

# Native Soldiers - Foreign Battlefields

*The war proved that the fighting spirit of my tribe was not squelched through reservation life. When duty called, we were there, and when we were called forth to fight for the cause of civilization, our people showed all the bravery of our warriors of old. **Mike Mountain Horse, First World War Veteran***<sup>1</sup>

*Being from a reservation and barely able to speak English ...it was a sudden integration. It was a shock. I was stunned for two or three months while taking basic training. **Peter Whitecloud, Second World War Veteran***<sup>2</sup>

*On our way to Korea, I was outside on the ship standing on the rail just thinking about home and why I had to leave home. Yet, I was very glad I joined the army because my father was in the First World War. My brother was in World War Two and I thought I might as well join the army, too. **Allan Bird, Korean War Veteran***<sup>3</sup>

## Terminology

In this publication, the terms *Indian*, *Inuit*, *Métis* and *Native* have the following meanings:

- *Indian (also Status Indian)*: A Native who is registered, or is entitled to be registered, with an Indian band (a band is a particular group of Indian people, having similar tribal and/or geographic origins) in accordance with Canada's *Indian Act*. Indians live both on and off reserves. Presently, there are approximately 430,000 Indians - roughly 60 per cent of whom live on reserves - nearly 600 bands and at least 2,200 reserves (some of which are unoccupied) in Canada.<sup>4</sup>
- *Inuit*: A Native people indigenous to the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of Canada. (The singular form is Inuk). The Inuit population is estimated to be 39,000.<sup>5</sup>
- *Métis*: There are two accepted meanings:
  1. A Native people who are descendants of the original Métis community (i.e. of the children of Indian and French parents) of Western Canada.
  2. Persons of mixed Native and non-Native (particularly European) descent.

The population of all Canadians who consider themselves Métis is roughly 160,000.

- *Native (also Aboriginal)*: All of Canada's first peoples, regardless of status. This includes the Indian, the Inuit and the Métis. The total Native population is estimated to be 850,000.

## **The First World War**

*For four short years our sons fought in European trenches beside their sons, our blood mingled with theirs, as for four hundred years in a different way our bloods had mixed. Four thousand of our Native brothers and now grandfathers saw the European homeland through the sights of rifles and the roar of cannon. Hundreds are buried in that soil, away from the lands of their birth. These Native warriors accounted well for themselves, and the Allied cause. ... They were courageous, intelligent and proud carriers of the shield.*<sup>6</sup>

## **The Response - Thousands Volunteer**

One in three, that was the proportion of able-bodied Canadian Indian men, of age to serve, who enlisted during the First World War.<sup>7</sup> Many Natives lived in isolated areas of the country, where the guns of Europe were especially distant. Yet, approximately 4,000 Canadian Indians left their homes and families to help fight an international war that raged in European battlefields.

One year into the war, Duncan Campbell Scott, the Deputy Superintendent General of the Department of Indian Affairs, reported the Indian response:

*I have pleasure in drawing attention to the fact that the participation of Great Britain in the war has occasioned expressions of loyalty from the Indians, and the offer of contributions from their funds toward the general expenses of the war or toward the Patriotic Fund. Some bands have also offered the services of their warriors if they should be needed.*<sup>8</sup>

Scott would make similar statements in Indian Affairs' annual reports over the next five years, as his employees across the country noted increases in both the number of Indian recruits and the amount of money donated by reserve communities.

Despite these reports, the total number of Native volunteers is unknown.<sup>9</sup> In late 1915, regional officials of the Department of Indian Affairs were instructed to complete and submit "Return of Indian Enlistments" forms. However, in his annual reports, Scott stated that not all of the Indian recruits had been identified. Furthermore, since his department's main concern was Status Indians, its records rarely took into account the number of Inuit, Métis and other Canadian Natives who signed up. Enlistments in the territories and in

Newfoundland (which had not yet entered Confederation) were also not recorded. It is safe to say that more than 4,000 Natives enlisted.

The Canadian Government, headed by Prime Minister Robert Borden, had not expected that so many Aboriginal people would volunteer. At first, it had hoped to discourage Native enlistment and initially adopted a policy of not allowing Indians to serve overseas. The policy stemmed from a belief that the enemy considered Natives to be "savage", and a fear that this stereotyped view would result in the inhumane treatment of any Aboriginal people who were taken prisoner.<sup>10</sup> However, the policy was not strictly enforced and was cancelled in late 1915 because of the large number of enlistment applications from Indians, as well as the Allies' pressing need for more troops.

Support from Native communities for the Allied war effort was by no means unanimous. For example, some band councils refused to help the Allied war effort unless Great Britain acknowledged their bands' status as independent nations. Such recognition was not granted.

Additionally, following the Canadian government's introduction of conscription - compulsory military service - in August 1917, many Indian leaders insisted that Indians should be excluded. In the past, during the negotiation of Indian treaties, some Western chiefs had requested and received assurances from the British government that Indians would not have to fight for Great Britain if it entered into a war.<sup>11</sup> The government was reminded of these promises many times and, in January 1918, exempted Indians from combatant duties through an Order-in-Council.

On a voluntary basis, however, Native enthusiasm for the war effort was evident across Canada. Some reserves were nearly depleted of young men. For example, only three men of the Algonquin of Golden Lake Band who were fit and who were of age to serve remained on their reserve.<sup>12</sup> Roughly half of the eligible Micmac and Maliseet men of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia signed up, and, although small, Saskatchewan's File Hills community offered practically all of its eligible men. In British Columbia, the Head of the Lake Band saw every single man between the ages of 20 and 35 volunteer.

