

Canada Remembers Times

Veterans' Week Special Edition – November 5 to 11, 2013

BREAKING NEWS . . . Canada Remembers the Korean War in 2013

Canada at War in Korea

After years of rising tensions, North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950. This act of aggression triggered an international crisis in the place traditionally known as the “Land of the Morning Calm.”

The United Nations (UN) voted to send a multinational force to the Far East to intervene. More than 26,000 Canadians would serve during the Korean War. In the summer of 1950, the Royal Canadian Navy sent destroyers to patrol the waters off Korea and the Royal Canadian Air Force began air transport runs between North America and Asia. The Canadian Army would soon send ground forces and our soldiers saw heavy action in places like Kapyong, Chail’li, Hill 355 and “the Hook.” Sadly, 516 Canadians gave their lives in service during the war.

An Armistice that ended more than three years of fighting was finally signed on July 27, 1953. Seven thousand Canadians would continue to serve there in a peacekeeping role,

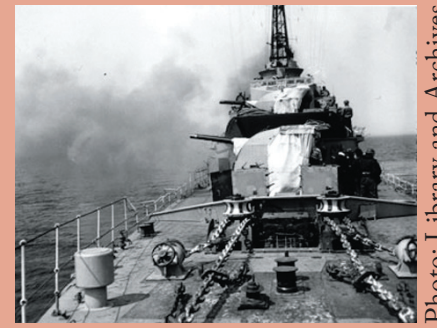


Canadian Sherman tanks in Korea, July 1952.

with the last ones only leaving in 1957. No peace treaty was ever signed to formally end the war, however, and tensions along the border between North Korea and South Korea remain.

2013 marks the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice and has been designated the “Year of the Korean War Veteran” in Canada. Let’s make it a year to remember!

The Trainbusters Club



Royal Canadian Navy destroyer firing off coast of Korea in 1951.

The Royal Canadian Navy served in many ways during the Korean War. One of the most interesting roles our destroyers played was being part of the “Trainbusters Club” with the United Nations (UN) fleet.

The mountainous terrain in the eastern portion of the Korean Peninsula often forced rail lines to hug the coast, which made enemy trains tempting targets for our warships patrolling offshore. Damaging trains and railway tracks helped the UN war effort as it made it harder for the opposing side to transport supplies.

This task was difficult and sometimes dangerous. On October 2, 1952, HMCS *Iroquois* was exchanging fire with an enemy gun battery on shore when it took a direct hit. Three Canadians died and ten were wounded in the explosion—our navy’s only combat casualties in the war.

Canadians in the Battle of Kapyong



‘Holding at Kapyong’ by Ted Zuber.

Few episodes for our soldiers in Korea were as intense as the experiences of the 2nd Battalion of Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) during the Battle of Kapyong in the spring of 1951.

The Princess Pats, along with other forces of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade, had been brought forward to defend the Kapyong Valley during an all-out enemy offensive. Their mission was to help prevent the attackers from wiping out the South Korean front line forces and possibly even capturing Seoul.

On the night of April 24, the Canadians came under intense fire and were rushed by waves of charging enemy soldiers. At times the Canadian defences were overrun and our men even called in an artillery strike on their own positions, taking cover in their shallow trenches as the exploding shells drove off the exposed attackers. The next morning, the situation was still desperate—the Canadians were surrounded. Ammunition and food were running low. They had to get new supplies dropped by air. Fortunately, the Chinese broke off their attack in the Kapyong Valley soon after.

The Canadians had successfully held out against a much larger attacking force, but it came at a high price with 10 Canadians being killed and 23 wounded. The Battalion received the United States Presidential Unit Citation for its members’ bravery in Kapyong, a rare honour for a non-American military unit.

Photo: CWM 19900084-001 Beaverbrook Collection of War Art © Canadian War Museum

Hockey Night in Korea

Canadians will be Canadians, no matter where in the world they are. As the Korean War progressed and the front lines became more stationary, our soldiers would play hockey games on the ice of the nearby Imjin River in the winter time as the sound of artillery fire boomed in the distance.

