

# CANADA REMEMBERS TIMES

Veterans' Week Special Edition — 5-11 November 2022



**WEATHER**  
6 January 1998  
Sherbrooke, QC  
-1°C Freezing rain

## WE REMEMBER VIMY RIDGE



Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-001270

Victorious Canadian soldiers returning from the front lines at Vimy Ridge.

Canada's remarkable victory at Vimy Ridge during the First World War is one of the best-known battles in our country's military history. At 5:30 a.m. on 9 April 1917—Easter Monday—the first waves of 15,000-20,000 Canadian soldiers emerged from their trenches and tunnels to attack this heavily defended hill in northern France. Whoever controlled the high ground at Vimy could dominate a broad stretch of the surrounding front lines, and the Allies wanted to capture this key position.

The battle would be the first time that all four Canadian divisions went into action together. Our troops braved heavy enemy fire as they fought their way up the slopes of Vimy Ridge. They did so with the help of a "creeping barrage"—an advancing line of carefully timed and precisely aimed Allied shell fire which forced the Germans to take cover. The Canadians closely followed behind these explosions and when the barrage shifted ahead to the next set of targets, our soldiers captured the enemy positions before the battered German defenders could react.

The fighting was bitter but most of the hill was captured by early that afternoon, and by April 12 all of the ridge was in Canadian hands. This success came at a great cost, however. Nearly 3,600 Canadians lost their lives and more than 7,000 were wounded. Many have come to believe that the Battle of Vimy Ridge, which saw Canadians from coast to coast to coast come together to triumph, was a pivotal chapter in Canada's development into a strong and independent country. It remains a point of great Canadian pride today.

## The Great Ice Storm of 1998

Canadian Armed Forces members not only help defend peace and freedom around the world, they also help out during emergencies here at home. Canada is a vast country with millions of square kilometres of forests, countless rivers and an environment that can often be severe. When natural disasters like floods, forest fires and storms strike, our military can quickly swing into action.

A prime example of this important support came in January 1998 when a major ice storm hit Eastern Canada. Days of heavy freezing rain caused

great damage to trees, power lines and buildings. More than four million people would lose their power, leaving them without lights, central heating, running water, refrigeration and warm meals in the depths of winter. The governments of Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick quickly asked for military assistance to deal with this widespread crisis.

In response, the Canadian Armed Forces launched Operation RECUPERATION on 8 January 1998. Soon our service members were helping clear debris, rescuing stranded people and animals, repairing downed power lines, assessing damaged roads

and bridges, feeding and sheltering people in need, and providing security. More than 15,750 regular and reserve force personnel from approximately 200 units across the country would take part in this effort, making it Canada's largest operational military deployment since the Korean War.



Canadian soldiers working on a toppled power transmission tower in January 1998.

Photo: Department of National Defence

## Fighting for peace in the Balkans



Canadian peacekeepers traveling in their armoured personnel carrier in the Balkans in 1993.

Photo: Department of National Defence

This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of one of the most significant international peace support efforts in Canada's history—the United Nations Protection Force in the Balkans. When the communist government of Yugoslavia collapsed in the early 1990s, old ethnic and religious differences in the southeastern European country flared into a bitter civil war. Canada and

other countries sent peacekeepers to try to help. It was exceptionally challenging as there was very little "peace" to "keep" at first. Instead, the violence continued all around them and atrocities against civilians were common.

Early in the United Nations mission, Canadian peacekeepers in Bosnia-Herzegovina grabbed the world's

attention as they helped open the Sarajevo airport to international relief flights in the midst of active fighting around the city. They also helped deliver vital supplies to the local people and pushed to restore security in the war-torn region. David Ott of Nova Scotia was there:

*Opening up the airport in Sarajevo was probably amongst some of the biggest highlights in my career. Bringing food and medicine to people that hadn't had it. I mean that's what we were there for. But we always looked at the heartbreak of the shooting and the shelling. We were the first Canadians shelled since Korea... we had to deal with that.*

Tens of thousands of Canadian Armed Forces members would serve in the peace efforts in the Balkans in the 1990s and 2000s, with 23 of our peacekeepers sadly losing their lives there. How will you remember?