In Winnipeg, one newspaper reported that "thirty descendants of Métis who fought at the side of Louis Riel in 1869-70 ... have just enlisted at Qu'Appelle. They are all members of the Society of French-Canadian Métis of that place. Their names are inscribed on the [Society's] roll of honour."<sup>13</sup>

News of the war did not easily reach some Canadian Native communities. Reserves in the Yukon and Northwest Territories and in northern sections of the provinces had fewer transportation and communication links with the rest of Canada. Natives living in these areas were often unaware of the war or were unable to enlist without great effort. Nevertheless, at least 15 Inuit - or people having some Inuit ancestry - from Labrador joined the 1st Newfoundland Regiment.<sup>14</sup> As well, approximately 100 Ojibwa from isolated areas north of Thunder Bay, Ontario, made their way to the nearest recruiting

centre, in Port Arthur or Fort William.<sup>15</sup> Many of them served in the 52nd Canadian Light Infantry Battalion - and at least six were awarded medals for bravery.

One recruit with the 52nd, William Semia, a trapper for the Hudson's Bay Company and a member of the Cat Lake Band in Northern Ontario, spoke neither English nor French when he enlisted. Undeterred, he learned English from another Indian volunteer and later was often responsible for drilling platoons.

Although its council opposed reserve enlistment, the Iroquois Six Nations of the Grand River south of Brantford, Ontario, provided more soldiers than any other Canadian Indian band. Approximately 300 went to the front. In addition, members of this reserve, the most populous in Canada, donated hundreds of dollars to help war orphans in Britain and for other war-relief purposes.

Many of the Six Nations volunteers were originally members of the 37th Haldimand Rifles, a regiment in the non-permanent active militia based on the reserve. It provided most of the members of the 114th Canadian Infantry Battalion, which had recruited throughout the area. Joining the Grand River volunteers in this battalion were 50 Mohawks from Kahnawake, Quebec, and several Mohawks from Akwesasne. Some Natives from Western Ontario and Manitoba also became members. In the end, two of its companies, officers included, were composed entirely of Indians. In recognition of its large Indian make-up, the battalion adopted a crest featuring two crossed tomahawks below the motto, "For King and Country". As well, members of the Six Nations Women's Patriotic League embroidered a 114th flag, which they adorned with Iroquoian symbols.

Soon after it arrived in Great Britain in 1916, the 114th was disbanded to serve as reinforcements. Several of its members ended up with the 107th Battalion, a Winnipeg unit that went overseas with hundreds of Indians from the Prairies and became first a pioneer battalion<sup>16</sup> and then part of an engineering brigade composed of more than 500 Native members.<sup>17</sup>

## **Tradition Grows**

It is difficult to pinpoint reasons for the Native response. Many Native veterans volunteered for the same reasons other Canadians did, i.e. because their friends and relatives did, for patriotism, for the chance of adventure or simply to earn a guaranteed wage.

Some volunteered for reasons that were unique to their band or reserve. One member of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte Band attributes his reserve's high enlistment ratio to its ties to Great Britain: "We came over with the United Empire Loyalists from the United States. Our treaties are with the Crown, so, when the Crown calls, you go."<sup>18</sup>

One Native historian suggests that the Great War offered Indian men who lived on reserves an opportunity to assume a more active role.<sup>19</sup> According to his theory, reserve life had made the role of Indian men less important, a change to which many had difficulty adjusting. He also says, for some, the war presented a chance to escape boredom on the reserve.

Tradition was also a factor in the response. Natives in Canada had a well-established history of fighting on the side of Great Britain, dating back to the activities of the Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant during the 18th Century. Brant was just a teenager when he fought with the British in the Seven Years' War. As well, in 1775, he and 1,500 other members of the Six Nations Iroquois (or Long House) Confederacy fought alongside Great Britain's Royal Regiment during the American Revolution.<sup>20</sup>

Indian cooperation in British military activity continued over the years. Joseph Brant's youngest son, John, followed in his father's footsteps. As Captain of the Northern Confederate Indians, he fought against the Americans in the War of 1812.

Several Mohawks from present-day Quebec journeyed south to join the Ontario Iroquois during this war. The Americans felt their presence most in the second year of the war during the Battle at Beaver Dams, when 180 Mohawks from Kahnawake, Kanesatake and Akwesasne, along with 200 members of the Six Nations of the Grand River, thwarted an American military expedition on its way to Fort George. During the two-hour battle, 15 Indians were killed and 25 were wounded.

In all, Great Britain awarded 96 Military General Service Medals to Canadian Indians for their military assistance between 1793 and 1814.<sup>22</sup>

Canadian Natives also helped British troops overseas. In 1884, during the Battle of Khartoum in the Sudan, the British put out a call for Canadian volunteers to help guide British soldiers up the Nile River. The soldiers were to provide some relief to the isolated men stationed there. General Lord Garnet Wolseley's group included nearly 400 Canadian boatmen - the Nile Voyageurs - 56 of whom were Mohawks<sup>23</sup>, mostly from the Kahnawake band in Quebec, and 30 of whom were Ojibwa from Manitoba and Northern Ontario.<sup>24</sup> Chief Louis Jackson of Kahnawake recommended the design for the whaler-boats that were used on the voyage and became a river foreman. Afterward, he wrote a book about the experiences of the Kahnawake participants. Two Indians lost their lives during the perilous six-month, 19,000-kilometre expedition. This journey turned out to be for naught. The British troops were killed two days before the rescuers arrived.

Many Native recruits of the First World War followed in the footsteps of their veteran ancestors. One example is Cameron Brant, Joseph Brant's great-great-grandson. He commanded a platoon of the 4th Canadian Infantry Battalion. The 28-year-old lieutenant lost his life in 1915 near Ypres, Belgium, while leading a counter-attack into the enemy's trenches.