The matches were often between different units with pride and bragging rights on the line. On March 11, 1952, players from the 1st Battalion of Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry and the



Brigadier J.M. Rockingham drops the puck at a hockey game in Korea in February 1952.

2nd Battalion of the Royal 22^e Régiment faced off. This championship game was held on the makeshift outdoor rink dubbed “Imjin Gardens.” The sporting event helped create a little piece of normal Canadian life half a world away in war-torn Korea.

This tradition continues in more recent times, with Canadian Armed Forces members playing ball hockey in far-off places like Afghanistan.

Explore the “Land of the Morning Calm”

Check out the interactive, multimedia web feature about the Korean War. Hear about the events leading up to the outbreak of the conflict, watch interviews with Canadian Veterans who fought there, and explore the interactive time line and maps. Visit veterans.gc.ca and search for “Land of the Morning Calm” today!

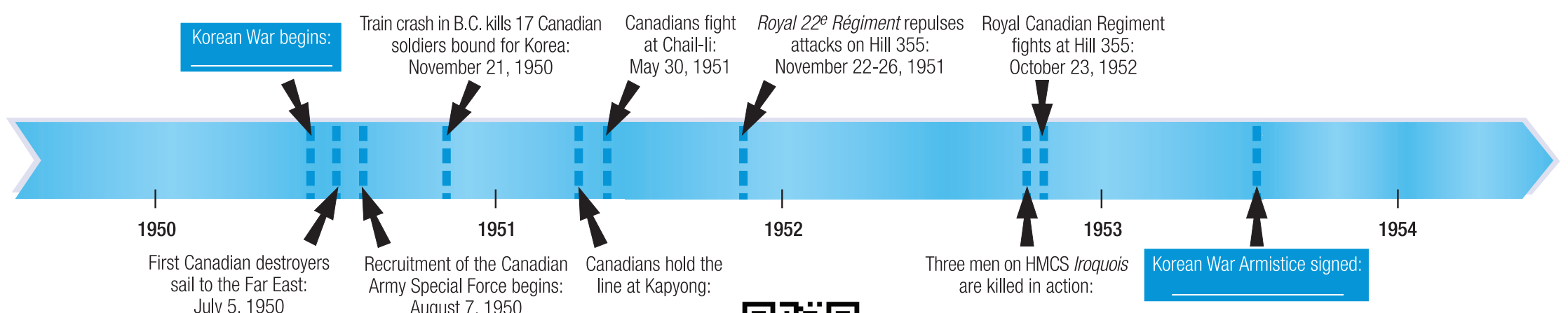
Canadian Women in the Korean War



Canadian servicewomen in Korea.

When the Korean War broke out, Canadian women were again recruited for service in our country’s army, navy and air force. More than 5,000 would serve both at home and overseas. Nursing Sisters often had to provide aid in a combat zone where they treated battle injuries and diseases. They also flew air evacuation with casualties back to Canada. When the Armistice came into effect in 1953, they worked with the newly released prisoners of war, helping to restore their health. Fortunately, there were no female Canadian casualties.

Photo: George Metcalf Archival Collection, CWM 19820095-005



A Canadian “Dough Boy”

Garfield Weston was born above his father's Toronto bakery in 1898 and worked for the company as a young man.

Weston enlisted at 18 to serve in the First World War with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. Stationed in France, he helped drive a six-horse wagon laying telegraph cables for battlefield communications. He spent his army leaves visiting the famous British biscuit factories and came away convinced that a similar product could be a success in Canada.

After the Armistice, Weston returned to Toronto. He began importing machines from England to make English-style cookies in Canada. When Weston took over as president, the company consisted of a biscuit



Photo: George Weston Limited

Sapper Garfield Weston in 1917.

plant and a bread bakery in Toronto. Under his leadership, the Weston operations grew to include bakeries, dairies and grocery chains, with holdings on several continents. Weston had managed to become the world's biggest baker and second biggest grocer.