## HEAVY LOSSES AT DIEPPE

The Dieppe Raid took place on 19 August 1942, and would prove to be Canada's bloodiest day of the entire Second World War. Almost 5,000 of our soldiers landed along the shores of occupied France at the towns of Dieppe, Puys and Pourville. The Allies carried out the ill-fated raid for several reasons. They wanted to test German defences, gather intelligence on enemy technology and secret military codes, as well as practice coastal landing techniques for future operations. It was also hoped that the attack would ultimately force the Germans to shift some of their resources from the Eastern Front to take some pressure off our allies fighting there.

Sadly, things did not go as planned and the strong German

defences took a dreadful toll on the attacking Canadians. More than 900 of our service members would lose their lives and almost 2,000 more were taken prisoner. John Patrick Grogan of Ontario was there:

*"We knew what we were supposed to do all right. We were to get to land and get over the beach as quickly as we could and get up over the sea wall. But on landing... the beach was lined with people all lying there... I just couldn't understand what they were all lying there for. But they were dead."*

80 years after the Dieppe Raid, the people of France remember our brave soldiers who fought there—and so do we.



Allied ships in the English Channel heading for Dieppe on 19 August 1942.

Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-171080

## The RCR at Hill 355



The war painting "Incoming" by Edward Zuber depicting the Royal Canadian Regiment fighting at Hill 355 in 1952.

Photo: © Canadian War Museum CWM 19890328-008

More than 26,000 Canadians served on land, at sea and in the air during the Korean War of 1950-1953. One of the places our soldiers saw the most action was Hill 355—a towering front line position nicknamed "Little Gibraltar." It was strategically located about 40 kilometres north of Seoul and was greatly valued because it was the highest ground overlooking the surrounding front lines and supply routes. Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) soldiers had been sent there in September 1952 and enemy forces had periodically bombarded our troops in the weeks that followed, leaving the defenses badly weakened. Preparations were clearly being made for an attack and it finally came in the early evening of 23 October 1952. The Chinese laid down another heavy artillery barrage, then sent their soldiers forward in a large raid on the Canadian troops.

Under heavy assault and with communications cut off, some of the Canadians were forced to abandon their defensive positions to the surging attackers. Tank and mortar fire from United Nations forces was poured into the captured areas, however, as well as on nearby Hill 227 and the valley to the north which the Chinese also held. The enemy withdrew and the Canadians were able to reoccupy their lost ground in the early hours of October 24. The fighting had taken a heavy toll, however, with 18 Canadians being killed, 35 wounded and 14 more taken prisoner.

veterans.gc.ca/educators



# Canadian peacekeepers in Cyprus

Canada has a long and proud tradition of contributing to international peacekeeping missions. One of our country's best known peace efforts has been in Cyprus. The Mediterranean island became an independent country in 1960, but long-simmering tensions between its Greek and Turkish populations soon erupted into open violence. In 1964, the United Nations (UN) launched a major peacekeeping mission in Cyprus and Canadians would play an important role.

Our soldiers helped maintain a fragile peace there for a decade. However, in 1974 thousands of troops from neighbouring Turkey invaded the northern portion of the island and Canadian peacekeepers

suddenly found themselves in the middle of a war zone. Cyprus would end up split into two parts, separated by a buffer zone running its full width called the "Green Line."

A large contingent of Canadians served on the island until 1993, spending countless hours patrolling the Green Line and helping prevent renewed violence. Our country no longer has a large peacekeeping force there, but Canada still supports UN efforts in Cyprus with a mission called Operation SNOWGOOSE. More than 33,000 Canadian Armed Forces members have served there over the years and, sadly, 28 of them lost their lives.



A Canadian peacekeeper at a UN observation post in Cyprus in 1967.

Photo: Department of National Defence

## Eyes and ears of the north

Canada is the second largest country in the world. And yet, more than 80% of our vast nation is sparsely populated. Following the Second World War, Canada's military knew they had to do more to monitor and protect these remote areas. To help meet this need, they created the Canadian Rangers in 1947 – a special army reserve unit to be, as their motto suggests, "Watchers" of the North.