For Cameron Brant and many other participants in the First World War, pride in past family achievements may have attracted them to the service. What these men probably did not realize was that they, in turn, would inspire future generations.

## **Outstanding Accomplishments - Snipers and Scouts**

*When Samuel de Champlain joined a Huron-Algonquin war party in 1609 and killed two Iroquois with the shot from his harquebus, a new era began .... The only protection from the firearms and the greater killing power of the white man was in dispersion, sniping and ambush. **Military historian Fred Gaffen***<sup>25</sup>

Most Canadians, Natives included, served in the infantry with the Canadian Corps in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). Many Natives became snipers or reconnaissance scouts, drawing upon traditional hunting and military skills to deadly effect.

The duties were straightforward and dangerous. Snipers kept the enemy unnerved with their rifle-fire by shooting at targets from concealed positions called "nests". Scouts slipped behind the front lines in advance of an attack to determine the enemy's positions and capabilities.

Throughout the war, the Department of Indian Affairs received scores of letters from the front commending Native marksmen and scouts. As well, at least 50 decorations were awarded to Canadian Natives for their bravery while sniping and scouting and for performing other feats of valour during the war. Though the following men are few in number, they represent a larger group of unnamed Native soldiers, who placed a greater cause before their own lives.

### **A Peaceful Man**

The most highly decorated Canadian Native in the First World War was Francis Pegahmagabow.<sup>26</sup> An Ojibwa from the Parry Island Band in Ontario, he was awarded the Military Medal (MM) plus two bars for bravery in Belgium and France.<sup>27</sup> Soldiers who had been awarded the MM and later performed similarly heroic acts could receive bars to it, denoting further awards. Pegahmagabow was one of 39 members of the CEF who received two bars to the MM.

Pegahmagabow enlisted with the 23rd Regiment (Northern Pioneers) in August 1914, almost immediately after war was declared. Previously, he had worked along the Great Lakes as a marine fireman for the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Within weeks of volunteering, he became one of the original members of the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion, which, along with the rest of the 20,000-strong 1st Canadian Division, landed in France in February 1915.

Sniping was the specialty of the man his fellow soldiers called "Peggy". It has been written of him, "His iron nerves, patience and superb marksmanship helped make him an outstanding sniper."<sup>28</sup> In addition, Pegahmagabow developed a reputation as a superior scout.

The 1st Battalion experienced heavy action almost as soon as it arrived on the battlefield. It fought at Ypres, where the enemy introduced a new deadly weapon, poison gas, and on the Somme, where Pegahmagabow was shot in the leg. He recovered and made it back in time to return with his unit to Belgium.

In November 1917, the 1st Battalion joined the assault near the village of Passchendaele. Here, roughly 20,000 Allied soldiers crawled from shell crater to shell crater, through water and mud. With two British divisions, the Canadian Corps attacked and took the village, holding it for five days, until reinforcements arrived. The Allies suffered 16,000 casualties at Passchendaele, and Corporal Pegahmagabow earned his first bar to the MM.

His citation reads:

*At Passchendaele Nov. 6th/7th, 1917, this NCO [non-commissioned officer] did excellent work. Before and after the attack he kept in touch with the flanks, advising the units he had seen, this information proving the success of the attack and saving valuable time in consolidating. He also guided the relief to its proper place after it had become mixed up.*<sup>29</sup>

It is not known how Pegahmagabow earned the MM itself and its second bar. It has been said, though, that he merited them during the Second Battle of Ypres in 1916 and at Amiens in 1918.<sup>30</sup>

In April 1919, Pegahmagabow was invalided to Canada, having served for nearly the entire war. Afterward, he joined the Algonquin Regiment in the non-permanent active militia and, following in the steps of his father and grandfather, became chief of the Parry Island Band and later a councillor. A member of Canada's Indian Hall of Fame,<sup>31</sup> Pegahmagabow died on the reserve in 1952.

Francis Pegahmagabow rarely spoke of his military accomplishments. However, his son Duncan recalls being told that his father was responsible for capturing 300 enemy soldiers. "My mother [Eva] told me he used to go behind enemy lines, rub shoulders with the enemy forces and never get caught."<sup>32</sup> Duncan also remembers that Pegahmagabow "felt very strongly about his country". Mostly, he sees his father as a peaceful man: "He was always saying how we have to live in harmony with all living things in this world."

## **Sharpshooter: Henry Louis Norwest**

One of the most famous Canadian snipers in the First World War was a Métis marksman who went by the name of Henry Louis Norwest. Norwest was born in Fort Saskatchewan,

Alberta, of French-Cree ancestry. In his nearly three years of service with the 50th Canadian Infantry Battalion, the lance-corporal achieved a sniping record of 115 fatal shots.<sup>33</sup> The former ranch-hand and rodeo performer also merited the Military Medal and bar, making him one of roughly 830 members of the CEF to be awarded this double honour.<sup>34</sup>

Norwest's career in the army did not begin so gloriously. He enlisted in January 1915 under the name Henry Louie, and was discharged after three months for misbehaviour.<sup>35</sup> Eight months later, he signed up again, under a new name and with a fresh slate.<sup>36</sup>

Ultimately, Norwest proved to be an inspiration to his unit. A fellow soldier wrote of him:

*Our famous sniper no doubt understood better than most of us the cost of life and the price of death. Henry Norwest carried out his terrible duty superbly because he believed his special skill gave him no choice but to fulfil his indispensable mission. Our 50th [Battalion] sniper went about his work with passionate dedication and showed complete detachment from everything while he was in the line. ... Yet when we had the rare opportunity to see our comrade at close quarters, we found him pleasant and kindly, quite naturally one of us, and always an inspiration.*<sup>37</sup>

Sniping was a hazardous infantry role. Most snipers worked in pairs, with one partner shooting and the other observing - scanning the surroundings and reporting enemy movements. It is said Norwest possessed all the skills required of a sniper: excellent marksmanship, an ability to keep perfectly still for very long periods and superb camouflage techniques. Much of his time was spent in "No Man's Land", the dreaded area between opposing forces. As well, Norwest and his observer often slipped behind enemy lines.