Throughout his life, Weston remained passionately committed to Canada. When he heard that Canadian troops stationed in England during the Second World War were experiencing boredom, he donated 500 radios. He also promoted the Spitfire Fund, making a personal contribution to replace 16 fighter planes lost in the Battle of Britain.

Weston was one smart cookie!

A Military Medal for Sergeant Mitsui



Photo courtesy of David Mitsui

Sergeant Masumi Mitsui during the First World War.

At a time when our society was less inclusive, almost 200 Japanese-Canadian men overcame many barriers and served overseas during the First World War. Some 54 are known to have lost their lives in the conflict and more than 90 were wounded.

One of these determined men was Masumi Mitsui. He had tried unsuccessfully to enlist in his home province of British Columbia before being allowed to join the Canadian Army in Calgary, Alberta, in 1916. He served on the Western Front with the 10th Battalion, eventually rising to the rank of sergeant. He fought in France in the Battle of Vimy Ridge and was awarded the Military Medal for his bravery during an attack on Hill 70 on August 16, 1917, when he grabbed a machine gun and drove the enemy back after all the men of his platoon were wounded.

On his return to British Columbia after the war, he led efforts that eventually saw the provincial government grant the right to vote to Asian-Canadian Veterans in 1931.

Canada's Hundred Days

The year 2013 marks the 95th anniversary of the end of the First World War. At the beginning of 1918, the conflict had been raging for almost three and a half years and the front lines in France and Belgium had moved little since the opening months of the fighting. Both the Allies and the Germans had repeatedly tried to launch major offensives to break the stalemate but had failed. In the spring of that year, however, the Germans launched an offensive that saw them advance to within 70 kilometres of Paris before they were stopped.

On August 8, 1918, the Allies hit back and launched the Battle of Amiens. The Canadians were at the spearhead of this attack which saw a major breakthrough on what



Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-003153

Canadian troops taking cover in a ditch alongside the road to Cambrai in September 1918.

one enemy commander would call “the black day of the German Army.” The Allies seized the momentum and continued the pressure. Our soldiers would be called on to lead the way in victory after victory during the series of battles fought in the late summer and fall of 1918 that came to be known as “Canada's Hundred Days.”

The Canadians fought courageously through the Hindenberg Line, across the Canal du Nord and into Cambrai,

before finding themselves in Mons, Belgium, on November 11, 1918—the day the Armistice that finally ended the fighting in the First World War went into effect. Their success came at a high price, however, with more than 6,800 Canadian soldiers being killed and approximately 39,000 wounded during the last three months of the conflict.

The Dumbells



Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-005741

Some members of the Dumbells in costume.

Serving on the front lines during the First World War was very tough on the Canadian soldiers. To help keep morale up, some regiments would put on “concert parties” to entertain the men during breaks from the action.

The most famous of these groups was the “Dumbells,” which first performed in France in 1917. It got its name from the insignia of the 3rd Canadian Division—a red dumbbell—with which the original performers served.

The Dumbells put on light-hearted skits about army life, sang popular songs and performed dance numbers to the delight of the war-weary troops. Female impersonators gave the soldiers their first glimpse of “ladies” in months and left them smiling. They performed wherever the soldiers were, often in primitive conditions, within earshot of the guns of the front lines. On one occasion, a German artillery shell even flew across the stage but luckily did not explode. The Dumbells' success continued after the war as they toured internationally with great success, selling out theatres from London to Broadway.

Did You Know?

