

Tales of Animals in War



Remembrance around town

“Woof! Hey everyone,” barked Gandy the dog. “Here is a picture of the Remembrance Clubhouse friends when we recently visited our capital city of Ottawa. We all have a great interest in remembrance and Canada’s military history. We also happen to have animal relatives who served in times of war. So we decided to take a walk around town to look for different symbols of remembrance. When we came around one corner, our paws and hooves stopped us in our tracks! There were a bunch of cool street banners hanging from lamp posts, showing some of the places the Canadian military has served over the years.”

“Yes,” squawked Squeaker the pigeon. “I actually first saw the banners from a birds-eye view as I was flying high above. I spotted one about the Dieppe Raid and was so excited that I almost fell from the sky. You see, a relative of mine was a messenger bird at Dieppe during the Second World War. He even received a medal for his bravery.”

“My favourite banner was the one honouring Canadian peacekeepers in Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean Sea,” purred Simone the cat. “It shows a soldier with binoculars. I was so

jealous! We kitties love to watch things carefully and pounce when the time is right. Keeping your eyes open for trouble is a good thing and can help keep things safe.”

“All the banners were interesting, but the one about Western Europe really stood out for me,” Win the bear roared happily. “Many Canadian kids lived in West Germany while their parents were serving in uniform there. It reminded me of my great-great grandmother Winnie who went overseas to England during the First World War.”

“I noticed there was also a colourful street banner about a big peacekeeping mission in the Balkans in the 1990s,” added Gandy excitedly. “Canadian Armed Forces members did many things in that region of southeastern Europe. Dogs like me also helped the people there. Remembering Canadians who fought in wars is very important, but so is honouring our peacekeepers.”

“All those banners were so awesome,” trumpeted Ellie the elephant. “They also got me thinking about other ways in our communities that we remember those who have served, like war monuments. I also know several Canadian schools are named in honour of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

And in British Columbia there is a school named after Mark Isfeld who was a Canadian peacekeeper.”

“You sure are right,” neighed Bonfire Jr. the horse. “Banners and school names are great ways to honour important battles and brave soldiers. Many streets and highways in our communities also have names that salute our service members. We actually drove on the Highway of Heroes on our way to Ottawa. I have even galloped down remembrance walking trails in a few communities.”

“We had a great time exploring Ottawa and talking about some of the different ways Canadians publicly honour those who have served in uniform,” Gandy barked. “It’s important that we remember people who have stood up for peace as a way to show our thanks. Next time you are out for a walk or drive, keep an eye open for these kinds of things in your community. And why not bring remembrance to your classroom or school by designing special banners of your own!”

Squeaker Tragic day at Dieppe



Hey kids! When I saw the Dieppe Raid banner, I thought of the terrible challenges that Canadian troops faced there on 19 August 1942, during the Second World War. Seeing the image of soldiers running across the beach and dodging explosions made my feathers shake. It must have taken great courage for them to go into battle that day.

The troops had to sail from England to France to reach Dieppe. When they came ashore, though, the enemy was waiting for them. Sadly, many of our soldiers lost their lives or were badly hurt and they needed to send the bad news back to England. They had radios but wanted to be extra sure the message got through. It was a time before cell phones, text messages or emails, and using the regular mail would have been WAY too slow! So they sent a message by attaching a note to a pigeon's leg. Can you imagine being a bird flying with a special container attached to your ankle?



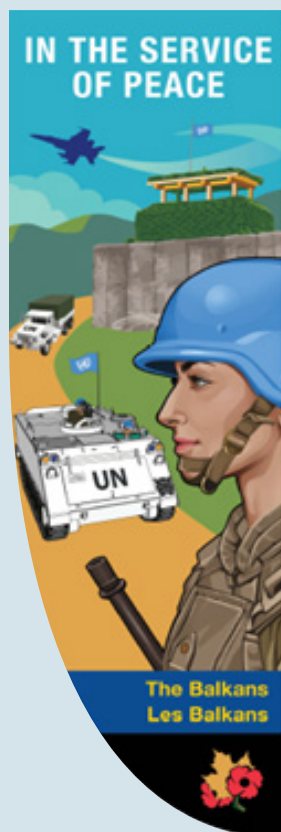
My great-great grandfather, Beachcomber, was the brave pigeon who had to fly through gunfire and cross the English Channel to deliver the news about the raid. It was not easy, but he made it! For his courage, he received the Dickin Medal, the highest award for bravery that an animal can receive.