It takes unique skills to be able to navigate and survive in Canada's most isolated regions. Because of their intimate knowledge of the land, many Canadian Rangers are from Indigenous communities. They provide essential support in the North, as well as on hard-to-reach stretches of our east and west coasts.

In addition to helping maintain a military presence in these areas, Canadian Rangers also assist during local rescue operations and natural disasters, such as forest fires and floods. In the past two years, they have also filled a variety of roles while helping with the pandemic response in their parts of the country, such as delivering vaccines and much needed supplies. We salute our Canadian Rangers who have been serving our country for 75 years and counting!



A Canadian Ranger during a patrol in Nunavut in 2012.

Photo: Department of National Defence IS2012-1012-06

## Military families in Western Europe



Canadian service member with his sons at a NATO school for military families in France.

Photo: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

of the Iron Curtain. Being an ocean away from Canada for years on end was a lot to ask, and many married service members would take their families with them to Europe.

It is often said that when someone serves in the Canadian Armed Forces, in a way the whole family also serves because of the sacrifices that must be made so they can perform their important duties. For the spouses and children of Canadian military personnel who deployed to Western Europe during this period, it was even more true. Being far away from extended family, old friends and all that was familiar back home was often tough. However, many Canadian children who grew up at our bases overseas also have fond memories of the unique opportunities they had to see the wider world. So when we thank those who have put their lives on the line in the cause of peace, let us also remember the families who supported them.

Thousands of Canadian military personnel served in Western Europe from the early 1950s to the early 1990s as part of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces on the continent during the Cold War. Primarily stationed at army and air force bases in France and West Germany, they helped stand guard against a possible communist attack from the eastern side

## The Menin Gate

The Menin Gate is a massive Commonwealth War Graves Commission memorial that stands in the Belgian city of Ypres. Engraved on its stone walls are the names of nearly 55,000 soldiers of the British Commonwealth—including almost 7,000 Canadians—who lost their lives in Belgium during the First World War and had no known grave.

The Menin Gate was unveiled 95 years ago in July 1927. Every evening at 8:00 p.m., a special ceremony is held where buglers solemnly play the *Last Post* to honour the fallen. War memorials are powerful places where we can help keep the torch of remembrance burning brightly. When we respectfully visit them, we have a unique opportunity to show that the sacrifices of our service members will never be forgotten.

## A REMARKABLE AVIATOR

World War and tried to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in 1941. The discriminatory RCAF regulations at the time meant that he was initially rejected, simply because of his ancestry. However, he was not one to give up easily. Sam persevered and was accepted when he again tried to join the following year, after the racial restrictions had been loosened.

He would serve as an air gunner in Bomber Command, taking part in 28 missions over occupied Europe. It was very dangerous duty. Sam's plane was hit by enemy fire over France in June 1944 and he was forced to bail out. To evade being captured by the Germans, Sam made contact with the French Resistance. He ended up staying in France for some

time, pretending to be an Asian student studying in the country while aiding resistance efforts and helping other downed Allied airmen escape. He also gathered information on enemy forces in France that he passed along to the Allies when he met up with advancing American troops at Reims in September 1944.

Among other service medals, Sam was awarded the French *Croix de guerre* for his impressive efforts. He remained in the RCAF after the war, making a career in military intelligence before retiring from regular service in 1967, after 25 years in uniform. We salute this extraordinary Chinese-Canadian trailblazer.



Doug Sam in uniform during the Second World War.

Photo: Canadian War Museum 20020083-002\_4b

Kam Len Douglas "Doug" Sam was born in Victoria, British Columbia, in 1918. The son of Chinese immigrants, he was well-educated and spoke several different languages. He wanted to serve his country during the Second

## Did you know?

Many Royal Canadian Navy ships have been named after First Nations peoples over the years, as a sign of respect to that diverse and proud heritage. These vessels have taken part in naval operations all over the world, from the Second World War era to more recent times. One of these deployments saw three Canadian destroyers with Indigenous names—HMCS Algonquin, Huron and Iroquois—deploy to the Adriatic Sea in the 1990s. There they joined other nations in a naval blockade of the Balkans, to enforce economic sanctions and prevent military supplies from reaching the war-torn region.