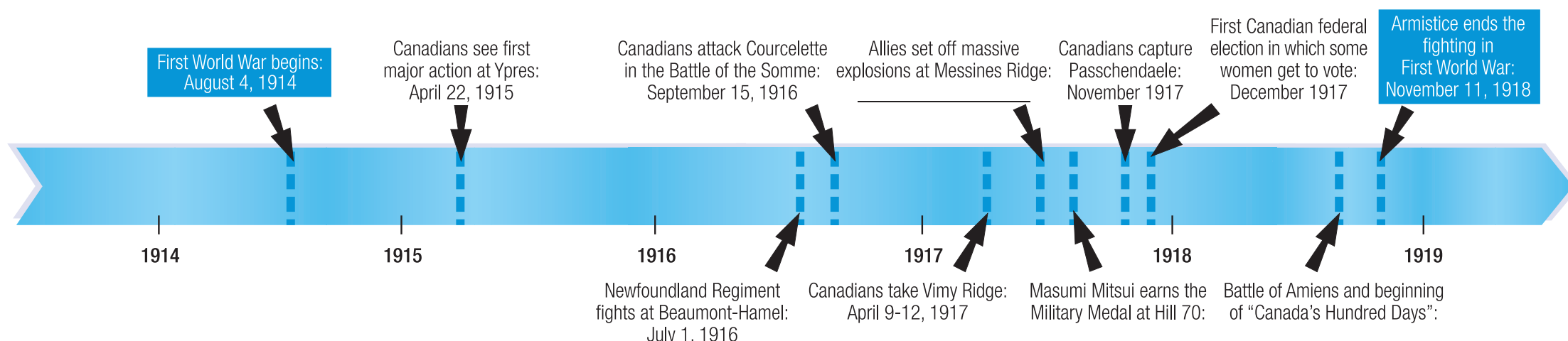
The last Canadian combat death of the First World War came just two minutes before the Armistice went into effect at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 1918. Twenty-five-year-old Private George Price of Saskatchewan was killed by a sniper's bullet near the Belgian city of Mons.



Photo: Public Domain

British mine exploding during the Battle of the Somme.

The lines of heavily defended trenches along the Western Front during the First World War were almost impossible to break through. Different tactics were explored, like having miners dig tunnels beneath the enemy trenches and then plant large amounts of explosives. When the time for an attack came, the underground charges were detonated, causing great damage. Canadian tunnelling companies were involved in these efforts. Both sides were wary of being attacked in this way. Soldiers had to dig quietly so they wouldn't be heard, because the enemy using special listening devices was always on the lookout for miners. The largest such effort of the war took place in Belgium at Messines Ridge on June 7, 1917, when the Allies set off some 20 large underground explosions. Up to 10,000 German soldiers were killed and the resulting blasts could be heard as far away as London, England!



A Trailblazer in the Skies

Gerry Bell was born in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1909. A gifted athlete, he excelled at competitive sprinting and boxing as a young man. He had been studying medicine when he developed an interest in aviation and decided to obtain his private pilot's licence. He enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force during the 1930s, likely the first Black Canadian to do so. When the Second World War erupted in 1939, he quickly volunteered for active service. He initially served at a number of bases across Canada, performing duties like being an aircraft engine mechanic, and rose to the rank of sergeant. In March 1943, he was posted overseas and remained in England until June 1945.



Gerry Bell during the Second World War.

Photo: Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum 000595

Bell continued to serve in uniform after the war in a variety of postings in both Canada and Germany. He retired from his lengthy military career as a warrant officer in 1961. He continued to work in the aviation industry, however, and played a role in the restoration of a Lancaster bomber—now one of only two still flying today—for the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, located in Mount Hope, Ontario.

Lifelong Accomplishments

Aboriginal Canadians have a long and proud tradition of military service for our country. One of the finest examples was David Greyyeyes from the Muskeg Lake Cree Band in Saskatchewan. He enlisted in the Canadian Army in June 1940 during the Second World War. Two of his brothers and a sister also served.



Photo: Department of National Defence

Lieutenant David Greyyeyes in September 1943.