Let's take time to remember the almost 5,000 Canadians who risked their lives in the Dieppe Raid and the more than 900 of our soldiers who died. Lest we forget.

Helping in a dangerous land

When I saw the street banner for the Balkans, I stood up on my hind legs to get a really good look. I had heard about what Canadian peacekeepers did there and was curious to learn more. Peacekeepers are special soldiers who go to war-torn places to try to help prevent fighting—but what happens when there's no real "peace" to "keep?"

People in the Balkans region of southeastern Europe went through some terrible times 30 years ago. Different groups were violently fighting each other. Soon other countries came to help and Canada sent a large group of United Nations peacekeepers there in 1992. Our



soldiers would do their best to stop the fighting, deliver humanitarian aid, clear landmines and help rebuild the society. It was dangerous work and 23 Canadians would die in the Balkans in the years that followed.

One of them was Master Corporal Mark Isfeld. He was a combat engineer who lost his life in a landmine explosion in Croatia in 1994. He had served in other peacekeeping missions and saw how children in war-torn countries had few toys to help make their lives a little brighter. His mother, Carol, began making little dolls for him to hand out overseas. They were very special to the kids and, after Mark's death, the tradition continued—except they came to be called "Izzy Dolls."

I find this story especially touching as dogs like me were sometimes used in the Balkans to look for landmines that are hidden in the ground—the same job Mark had. Thinking of him and his Izzy Dolls makes me both sad and proud.



Patrolling the Green Line

If you like hockey, you've heard of the red line and the blue line. But for the Canadian peacekeepers who served in Cyprus, there was one that was much more important—the "Green Line." Cyprus is a beautiful island in the Mediterranean Sea. The Green Line is a neutral zone that runs



across the island, separating the two main groups who live there. They have struggled for control of Cyprus over the years, sometimes fighting each other. It could often get very tense along the Green Line as conflicts erupted!

The street banner for Cyprus sure is neat and it gives a good idea of what our peacekeepers have done there. The Canadian soldier with the distinctive blue United Nations cap is looking carefully through binoculars. In a place where there has been violence and people are learning how to get along with each other, it is important to keep an eye open for problems—kind of like trying to stop bullying in schools or being a referee in a game. In the banner's background



we can also see one of the little armoured cars that Canadian peacekeepers once used to patrol the beautiful Cyprus countryside.

Large groups of Canadian Armed Forces members served on the island between 1964 and 1993, and a small Canadian presence is still there. In total, more than 33,000 Canadian peacekeepers have served in Cyprus over the years. Sadly, 28 of our soldiers lost their lives there trying to help restore peace. We will remember them.

Standing guard in Western Europe

The Canadian Armed Forces street banner for Western Europe is pretty cool. It shows an aviator in the front, while behind him a tank is leaving an old town and a jet plane soars overhead. I think it does a great job of highlighting our country's efforts in that part of Europe from the 1950s to the 1990s.



Win

Thousands of Canadian service members, along with their armoured vehicles and warplanes, were based there for decades to help keep another world war from breaking out.

I am a big Canadian bear so I know how to be strong. But our soldiers, aviators and sailors who served in Western Europe and on the Atlantic Ocean had a special kind of strength. They had to constantly watch for trouble and protect people's freedom for over 40 years!

It wasn't easy for other reasons, too. The Canadians stationed at military bases in West Germany and France often spent several years far from home. But one good thing I learned was that our service



members could take their families overseas to live with them. Can you imagine growing up and going to school in Europe because your mom or dad was in the Canadian Armed Forces? Talk about the field trip of a lifetime!



Helping at home

Seeing banners showing troubled lands far from home made me think how lucky we are to live in peaceful Canada. Of course, our northern climate sure has its own set of challenges! But