The battalion's star marksman earned the MM in 1917 at a peak on Vimy Ridge dubbed "the Pimple". The Canadian Corps, part of a massive Allied offensive, was tasked with capturing the Ridge. Although previous Allied attempts to take it had failed, the elaborately planned Canadian assault succeeded. Most of the Ridge was taken on the first day, April 9. Three days later, the two remaining enemy positions, including the Pimple, were conquered.

According to his award citation, Norwest showed "great bravery, skill and initiative in sniping the enemy after the capture of the Pimple. By his activity he saved a great number of our men's lives."

The following year, Norwest was awarded a bar to his MM. It is not known why, and in August 1918, his bravery was again evident. During the Battle of Amiens, in France, Allied forces advanced 19 kilometres in three days. For his part, Norwest destroyed several enemy machine-gun posts and achieved a sniping record that was a battalion high.



A week later, the 50th Battalion was moving into position for its next assignment when the sharpshooter held his final post. On August 18, three months before the war ended, Norwest and two others were looking for a nest of troublesome enemy snipers. A sniper's bullet hit the Métis marksman, killing him instantly. For the members of his battalion, a genuine hero had been lost.

## **Brothers in Arms**

Two sons of the Six Nations Cayuga chief, Alexander George Smith, served overseas as officers and both were awarded the Military Cross (MC) for gallantry.<sup>38</sup> Alexander Jr. and Charles Smith enlisted in Toronto three months after the outbreak of the war. Until then, the militia had been the focus of their adult lives. Both were officers in the Haldimand Rifles before the war and, because of this experience, were commissioned officers after enlisting in the regular force.

The eldest, Alexander, who had served in the militia for 17 years, earned his MC in France in September 1916 during the second Allied assault on the Somme. A lieutenant with the 20th Battalion, Smith headed a specialty unit charged with finding suitable locations for stockpiling ammunition.<sup>39</sup> Along with a scouting unit, his group was the first in the battalion to go forward. Once his task was accomplished, he joined in the battle.

Smith's citation explains that on the second day of the assault, "he proceeded with a party of bombers and captured an enemy trench and 50 prisoners, displaying the greatest courage throughout. He was twice buried by shells but stuck to his post."

Throughout their three weeks in action on the Somme, the 20th Battalion suffered 430 casualties, including 111 dead. The lieutenant was one of the wounded; however, he recovered and later returned to his unit. In April 1917, after falling ill, Smith returned to Canada. The following October, he was posted to a training camp at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Many soldiers from Poland trained here. Smith had been promoted captain and served as adjutant, the commanding officer's assistant. When the war ended, the captain was named an Officer of the Order of the Black Star, a Polish order, for his distinguished service at the camp. He became one of only five Canadians to receive this honour.<sup>40</sup>

In July 1918, Captain Smith returned to his home in Hagersville on the Six Nations Grand River Reserve, where he later became chief.

Like his older brother, Charles Denton, Smith began the war with the 20th Battalion, although he ended up with the 18th. Between his service with the two battalions he was a recruiting officer on the reserve. With 10 years of experience in the militia, he quickly rose to the rank of captain. Smith earned his MC in France on November 9, 1918 - two days before the war ended.

The Allies had finally broken through the enemy defences along the Western Front and were advancing steadily eastward. Smith's battalion was fighting its way toward Mons, Belgium. According to his citation, he "led his platoon forward with such rapidity that he surprised a party of [enemy] sappers<sup>41</sup> preparing to blow up a road mine." The party was stopped as the fuse was being ignited. As well, Smith personally captured an enemy machine-gun from its crew later that day.

The 18th Battalion arrived in Mons November 11, 1918, officially the last day of the war. Captain Smith returned safely to Canada six months later.

## **A Veteran of Two Wars**

Soldiering was not new to Private George McLean. A rancher from the Head of the Lake Band in the Okanagan district of British Columbia, McLean had served with the Canadian Mounted Rifles during the South African (or Boer) War at the turn of the century. More than a decade later, he became one of nearly 2,000 members of the CEF to earn the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for distinguished conduct in the field, the second-highest award for gallantry available to non-commissioned officers and privates in the Great War.<sup>42</sup>

McLean enlisted in Vernon, British Columbia, in October 1916 and sailed for Great Britain almost immediately. He was in France with the 54th Battalion in December.

In April 1917, during the Battle of Vimy Ridge, McLean launched a daring solo attack on a group of enemy soldiers. He was armed with about a dozen Mills bombs - small grenades nicknamed "pineapples", which exploded violently.

McLean's attack was extremely effective. The private's citation describes the results:

*Single-handed he captured 19 prisoners, and later, when attacked by five more prisoners who attempted to reach a machine-gun, he was able - although wounded - to dispose of them unaided, thus saving a large number of casualties.*

During this action, McLean was shot in the arm by a sniper and was returned to Canada for medical treatment. He went back to British Columbia, and eventually became a fireman in the Vancouver region. He died in 1934.