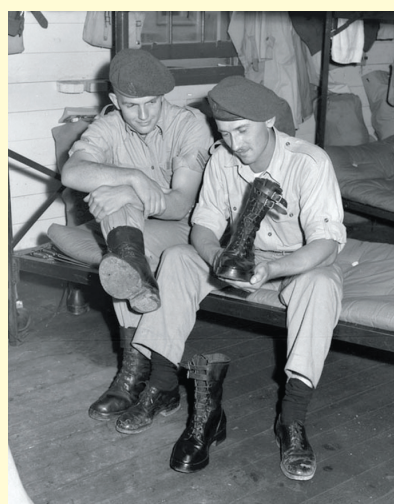
Greyyeyes was an instructor in Britain before becoming an officer and commanding a platoon with the Saskatoon Light Infantry (Machine Gun) Regiment. He took part in the invasion of Sicily and the fighting in mainland Italy, earning a medal for his actions in the capture of Rimini. He later saw action in Northwest Europe. He returned home after the war to farm and married Flora Jeanne, an Aboriginal Veteran of the Royal Canadian Air Force - Women's Division.

Greyyeyes would go on to hold important positions with the Department of Indian Affairs and he served as a chief of his home band. He was also voted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and named a Member of the Order of Canada before passing away in 1996.

From Leather Town to the Front Lines

In 1933, Georges-Alidor Boulet established G.A. Boulet Incorporated in Saint-Tite, Quebec. This small community was often referred to as "the Leather Town" for its production of high quality leather products. In fact, Boulet was commissioned by the Canadian Army to produce all its military footwear during the Second World War!

Today, Boulet is the largest maker of cowboy boots in Canada with distribution in more than fifteen countries. Whether for soldiers or cowboys, those boots are made for walking!



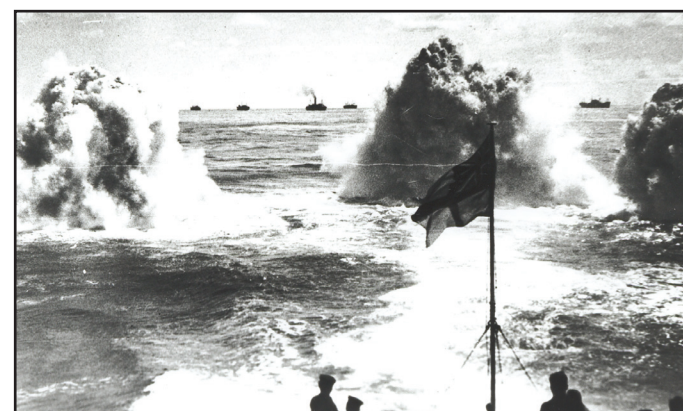
Canadian soldiers checking their army boots in 1945.

Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-114602

A Cruel Ocean Battleground

The Battle of the Atlantic was the longest campaign of the Second World War, lasting almost six years, from September 1939 to May 1945. It was a showdown between the Allies, who were transporting desperately needed troops and supplies from North America to Europe, and the Germans, who wanted to cut that supply line. The enemy's U-boats (submarines) caused great losses and brought the front lines to our doorstep, when the Germans sank Allied ships off Canada's East Coast and even as far inland as the St. Lawrence River.

It was a great struggle. With courage and the adoption of new technology and tactics, however, the tide turned and the Allies would eventually triumph in the war at sea. More than 25,000 merchant ships safely made it to their destination under Canadian escort, delivering approximately 165



Depth charges being dropped by HMCS Saguenay during the Second World War.

Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-116840

million tons of supplies to Europe. The Royal Canadian Navy helped sink more than 30 enemy submarines, but at a steep price. They lost approximately 2,000 sailors during the war. The Royal Canadian Air Force was also hit hard, losing more than 750 personnel over the Atlantic. More than 1,600 merchant mariners from Canada and Newfoundland were killed during the battle. Civilians were not spared either. On October 14, 1942, 136 people died when the ferry SS *Caribou* was torpedoed as it crossed from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland.