Soldier helping a child in Quebec in 1998. Photo: Department of National Defence

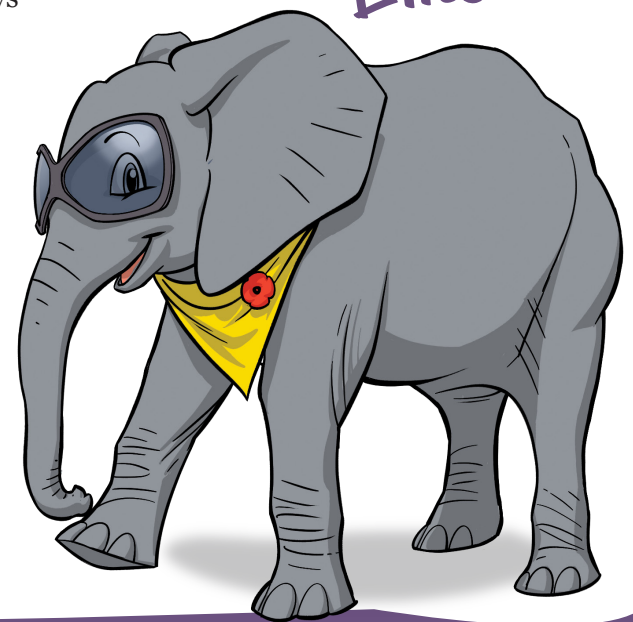
thankfully, we have a well-trained military that is ready to step in and help when Mother Nature delivers an especially heavy blow.

In fact, 25 years ago this coming January, the Canadian Armed Forces were there to help during one of the worst storms we ever had. The Great Ice Storm of 1998 hit hard in parts of Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. Days of freezing rain covered everything with ice so heavy that tens of thousands of power poles and trees came crashing down. It was like one big outdoor rink! That may sound fun if you want to go skating, but too much ice can be quite dangerous. Many people were stuck in their homes with no electricity or heat for weeks in the middle of winter. Brrr, I shiver at the thought of it.

To help, Canadian soldiers used their elephant-like strength to haul away broken trees and debris. They also delivered essential supplies like water, food and

medicine to those who were stranded. They may not have had long trunks like me, but they still reached up high to help fix all those downed power lines. I sure feel safer knowing that our military is always ready to "stand on guard" for us, here at home.

Ellie



Beating the odds

There are many creative ways to honour those who have sacrificed so much for peace. One of the neatest I've seen was The Mural of Honour at The Military Museums in Calgary, Alberta. At first glance, it

Bonfire Jr.



looks like a huge painting of a Canadian pilot, a soldier and a sailor. When you look closer, though, you will see that it is actually a mosaic of 240 smaller paintings, each telling a story from Canada's proud military history.

My eyes were drawn to the smaller image of Ethelbert 'Curley' Christian, a Black Canadian soldier who fought in the Battle of Vimy Ridge, 105 years ago. My great-great grandfather, Bonfire the horse, also served in the First World War and told the story of this amazing individual. On 9 April 1917, Curley was badly wounded on the Vimy battlefield. He had to wait two whole days before anyone could come and rescue him. No one expected him to live but beating all odds, he survived! However, his story didn't end there.



You see, Curley's arms and legs were so damaged that he had to get artificial ones. He was the only soldier with four amputated limbs to survive the First World War. As you can imagine, he had to learn how to do many everyday things all over again. Many people would have given up hope, but not Curley. He spent the rest of his life working hard to make sure wounded soldiers like him got the help they needed. Now that's a legacy that lives on!



Mural painting of Curley Christian. Photo: The Military Museums

Newspaper Activities



WORD SEARCH

The following list of words can be found in the letter grid.

When you have spotted a word there, circle it.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| ANIMAL | MILITARY |
| BALKANS | MURAL |
| BANNER | OTTAWA |
| CANADA | PEACE |
| CYPRUS | REMEMBER |
| DIEPPE | SACRIFICE |
| EUROPE | SOLDIER |
| FRANCE | STORM |
| INDIGENOUS | VETERAN |
| MEMORIAL | VIMY |