## **War in Peace**

*I'll never forget the first night. I stayed out most of the night, watching the flares go up over No Man's Land, like fireworks, and hearing the cannons and bursts of rifle and machine-gun fire. **Sam Glode**<sup>43</sup>*

Sam Glode joined the CEF at the age of 35, enticed by the security of regular pay, plus food and clothes.<sup>44</sup> Before the war began, this Micmac from Nova Scotia had been a lumberjack, as well as a hunting and fishing guide. In 1915, he became an infantry soldier and soon after, assumed a new occupation, as a Royal Canadian Engineer (RCE) in Belgium and France.

For most of the Great War, Glode served with a tunnelling company of the 6th Field Company and Battalion, RCE. The company dug tunnels in Belgium, carved dugouts at Vimy Ridge and patched up roads near Amiens. When the Armistice was announced, Glode was back in Belgium, about to earn the DCM.

Although the war had officially ended, Allied soldiers were still active. The Canadian Corps was advancing toward Germany, where it would later assume occupation duties. Corporal Glode's company was in the lead, searching for mines and demolition charges.

On the 19th and 20th of November, Glode personally removed 450 charges. His DCM citation states, "He showed great devotion to duty and an utter disregard of personal danger."

Sam Glode returned to Nova Scotia in the spring of 1919 and resumed his hunting and guiding occupations. He died at Camp Hill Hospital in Halifax in 1957.

## **Two Brave "Van Doos"**

At least two Native soldiers serving with le 22<sup>e</sup> *Bataillon canadien-français*<sup>45</sup> - Quebec's famous "Van Doos" - were awarded the Military Medal for bravery.

In February 1918, 20-year-old Private William Cleary, a Montagnais and former lumberjack from Pointe-Bleue, Quebec, volunteered to join a raiding party headed for an enemy trench near Lens, France. Afterward, when the raiders returned to their own trenches, they discovered that two of their group had been left behind. Cleary immediately returned to the enemy position and, with help from three others, brought back the missing men, both of whom had been wounded.

Three months later, the private suffered a gunshot wound, which forced him to recuperate in Great Britain. Cleary returned to Canada in February 1919 and, later that year, received the MM from the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VIII.

On August 15, 1917, the opening day of the Battle of Hill 70 in France, Private Joseph Roussin, a Mohawk from Quebec's Kanasatake Band, merited his medal for carrying out a successful solo attack against eight enemy soldiers. The former lumberjack came back with three prisoners and a gash in his arm from an enemy bayonet. Fortunately, the wound healed, and he returned to action one month later.

In the history of the battalion, Roussin is remembered as one of the battalion's "two famous military scouts" (Cleary is the other):

*In the chaplain's hut ... another casualty has just been given first aid. One of the scouts from the Van Doos has been wounded in the wrist. Roussin, an Indian, is the most wounded man in the Regiment, perhaps in the entire British Army. This one will earn him a ninth wound stripe. It's starting to become old hat to him; he's patched up and heads back to his post!*<sup>46</sup>

Roussin survived the war and returned to Canada in late 1918.

## **Runner: Tom Charles Longboat**

Thomas Charles Longboat did not receive any awards for bravery. He was not killed in the thick of battle while performing a daring feat above and beyond the call of duty. Rather, he is an example of the selfless response of Canadians to the chaos spreading throughout Europe.

An Onondaga from the Six Nations Grand River Reserve, Longboat had a compelling reason not to enlist: he was a world champion long-distance runner. In 1907, he won the Boston Marathon (a distance of approximately 40 kilometres) in record time, leaving his closest competitor four-fifths of a kilometre behind.<sup>47</sup> His status as a racing celebrity was solidified in 1909, when he won the world professional marathon championships at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

His running had earned him thousands of dollars by February 1916 when, at the age of 29, he set aside his athletic career to enlist. Though the rewards were substantially less, he did not quit racing. As a dispatch carrier with the 107th Pioneer Battalion in France, Longboat ran messages and orders between units. He also kept in competitive form by racing in inter-battalion sporting contests, many of which he won. At the 1918 Canadian Corps Dominion Day competitions, Longboat won the eight-mile [13-kilometre] race.<sup>48</sup>

The famous runner was wounded twice during his time of service. Once he was declared dead, but he survived the war and returned to Canada in 1919. Tom Longboat died in 1949 at the age of 62. He is a member of the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame and the Indian Hall of Fame.

## Nurse Overseas

Native women also made their share of sacrifices during the war. One example is Edith Anderson Monture, a nurse who served overseas at an American hospital base.

The youngest of eight children, Edith Anderson was born in 1890 on the Six Nations Grand River Reserve. As a young woman, she was determined to become a nurse, but found few opportunities to train in Canada. She therefore studied at the New Rochelle School of Nursing in New York State and, after becoming a registered nurse in 1914, worked at an American elementary school.

In 1917, 27-year-old Anderson and 19 other nurses, 14 of whom were also Canadian, joined the U.S. Medical Corps. Within months, they were in Vittel, France, at Buffalo Base Hospital 23, formerly a resort hotel. Miss Anderson spent most of her time at the hospital, treating soldiers who had been shot or gassed. Occasionally, she was sent to other medical centres to help, giving her an opportunity to see more of the country. She sometimes saw more than she cared to.

In 1983, at the age of 93, the veteran nurse was interviewed by a reporter from her local newspaper, *The Grand River Sachem*. Bright and forthcoming, she shared the following memories:<sup>49</sup>

We would walk right over where there had been fighting. It was an awful sight - buildings in rubble, trees burnt, spent shells all over the place, whole towns blown up.