Canadians and the Italian Campaign

More than 93,000 Canadian men and women served in the Italian Campaign during the Second World War. They took part in Operation *Husky*, the Allied invasion of Sicily on July 10, 1943, and helped take the strategically important Mediterranean island. The offensive resulted in Italy overthrowing dictator Benito Mussolini and formally surrendering. Germany, however, refused to see the country fall to the Allies. It moved its soldiers in to fight and the campaign continued. Next up were landings in mainland Italy on September 3, 1943, and the Canadians would join the long, tough advance up the peninsula. The many mountains, deep valleys and rivers gave the determined German defenders a great advantage. Despite it all, the Canadians helped push the enemy back in a



Canadian soldiers in Italy in December 1943.

Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-136332

series of battles through places like Ortona, the Liri Valley and Rimini.

As it turned out, our soldiers would not be part of the final Allied victory in Italy. They were transferred in February 1945 to join the First Canadian Army fighting in Northwest Europe. More than 26,000 Canadians became casualties during the Italian Campaign, including nearly 6,000 who gave their lives.

From Privilege to Prison

Mona Parsons was born in Nova Scotia in 1901. She married a Dutch millionaire businessman in 1937 and they soon moved to the Netherlands.



Photo: Public Domain

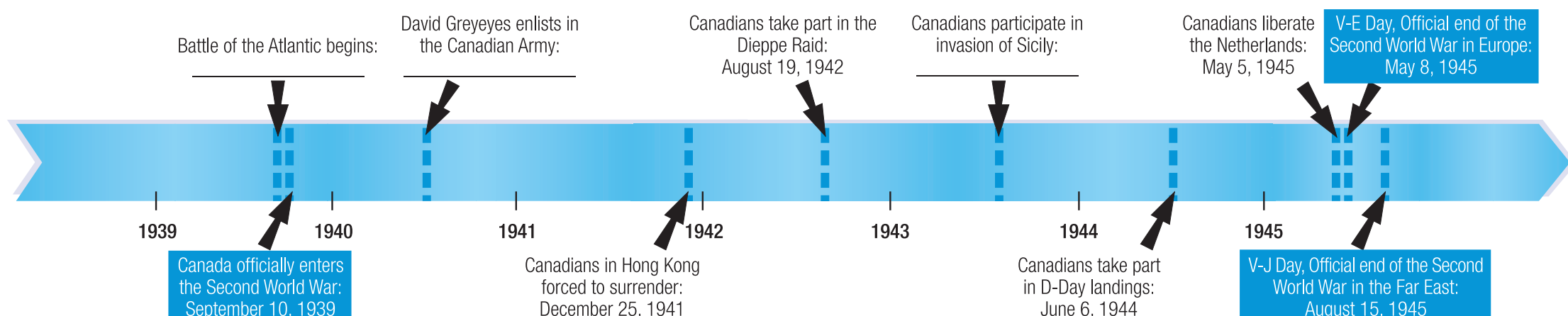
Mona Parsons before the war.

After the Germans invaded in 1940, the couple joined a resistance unit and began hiding downed Allied airmen in their mansion until they could be smuggled back to safety in England. Unfortunately, they were betrayed and arrested by the Gestapo in 1941. Parsons was found guilty of treason and sentenced to death by firing squad. Her dignified calm, however, convinced the judge to change her sentence to life in prison.

Parsons finally reached the safety of the Allied lines. Remarkably, the first soldiers she met were from the North Nova Scotia Highlanders.

Following the bombing of the prison where she was held captive in Germany in 1945, Parsons and a friend escaped. Disguised as local sisters, the pair evaded capture for three weeks. After walking some 125 kilometres back to the Netherlands,

Parsons was honoured for her bravery in helping downed Allied airmen and received commendations from the British Air Marshal and American General Dwight D. Eisenhower.