## A flood of support

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1997 Red River Floods in Manitoba. The waters of the Red River often run high during the spring, but that year would bring what many called "the flood of the century." Alarmed by the situation, the province asked the Canadian Armed Forces for support. On 21 April 1997, Operation ASSISTANCE was launched to help protect Winnipeg and other communities in southeastern Manitoba. It would be a massive undertaking, with more than 8,500 regular and reserve force military personnel taking part.



Canadian Armed Forces members stacking sandbags during the 1997 Red River Floods.

Our troops worked long hours filling drainage pumps. They also evacuated residents at risk and provided medical

assistance for those in need. Military engineers checked roads and bridges that had been affected. Military helicopters also helped in the relief efforts, while amphibious vehicles were used to travel across the flooded terrain. The struggle against nature was challenging and, despite their best efforts, many areas would still suffer heavy flooding.

As the worst of the crisis passed, some of our troops could begin to leave. On 13 May 1997, a large convoy of Canadian Armed Forces vehicles drove through downtown Winnipeg on their way back home. The streets were lined with thousands of grateful people cheering those who had helped them so much in their time of need.

Photo: Department of National Defence ISD97-097



# Diversity at sea

In recent years several Royal Canadian Navy and Canadian Coast Guard vessels have been named after a diverse group of individuals who showed great courage while serving our country. These ships will help keep their memory alive and ensure that their service and sacrifice are not forgotten.

## A Canadian trailblazer



Photo: Library and Archives Canada

2010 Canada Post stamp for William Hall.

William Hall was the first Black person, the first Nova Scotian and the third Canadian to receive the Victoria Cross. He was serving in the Royal Navy when he earned the medal for his great bravery while helping an artillery crew during an attack on an enemy stronghold in India in November 1857. Currently under construction, HMCS William Hall is the first naval vessel to be named after a Black Canadian. Remarkable individuals like Hall deserve our country's recognition and this honour is a special way to help us remember his contributions.

HMCS Margaret Brooke is named after a Royal Canadian Navy Nursing Sister who was decorated for her bravery during the Second World War. She was aboard the Newfoundland ferry SS Caribou when it was torpedoed in October 1942 and quickly sank. Fighting for her own survival, Sub-Lieutenant Brooke also did everything she could to save her friend, Nursing Sister Agnes Wilkie. Both of them clung to ropes on a capsized lifeboat but, sadly, Wilkie died in the cold water. For her selfless efforts that night, Brooke was named a Member of the Order of the British Empire.

## A courageous Nursing Sister

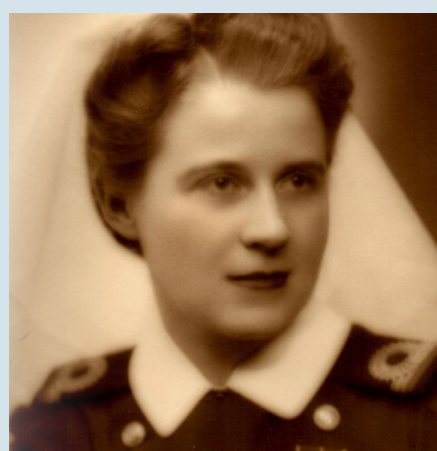


Photo: Department of National Defence

Nursing Sister Margaret Brooke

## A brave Indigenous sailor



Photo: Department of National Defence

Seaman Martin Charles (right) receiving a US Coast Guard medal.

The CCGS M. Charles M.B. was named after Martin Charles, a Canadian Coast Guard member and Hereditary Chief of the Ditidaht First Nation in British Columbia. He devoted his 32-year career to saving lives. In February 1976, he earned two medals of bravery for his instrumental role in a search and rescue incident that began with a sinking fishing vessel and ended with the crash of a United States Coast Guard helicopter. Through the brave efforts of Charles and his crewmates, many were saved. The patrol vessel named after this Indigenous hero now works in the waters off the West Coast.