Her recollections of a 20-year-old American patient at Hospital 23 were particularly strong:

*He'd been shot in the neck, but he was getting along fine. Then one night I was on duty and he began hemorrhaging quite badly. We did have orderlies, but they were never to be found, and it happened that a boy who brought bread for the Americans was the one who helped me do the running around.*

*We finally managed to stop the bleeding and settled the boy down. The next night he was real good, but then he hemorrhaged again the next. The night after that he died.*

*It was quite a shock to all of us because we were confident he was going to be all right. I got his mother's address in the States and wrote her telling her I was with her son when he passed away.*

After the war, Anderson returned to the Six Nations Reserve. Here she was contacted by the American boy's parents, who invited her to visit them in Iowa. She did. Eventually, the young man's parents visited Vittel, and, on the return trip, exchanged a visit with Anderson at her home.

Edith Anderson married Claybran Monture in 1919 and subsequently raised four children. She continued nursing, working on a casual basis at a hospital on the reserve until 1955.

## **The Sacrifices and Achievements**

The First World War, with its trench warfare, poison gas and machine-guns, destroyed virtually a generation of young Canadian men. Among them were at least 300 Canadian Native soldiers.<sup>50</sup> Additional lives were lost to illness, particularly tuberculosis, which thrived in the damp trenches of Europe. Countless Natives returned to Canada with the beginnings of this often-fatal disease.

Over four years, Canadian Natives participated and earned medals for valour in practically every major land battle. They also supported the Allied cause at home, donating money and goods to the various relief and patriotic funds, and investing in victory bonds. By the time of the Armistice, donations from Indians to the various war relief funds totalled more than \$44,000 - a sizeable figure for the times. Native women, like other Canadian women, were active in this area. They formed patriotic leagues, Red Cross societies and other charity groups, and they collected clothes, money and food for shipment overseas.

The wartime contributions of Natives did not go unnoticed. For example, when the Prince of Wales visited the Brantford area in October 1919, he presented the Six Nations with a bronze tablet to commemorate the 88 of its members who were killed in, or as a result of, military action.<sup>51</sup>

And in Indian Affairs' 1918-1919 Annual Report, Duncan Scott wrote:

*In this year of peace, the Indians of Canada may look with just pride upon the part played by them in the Great War both at home and on the field of battle. They have well and nobly upheld the loyal traditions of their gallant ancestors who rendered invaluable service to the British cause in 1776 and in 1812, and have added thereto a heritage of deathless honour which is an example and an inspiration for their descendants.*<sup>52</sup>

Little did he know how soon their example and inspiration would be needed.

## **The Second World War**

*How proudly the flag waved overhead, the bands played and the troops marched away from the reserves, the isolated villages, the city streets. We were Canadian Native soldiers ... warriors in a proud tradition stretching back over the thousands of years into the dim past. We travelled by ship, by plane ... and mostly on foot. In a dozen places - France, Germany, Italy ... Japan - we raised our flags, and were buried in those foreign soils.<sup>53</sup>*

## **The Response - Two Decades Later**

Canada declared war on Germany on September 10, 1939, and, for the second time in little more than two decades, the nation's Native community responded quickly. As the Director of the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources noted:

*They were not slow to come forward with offers of assistance in both men and money. About one hundred Indians had enlisted by the end of the fiscal year [March 1940] and the contribution of the Indians to the Red Cross and other funds amounted to over \$1,300.<sup>54</sup>*

Six years later the branch would report a total of 3,090 participants - including 72 women and 7 Indians from the Yukon. However, the actual number of Native recruits was likely higher than the figure recorded, since, again, some Indians and most Métis and Inuit were excluded from Indian Affairs' tally. As well, it was not known how many Natives who no longer held Indian status served. Furthermore, an unknown number of Canadian Indians from reserves near the Canada-United States border served with American forces.

In contrast to the earlier war, most Indians were not exempt from conscription. Compulsory service for home defence began in June 1940. This required a nationwide registration of everyone over the age of 16, so that the government could direct both national military service and any civilian labour that was related to the war effort. In 1942, compulsory overseas service was introduced, and the following year the government declared that, as British subjects, all able Indian men of military age could be called up for training and service in Canada or overseas. Only the Inuit were exempt.

Many Indian bands responded to the government's declaration with protest marches and petitions delivered to Ottawa. Their members questioned their requirement to serve in this war, when they had been exempt from compulsory service in the previous one. The Indian conscription issue was raised in the House of Commons several times. In late 1944, it received the attention of the War Cabinet Committee, which decided to exempt some Indians: those from bands that had been assured during treaty negotiations that their members need never fear involvement in British battles. In all this affected more than 20,000 men.<sup>55</sup>

It is unlikely that many Natives were among the approximately 2,500 Canadian conscripts sent to the front between late 1944 and the end of the war. By that time, most

able-bodied Indian men were already serving voluntarily. As early as 1942, opposition member John Diefenbaker noted in the House of Commons, "In Western Canada the reserves have been depleted of almost all the physically fit men."<sup>56</sup> The same could be said of reserves across Canada.

## Veterans Return

Canadian Natives volunteered to serve in the Second World War for many of the same reasons as had Natives in the First. Economic hardship was a compelling factor, as one Métis veteran explains:

*Men couldn't get a job ... In the army they paid a dollar-and-a-half [per day]. The most you could get around here for farming or whatever, was a dollar. A dollar-and-a-half sounded awfully good.*<sup>57</sup>

Concern over spreading Nazism also prompted enlistment. Another Métis veteran considered this ideology to be the greatest threat to the future of his people:

*Our true destiny is not bound by the success or failure attendant upon Métis deliberation. ... It is bound up with our continued existence as Canadians who fight [for] those liberties to which we are all devoted and the preservation of which is dependent upon our victory.*<sup>58</sup>

As in the First World War, recruiters visited reserves, occasionally under the direction of the local Indian Affairs representatives. Some Native veterans say they felt pressured to join.<sup>59</sup>

In addition, many Native participants were strongly motivated by the stories fathers and uncles had told about their military experiences two decades prior. Several had even experienced global warfare first-hand.