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

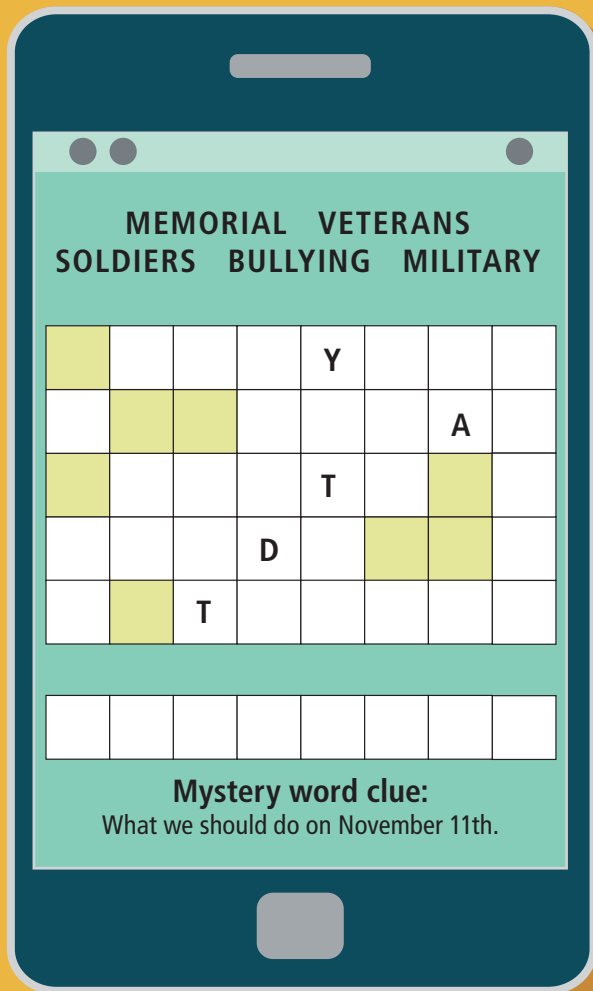
Did You Know?

Names of honour

Some of the Royal Canadian Navy's best warships over the years were named in honour of First Nations peoples. Proud vessels like HMCS Haida and Huron served during the Second World War and again in the Korean War. In fact, for many years our navy relied heavily on what were called the "Tribal Class" destroyers, which also included ships called HMCS Iroquois and Algonquin. We even had submarines called HMCS Ojibwa, Okanagan and Onondaga—more names with strong Indigenous connections. When you are proud of something, you want to give it a really special name, after all!

WORDZZLE

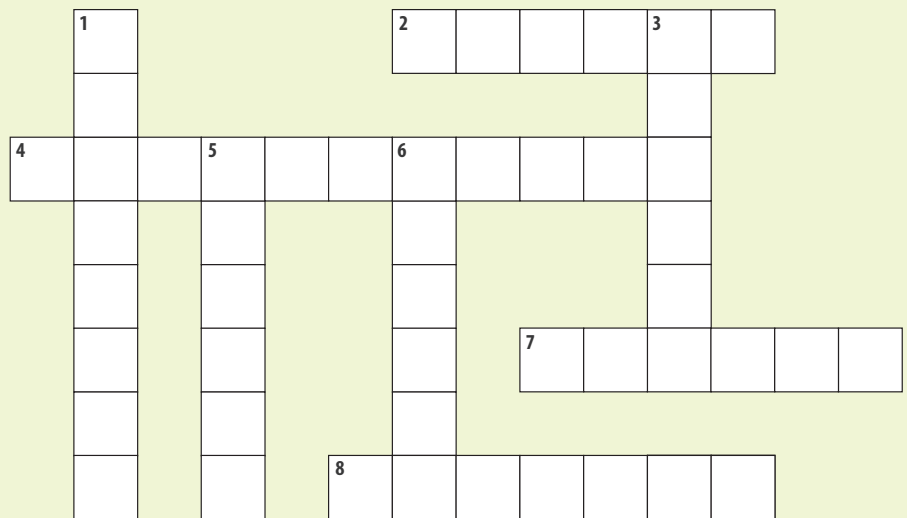
The words on this phone were all used in the newspaper. Write them in the grid so they fit with the letters that are already inserted. Then unscramble the highlighted letters to discover a special mystery word!



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- Nickname of Canadian soldier who lost all four limbs during the First World War.
- Pigeon who delivered an important message about the Dieppe Raid.
- Seaside town in France where Canadian soldiers landed on 19 August 1942.
- Region in southeastern Europe where Canadian peacekeepers went in 1992.



Down

- Natural disaster that hit three provinces hard in January 1998.
- Continent where Canadian service members were based from the 1950s to the 1990s.
- Island in the Mediterranean Sea where Canadian peacekeepers have served.
- City where the Remembrance Clubhouse animals saw special street banners.

CRACK THE CODE

Code key																									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
K	J	E	Q	Y	A	X	S	R	Z	T	B	L	F	U	M	G	N	V	C	O	H	P	D	W	I

Coded messages are often used in wartime to keep important information from falling into enemy hands. Solve the equations to the right then match the number to the proper letter to break the code.

Equations to solve																			
20	9	11	2	22	13	13	7	25	20	18	4	22	2	8	24	23	0	17	18
+5	-6	-5	+7	-16	+10	+8	+16	-2	-15	-7	+17	-13	+1	+8	-21	-7	+12	-14	-9