Canadian Peacekeepers Under Fire in Cyprus

From 1964 to 1993, large numbers of Canadian Armed Forces members served in Cyprus, working to maintain an uneasy peace between the Greek and Turkish populations of the Mediterranean island.

In 1974, the situation boiled over when 40,000 troops from Turkey invaded Cyprus and active fighting broke out. In the days following the invasion, Canadian United Nations peacekeeping troops suddenly found there was no peace to keep. On July 23, 1974, in the midst of this chaos, a group of Canadian soldiers came under fire in a rocky gully. Several men were hit, including the officer leading the patrol. Private Joseph Plouffe went at once to try to give the injured officer first aid but was wounded as well. The two injured Canadians were left in a very



Canadian soldier with local children during quieter times in Cyprus in 1965.

vulnerable position and threatened by machine gun fire. Corporal Joseph Whelan and Privates Joseph Belley and Joseph Pelletier would not leave their comrades and braved the shooting to rescue the wounded men.

Photo: Department of National Defence ZK-2057-4

The Medak Pocket



Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group - CANBAT 1 - Croatia 1993.

After its communist government was toppled in the early 1990s, Yugoslavia was torn apart by ethnic and religious differences. Civil war erupted and atrocities were committed on all sides. Canada and the international community sent in peace support forces, but the fighting continued.

In September 1993, soldiers of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry were near the "Medak Pocket." This portion of Croatia was under Serbian control and the Croats had launched an offensive to re-take the area. A cease-fire was arranged, with United Nations (UN) forces to oversee the withdrawal

of both sides. Canadian and French soldiers began to move in, but Croatian forces started firing. The Patricias held their position through the night in the face of the heaviest combat a Canadian unit had then experienced since the Korean War. Examples of courage were many, like Sergeant Rod Dearing of British Columbia who led his outnumbered platoon as they drove off repeated Croatian assaults and Private Scott LeBlanc, a young reservist from Nova Scotia, who unleashed heavy machine-gun fire to help repulse one last attack.

The next morning, the Croats still prevented UN troops from entering the area. The Canadian commander, Lieutenant-Colonel James Calvin, held an impromptu press conference in front of their roadblock, embarrassing the Croats into opening the road. Tragically, the UN forces found the ethnically Serbian villages in the Medak Pocket destroyed and many civilians killed—victims of "ethnic cleansing."

Photo: Department of National Defence

"A Taste of Home"

Ron Joyce was born in rural Nova Scotia in 1930. He moved to Hamilton, Ontario, at just 16 years of age, in search of greater opportunities with just \$35 in his pocket. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy in 1951 during the Korean War. He received training in communications and served off the coast of Korea and Japan after the Armistice.



Tim Hortons mobile coffee shop arriving in Afghanistan in 2006.

After leaving the Navy, Joyce moved back to Hamilton where he became a police officer. He frequented a coffee shop on his daily foot patrols and befriended the owner, Tim Horton—a Canadian hockey legend.

Joyce's entrepreneurial spirit emerged, and he and Tim Horton became full partners in the business. Today, Tim Hortons is one of Canada's most successful brands, with the words "Timbit" and "double-double" being part of our national vocabulary!

In recent years, Canadian Armed Forces members serving in Afghanistan and numerous military bases have even been able to enjoy a little taste of home in special Tim Hortons outlets.

Photo: Department of National Defence AR2006-H044-0018a

The Man Called "JADDEX"



Jacques Dextraze during the Korean War.

Canada has produced many great military leaders over the years. One of the best was Jacques Dextraze—also known as "Mad Jimmy" or "JADDEX" to his men. Born in Montréal in 1919, he enlisted as a private during the

Second World War and rose quickly through the ranks to command the *Fusiliers Mont-Royal* regiment by war's end.