A Canadian Coast Guard ship is named in honour of Captain Nichola Goddard, a trailblazing female soldier who led her team into battle and was the first Canadian woman to be killed while serving in a combat role. She was an artillery officer who was serving as a forward observer when she was killed in a firefight in Afghanistan on 17 May 2006. The CCGS Captain Goddard M.S.M. was launched in 2014 and is based in Victoria, British Columbia. The vessel's primary roles are fisheries and environmental patrols, search and rescue operations, and border control.

## A remarkable woman in uniform



Photo: Department of National Defence

Captain Nichola Goddard

# Paving the way for equality

All of Canadian society contributed to our country's impressive efforts during the Second World War, including women—many of whom served in uniform.

This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, popularly known as the Wrens, in July 1942. By the end of the conflict, nearly 7,000 volunteers had enlisted and served in many non-combatant roles, here at home and overseas. Regardless of the tasks they performed, from cooks and clerks to recruiters and code breakers, these servicewomen made significant contributions. They also helped



Photo: Library and Archives Canada Photo 3211276

Signalers of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service training in Quebec in September 1944.

pave the way for future generations of Canadian women to gain greater equality in both the military and civilian worlds.

# A high-flying prairie boy

William "Billy" Barker, a farm boy from Manitoba, was one of the best flying aces of the First World War. He enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1914 and saw action in the trenches of the Western Front before joining the Royal Flying Corps in 1916. He trained as a gunner and fighter pilot, and it turned out that he was a natural. This skilled aviator would shoot down a remarkable 50 enemy aircraft during the conflict.

On 27 October 1918—just weeks before the end of the war—Major Barker was in the skies over France when he was suddenly attacked by a squadron of German warplanes. Although he was wounded multiple times in the fighting, the determined ace managed to shoot

down four enemy aircraft. Barker crash landed his plane behind Allied lines and he was rushed to get medical attention. Despite his severe injuries, he survived.

For his heroic actions, Major Barker was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest award for bravery a Canadian could receive. However, he was no stranger to being recognized for his remarkable efforts. Barker also received three Military Crosses, two Distinguished Service Orders, was mentioned in dispatches three times, and was also awarded prestigious medals by France and Italy. He is one of the most highly decorated service members in Canada's history and we remember his remarkable courage and sacrifice.



Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-172313

Billy Barker and his Sopwith Camel fighter plane in 1918.

# IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE

Canadian Armed Forces members are well known for serving as peacekeepers in many conflict zones around the world over the years. To honour this proud tradition, there is a memorial in our nation's capital called *Reconciliation: The Peacekeeping Monument*.

Unveiled in 1992, this memorial has a unique design and tells a story. The three statues standing on the high wall are peacekeepers. Two men are looking into the distance—keeping an eye out for potential trouble—while the woman with the radio is in communication with other soldiers. On the ground, the broken concrete signifies the destruction caused by wars. The walls rise and form a point to symbolize looking toward the future, a time when the fighting is over and there is hope for reconciliation.

Peace is fragile and this powerful monument helps us reflect on the brave Canadians who have done so much to help protect it across the globe. Memorials like these are special symbols of remembrance and important ways to honour those who have served and sacrificed for us all. By going to them and paying our respects, we show that what they did matters and that Canada cares.

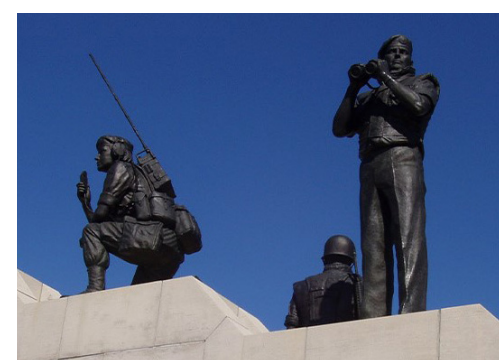


Photo: Department of National Defence

Reconciliation: The Peacekeeping Monument in Ottawa.

# Canadian Pride

The Canada Pride Citation was created as part of reconciliation and recognition efforts with members of the LGBTQ2+ community who have served our country, while enduring many hardships due to unjust policies. This citation honours their achievements, sacrifices and resilience.