Chief Joe Dreaver of the Mistawasis Cree Band was one of many Natives who served in both World Wars. During the first, he was a sapper who earned the MM at Ypres. Although he had seen war's ugliest side, having lost one brother at Vimy Ridge and another at home from wounds received at Vimy, he did not hesitate to offer assistance when war erupted again.

Dreaver left his farm and drove 17 men from his reserve north of Leask, Saskatchewan, to Saskatoon to enlist. Three of the men were his own sons.<sup>60</sup> Two of his daughters also served, and a younger brother went overseas as well. At 48, the chief himself was past the age for overseas service. He remained in Canada with the Veterans Guard, watching over prisoners of war in Medicine Hat, Alberta.<sup>61</sup>



Like the Dreaver family, the McLeods of Cape Croker, Ontario, made an extraordinary family sacrifice. John, an Ojibwa, served overseas in the First World War and was a member of the Veterans Guard during the Second. Six of his sons and one of his daughters also enlisted. Two [sons](#) gave their lives, and another two were wounded. In 1972, John's wife, Mary Louise McLeod, was named Canada's Silver Cross Mother. Mrs. McLeod became the first Canadian Indian to lay a wreath at the National War Memorial in Ottawa on behalf of all Canadian mothers who lost children to the wars.

The Second World War also saw Tom Longboat return to service, as a member of the Veterans Guard. He was stationed at a military camp near Brantford. His two sons, Thomas Jr. and Theodore, saw action for the first time. Though not with the army, Francis Pegahmagabow helped the war effort by working as a security guard for a defence industry near the Parry Island Reserve.

## **Outstanding Accomplishments - Branching Out**

As in the First World War, most Natives served in the infantry, primarily because it required the most manpower. As well, the other branches of military service - the new Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and the growing Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) - had entrance restrictions, such as educational requirements or a preference for candidates whose ancestors were British. One military historian explains that:

*...when war broke out there was also an air force regulation barring those from commissions who were not of "pure European descent". This was repealed quite early in the war. The Royal Canadian Navy had a more sweeping regulation. Among its prerequisites for service in any rank was a condition that an applicant "be a British born subject, of a white Race". Although it was not until February 1943 that this regulation was officially rescinded, a few Canadian Indians and Métis voluntarily joined and were accepted in both services from the outbreak of war.<sup>62</sup>*

Not surprisingly, the 1942-1943 report of the Indian Affairs Branch listed only 29 Indians in the air services and nine in the RCN, although these numbers grew by war's end. One of these men, Flying Officer Willard John Bolduc, an Ojibwa from Chapleau, Ontario, earned the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for his performance as an air gunner during a series of bombing attacks in 1943.

While, once again, many Aboriginals became known for their sniping and scouting skills, other talents were demonstrated in this war. Canadian Native soldiers were assuming more varied and demanding duties.

## Decorated by Destiny

Considering his father's overseas exploits, one would think fate had chosen Charles Henry Byce to be a military hero. His mother, Louisa Saylor, a Cree from Moose Factory, Ontario, had married Henry Byce, a non-Native from Westmeath. When Charles was born in 1917 in Chapleau, the First World War was still raging, and his father was fighting in Europe, meriting two decorations for valour: the DCM plus France's *Medaille militaire*. Two decades later, 23-year-old Charles Byce joined the Lake Superior Regiment (Motor) - the "Lake Sups" - and began a remarkable journey, practically tracing his father's path. When it was over, Byce had become the only man in his regiment to earn both the DCM and the MM.<sup>63</sup>

Byce earned his first decoration for valour - the MM - in the Netherlands in January 1945. By that time, the Allies had established themselves in France and Belgium and, in another month, would launch an offensive for a final push over the Rhine into Germany.

Before dawn on January 21, Acting Corporal Byce and 23 other Lake Sups set off in row-boats to cross the Maas River. Their mission was to sneak behind enemy lines and bring back German prisoners so information on enemy units could be gathered. Byce headed a five-man team charged with providing cover for the reconnaissance group.

Soon after it had landed on enemy territory, the reconnaissance group was fired upon from three German positions. Byce personally located two of them and silenced them with grenades. He also managed to obtain information from a German prisoner before the group started back. The official history of the regiment describes the events that followed:

*By this time the sky was filled with baleful red and yellow flares, and enemy machine-guns and light mortars were spurting into action. ... As the patrol hurried along the dyke several grenades hurtled through the air. Fortunately they exploded harmlessly ... but they did serve to reveal the location of two more enemy soldiers. Again Corporal Byce took the initiative. He charged the German dugout and into it hurled a 36 [calibre] grenade.*<sup>64</sup>

The patrol escaped safely and, afterward, Byce became one of more than 1,200 Canadians to receive the MM.<sup>65</sup> His citation commended the corporal for his "coolness" and "devotion to duty" and credited him with the mission's success.

Some six weeks later, Byce became one of only 162 Canadians to earn the DCM during the Second World War.<sup>66</sup> The Rhineland Campaign was well under way, but enemy defences still blocked the Allied path into Germany. This was the enemy's last major line of defence and it would not be broken easily. Counter-attacks were fierce and numerous.

