ENSIGN II 1957-1965	 MAPLE LEAF 1965-PRESENT
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WHITE ENSIGN
1910-1965

BLUE ENSIGN
1910-1965

CANADIAN FORCES NAVAL JACK
1965-PRESENT

CANADA FLAG
1965-PRESENT



			
WHITE ENSIGN 1910-1965	BLUE ENSIGN 1910-1965	CANADIAN FORCES NAVAL JACK 1969-PRESENT	CANADA FLAG 1965-PRESENT

AUG. 4, 1910 At Portsmouth, England, the cruiser	AUGUST 1914 With her high-explosive shells still	JANUARY 1916 Prime Minister Robert	AUGUST 1918 U-156 cuts a swath through	DECEMBER 1927 The first purpose-built warships are ordered for the RCN.	1933 In the very year Hitler	JANUARY 1939 At the height of the
--	--	--	--	---	--	---

A horizontal timeline bar divided into two sections. The left section has a blue background and contains a sequence of colored circles (yellow, orange, red) representing the years 1910 through 1918. The right section has a red background and contains a sequence of green circles representing the years 1921 through 1935. The year 1921 is highlighted with a red circle. The text 'Naval Staff.' is written in white above the 1921 circle. The year 1935 is highlighted with a green circle.

Category	Percentage
Category 1	10%
Category 2	20%
Category 3	30%
Category 4	40%
Category 5	50%
Category 6	60%
Category 7	70%
Category 8	80%
Category 9	90%
Category 10	100%

DECEMBER 1927 The first purpose-built warships are ordered for the RCN.	1933 In the very year Hitler	JANUARY 1939 At the height of the
---	--	---

Timeline of the Naval Staff from 1921 to 1939. The timeline shows a sequence of 24 positions, each represented by a colored circle. The colors transition from red to orange, yellow, green, and finally blue. The years 1921 and 1939 are marked at the beginning and end of the timeline, respectively. The positions are connected by a line, and some positions have additional lines extending from them, indicating further details or connections.

AUG. 15, 1950
RCN destroyer Cayuga opens fire on incoming Japanese planes.

A horizontal timeline spanning from 1950 to 1955. The timeline is represented by a series of circles, with the first circle labeled '1950' and the last circle labeled '1955'. Above the timeline, the text 'patrols and evacuations.' is written, with lines connecting it to several points on the timeline. To the right of the timeline, the text 'destroy nuclear bomb.' is partially visible.

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SEPTEMBER 1939 The RCN's first mission was to escort the Canadian corvettes from the Atlantic. The RCN forms the Gulf Escort Force based at Escondido, Chile. The RCN corvette Prescott sinks U-163 in the Atlantic northwest of Spain on the 13th.

A horizontal timeline of the 20th century, starting at 1919 and ending at 2019. The timeline is represented by a series of small circles connected by a line. Some circles are highlighted in yellow, indicating significant events. The timeline is divided into decades by vertical lines. The years 1919, 1929, 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999, and 2019 are marked. The timeline ends with a downward arrow icon.

A horizontal timeline from 1939 to 1945, marked with small circles. Key events are labeled above the timeline:

- 172 and 200 continue to sink U-975 on 13th.
- Destroy U-976 in the English Channel.
- the Irish Sea.
- destroys U-877 in the North Atlantic.
- U-307 north of Scotland.
- Europe over Germany.

PHOTOS:

1948 The first year of the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union were the only two superpowers in the world. The United States was the only country in the world that had nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union was the only country in the world that had a large standing army.

Timeline: 1946, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, disappear formally, upgrade the O class submarines.

EARLY 1980s Much of the navy's	1985 Just in time	1995-2002
--	-----------------------------	------------------

1983 Naval Reserve Headquarters	1989 By the time the Berlin Wall collapses,	JAN. 17, 1991 The task group sent to the Persian Gulf distinguishes	1992-1996 Halifax class frigates launched.	1995 The navy reinforces Canada's commitment
--	--	--	---	---

immediate contribution to the war on terror. Within nine

Canada's naval contribution to the war on terror

reassigned from an anti-terrorist mission in the Mediterranean to a

Winnipeg continues to disrupt piracy in the Gulf of Aden; a successful nine-week counter-piracy mission ends for HMCS

2002 2004 FALL 2009

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