Its design is deeply symbolic. The maple leaf represents service to Canada. The arrows pointing backward reflect the importance of thinking about the past and the injustices done to LGBTQ2+ Canadians who worked within the federal public service or served in our military and Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The forward pointing arrows signify the future and our country's commitment to building a society in which we are all valued equally.

The eight colours seen in the citation may be familiar to many as they are also displayed on the original Rainbow Pride flag. These colours symbolize LGBTQ2+ values. Pink means sexuality, red is life, orange is healing and yellow is for sunlight. The green means nature, turquoise denotes art, indigo is serenity and violet represents the human spirit.

We remember all those from our diverse society who have served our country and paid a price for who they are.



The Canada Pride Citation

# Did you know?



Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae is well known for writing the famous First World War poem *In Flanders Fields*. He was born in Guelph, Ontario, in 1872, and this year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. McCrae was an army doctor who cared for wounded soldiers on the Western Front. He noticed wild

red poppies growing on the desolate battlefields and among the burial places of fallen soldiers, which inspired his well-known verses. *In Flanders Fields* continues to be recited in schools and at remembrance ceremonies around the world, a poignant reminder of all those who served and died.



## An underwater remembrance quest

On 31 March 1951, two Royal Canadian Air Force pilots were on a training mission near Sorel-Tracy, Quebec. The skilled aviators, Flight Lieutenant Robert Leaper and Squadron Leader Guy Hackett, found themselves flying their de Havilland Vampire fighter jets through thick fog. Something went wrong and they ended up crashing into the icy waters of the St. Lawrence River at high speed. The remains of Leaper were eventually found. However, Hackett's body was never recovered.



Jean-Marc Perreault and his students with "La Petite Calypso."

Photo: facebook.com/petitecalypso

Fast forward to 2021, when a passionate high school science teacher from the area named Jean-Marc Perreault heard about the story. A member of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary and an avid diver, he was intrigued and pulled together a group of interested students to begin a new search using modern technology. On board his boat "La Petite Calypso," Captain Perreault and his students embarked on a quest to locate the missing aircraft. The patient team combed through live pictures of the river bottom obtained from sonar scans and submersible cameras, and followed up on promising evidence from under the waves.

Their remembrance quest has not yet found the missing plane, but further searching with more powerful tools is planned. This dedicated crew will continue the hunt, hoping to bring closure to a flight that started more than seven decades ago.

## U-BOATS IN THE GULF!

The Second World War truly was a global conflict. However, the fighting did not only occur in places far from Canada—sometimes the fighting came right to our country's doorstep. Beginning in May 1942, German U-boats stealthily entered the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the East Coast and began attacking Allied shipping. The goal was to disrupt the crucial flow of supplies sailing from North America to Britain that the Allies needed for the war effort. At times, the Germans even sailed far up the St. Lawrence River, sinking some merchant vessels less than 300 kilometers from Quebec City.

The heaviest blow, however, would come off the southwest coast of Newfoundland in the early morning hours of 14 October 1942. The ferry SS Caribou was on its way from Cape Breton to Newfoundland with 237 people on board, many of



Survivors of the SS Caribou on 14 October 1942.

Photo: Memorial University

them civilians. The dark night was lit up when the ferry was hit by a torpedo from a German U-boat. The explosion threw people from their bunks and they rushed to get off the sinking ship. Several lifeboats were damaged or could not be launched, so many were forced to jump into the cold water.

That night, 136 people died, including at least five mothers and ten children. It's been 80 years since the beginning of the Battle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the sinking of the SS Caribou, but the losses still echo for many Atlantic Canadians.

## The Highway of Heroes... and beyond

Remembrance Day on November 11 is a special time for us to stop and honour those who have served and died for our country. However, we also salute these brave Canadians in many other ways and can find signs of remembrance around us all year long.



The Highway of Heroes in Ontario in November 2007.

Photo: Department of National Defence TN2007-0761-03

Many communities have a war monument dedicated to people from the area who served in uniform. Sports arenas and ballfields also sometimes have names that connect to this theme. In fact, the Memorial Cup—our country's top junior hockey championship—is named in honour of Canadians who died in military service. There are also numerous schools named after famous wartime actions, like the Battle of Vimy Ridge, or individuals who served.