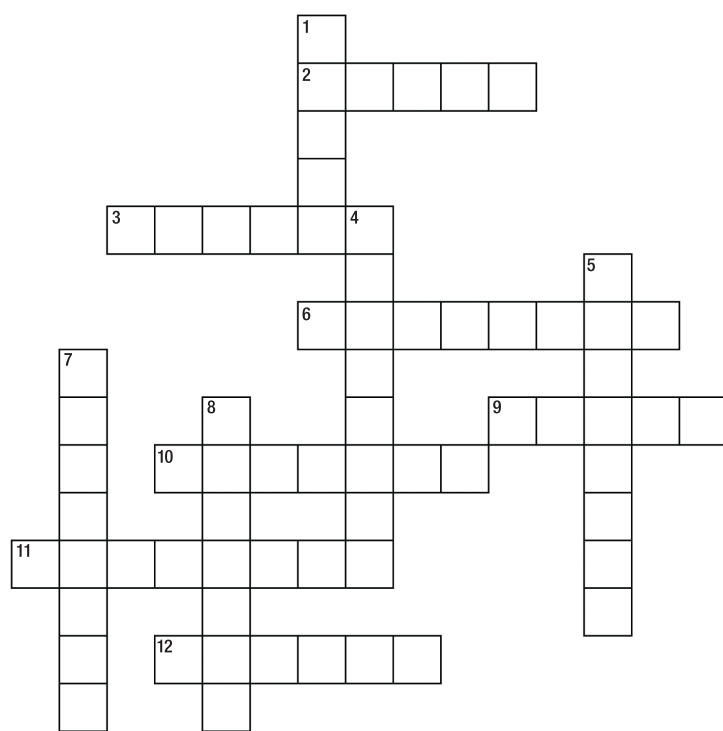
The Korean War would see him commanding the 2nd Battalion of the *Royal 22^e Régiment*, which served bravely in actions like the heavy fighting at Hill 355 in November 1951. In the early 1960s, he commanded the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Congo where he personally led a number of dangerous rescue missions of civilians held hostage by rebels. Dextraze continued to serve on his return to Canada, eventually being appointed Chief of the Defence Staff in 1972. He worked in this top military post until his retirement in 1977 as one of Canada's most decorated and well-respected soldiers.

Photo: Department of National Defence

Crossword

ACROSS

- Name of the "Pocket" in Croatia where Canadian soldiers came under fire in September 1993.
- Name of the Italian town where David Greeyes earned a medal for bravery in the Second World War.
- Birth city of Canadian military officer Jacques Dextraze.
- Last name of the last Canadian killed in combat during the First World War.
- Fierce battle for which members of PPCLI were awarded an American decoration for bravery in Korea.
- Name of the ridge where the Allies set off some 20 large underground explosions on June 7, 1917.
- Name of the boot company commissioned by the Canadian Army to produce its military footwear during the Second World War.



DOWN

- River in Korea where Canadian soldiers played hockey matches during the war.
- Name of the ship that took a direct hit on October 2, 1952.
- Canadian city where Ron Joyce became a police officer.
- Name of the famous performers from the 3rd Canadian Division who entertained the troops in the First World War.
- Name of the ferry torpedoed on October 14, 1942, off the coast of Newfoundland.

Operation Attention in Afghanistan

More than 40,000 Canadian Armed Forces members have served in Afghanistan and on the waters off Southwest Asia since late 2001. Their duties have been dangerous and 158 of our brave men and women in uniform have given their lives over the years.



Canadian Armed Forces officer working with Afghan soldiers during a training exercise in December 2012.

The combat phase of our mission in Afghanistan ended in July 2011, but up to 950 Canadian Armed Forces members have remained in the country to assume an important new role. Today, as part of Operation *Attention*, they contribute to a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) training program to help prepare the Afghan police, army and air force so they will be able to improve the security of their own country. Our military's contribution

to this multinational effort is currently centred in the capital city of Kabul and is scheduled to conclude in 2014. It will be an end of a mission that has brought a renewed national awareness of the great sacrifices and achievements made by Canadian Armed Forces members.

Photo: Department of National Defence IS2012-2007-052