When you go for a drive, you may have a chance to encounter even more remembrance. The original Highway of Heroes is a section of Highway 401 in

## A young life lost, but not forgotten

Can you imagine leaving home at just 14 years old to sail overseas and fight a war in a foreign land? Robert Batey of Sarnia, Ontario, did just that.

Private Batey was one of about 20,000 underage Canadians who served in the First World War. Although recruits were typically supposed to be 18 to enlist, many teenagers lied about their age. Aside from a desire to serve "King and Country," their reasons for joining were varied—many were seeking adventure, others wanted a paying job, and some were eager to leave a difficult home life. Since birth certificates were not always available in those days, it was easier to sidestep the age requirements. Due to the great need for soldiers to fight, many of these underage recruits were accepted, as long as they met the height and weight requirements.

Like so many of these young people, Batey fought overseas on the Western Front. Sadly, he went missing during the Battle of the Somme in September 1916, just three months after his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. While his final resting place is unknown, his name is one of the more than 11,000 carved onto the stone walls of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France. These names are a lasting reminder of the sacrifices made by so many brave Canadians—including a heartbreakingly young teenager from Sarnia.



Private Robert Batey in uniform during the First World War.

Submitted photo

## Did you know?

Do you have an ancestor who is listed on the Canadian National Vimy Memorial? Find a digital image of their inscribed name while learning more about this important war monument by searching "Experience Vimy" in your web browser.

## A very special shirt

In December 2021, Matthew Heneghan of British Columbia received a special parcel in the mail that he was not quite expecting. To someone else, the old Edmonton Oilers tee-shirt inside may perhaps have seemed like an article to donate to a secondhand store—but to Heneghan, it meant the world.

The tee-shirt, still covered in desert dust, once belonged to someone very important to him named Colin Wilmot. The two young Canadian Armed Forces members had become fast friends in 2007 while training in Edmonton for a deployment to Afghanistan. Corporal Heneghan was scheduled to travel to the war-torn country to serve as a medic. Suffering from health problems, however, he ended up not going. His comrade, Private Wilmot, took his place. In July 2008, Heneghan received news that no one wants to hear. His buddy had been killed in an improvised explosive device blast in Afghanistan.

Phil Hunter, the medic who replaced Wilmot in Afghanistan, found Wilmot's beloved Oilers tee-shirt hung on the wall of his old quarters. He held on to it for years, hoping to find a rightful new owner. Then, in 2021, Hunter was drawn to a memoir called *A Medic's Mind* written by Heneghan. While listening to the chapter about Wilmot, he thought he might have finally found who should have the hockey shirt. He contacted Heneghan to say he had something special to send. When Heneghan opened the package, in his words, he felt like his old friend had come home for Christmas.



Colin Wilmot (left) with his friend Matthew Heneghan.

Photo courtesy of Matthew Heneghan

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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

### Across

- Last name of war artist who created a painting of Canadians fighting at Hill 355.
- Colour that symbolizes "healing" in the Canada Pride Citation.
- Last name of Quebec high school teacher who captained "La Petite Calypso."
- Name of battle in which 15-year-old Private Robert Batey died.
- British Columbia hometown of RCAF aviator Doug Sam.
- Belgian city where the Menin Gate is located.
- Name of national peacekeeping monument in Ottawa.
- Last name of Nursing Sister who tried to save her friend's life in 1942.
- Name of special Canadian army unit created in 1947.

### Down

- Region of Europe where Canadian peacekeepers went in the early 1990s.
- Name of ongoing Canadian peacekeeping mission in Cyprus.
- Name of military relief operation launched after the 1998 Great Ice Storm.
- Name of military relief operation launched during the 1997 Red River Floods.
- First World War battle that began on 9 April 1917.
- French town where Canadian soldiers came ashore on 19 August 1942.
- Bosnian city where Canadian peacekeepers helped reopen the airport in 1992.
- Home province of First World War ace William Barker.
- Private Colin Wilmot's favourite professional hockey team.