On March 2, 1945, the Lake Sups engaged in the most difficult fighting the regiment had known. At 4 a.m., Acting Sergeant Byce and the rest of C Company set out to occupy a group of buildings south of the Hochwald Forest. By 6 a.m., they had accomplished their

goal, but the day's first light revealed their location to the enemy. C Company was bombarded with shells and mortar. All of its tanks were destroyed and casualties mounted quickly. The victims included every officer - even the company commander. Meanwhile, four enemy tanks were approaching. The regimental history explains what happened next:

*In the confusion and general disorder the enemy closed in upon C Company's position. Grimly the Lake Sups held on, the perimeter of their defences becoming smaller and smaller, and their escape corridor to the rear, narrower and narrower. ... With ferocity and courage [Sergeant] Byce, now commanding the remnants of C Company, fought as long as he could; then gathering what few men he was able to find about him he made his way back through the bullet-strewn escape alley.<sup>67</sup>*

It was 3 p.m. when Byce ordered the retreat of his men. He spent the rest of the afternoon behind his group, sniping at enemy infantry so they could not trace the company's withdrawal.

Again, his citation was impressive:

*The magnificent courage and fighting spirit displayed by this NCO when faced with almost insuperable odds are beyond all praise. His gallant stand, without adequate weapons and with a bare handful of men against hopeless odds will remain, for all time, an outstanding example to all ranks of the Regiment.*

Byce and the Lake Sups had advanced into Germany by the time the war in Europe ended on May 8, 1945. The following month, he was sent to England. He returned to Canada in September 1945.

## **Prince of the Brigade**

*As soon as I put on my uniform I felt a better man. **Tommy Prince**<sup>68</sup>*

Thomas George Prince was one of 11 children born to Henry and Arabella Prince of the Brokenhead Band at Scantebury, Manitoba. He was a descendant of Peguis, the Saulteaux Chief who led his band of 200 Ojibwa from the Sault Ste. Marie region to the Red River in the 1790s, and of Chief William Prince, who headed the Ojibwa-Manitoba team of Nile Voyageurs.

Prince enlisted in June 1940, at the age of 24, and began his wartime service as a sapper with the Royal Canadian Engineers. After two years with the RCE, he answered a call for paratrooper volunteers, and by late 1942, was training with the 1st Canadian Special Service Battalion.

Soon after Prince joined this select battalion, it merged with an elite American unit, forming a spearhead of 1,600 men who possessed an assortment of specialist skills. Officially called the 1st Special Service Force, it would become known to German soldiers as the *Devil's Brigade*. Originally, this force was intended to be a parachute unit that would land behind enemy lines and sabotage their installations. Instead, it became a versatile assault group with a reputation for specialized reconnaissance and raiding. Prince was well-suited to be a member.

On February 8, 1944, near Littoria, Italy, Reconnaissance Sergeant Prince was spying on the Germans. An abandoned farmhouse some 200 metres from the enemy served as his observation post, and 1,400 metres of telephone wire connected him to the force. He had a clear view of the enemy's artillery emplacements and promptly reported them.

During what would become a 24-hour solo watch, Prince's communication line was severed by shelling. Unfazed, the sergeant donned civilian clothing, grabbed a hoe and, in full view of German soldiers, acted like a farmer weeding his crops. He slowly inched his way along the line till he found where it was damaged, then, pretending to tie his shoelaces, quickly rejoined the wires. His reporting continued and so did the damage to enemy artillery posts. In all, four German positions were destroyed, and Prince had earned the MM. As his citation explains, 'Sergeant Prince's courage and utter disregard for personal safety were an inspiration to his fellows and a marked credit to his unit.'

Six months later, the *Devil's Brigade* entered southern France. On September 1, Sergeant Prince and a private, scouting deep behind German lines near L'Escarène, located the gun sites and encampment area of an enemy reserve battalion. Prince walked 70 kilometres across the rugged, mountainous terrain to report the information and led the brigade to the encampment.<sup>69</sup> He then joined in the battle.

Afterward, Prince was recommended for the Silver Star, an American army decoration for gallantry in action.<sup>70</sup> His citation was glowing:

*So accurate was the report rendered by the patrol that Sergeant Prince's regiment moved forward on 5 September 1944, occupied new heights and successfully wiped out the enemy bivouac [encampment] area. The keen sense of responsibility and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Prince is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the Allied Nations.*

When the fighting in Southern France was over, Prince was summoned to Buckingham Palace, where King George VI decorated him with both the MM and, on behalf of the president of the United States, the Silver Star with ribbon. Tommy Prince was one of 59 Canadians who were awarded the Silver Star during the Second World War.<sup>71</sup> Only three of this group also possessed the MM.

In December 1944, the Devil's Brigade was disbanded, and its members were scattered among other battalions. The war in Europe ended while Prince was back in England.

## **Brigadier-Magistrate**

The name Oliver Milton Martin appears repeatedly in Native newspapers and magazines. He was a prominent figure: a soldier who reached the highest rank ever held by a Canadian Native and, in civilian life, a school teacher, principal and provincial magistrate.

A Mohawk from the Six Nations Grand River Reserve, Martin made his mark in both the army and the air force. He served in the First and Second World Wars, ending his service in 1944 with the rank of brigadier.

Martin's military career began in 1909, when he joined the Haldimand Rifles militia regiment. Bugler was the first of his many military roles. In 1915, at the age of 22, he took leave from teaching to enlist in the regular force. Two brothers also volunteered. Martin eventually served as a company officer with the 114th and the 107th Battalions. As a lieutenant, he spent seven months in France and Belgium, where he survived a gas attack. In 1917, he qualified as an observer with the Royal Air Force and, the following year, he earned his pilot's wings.

When the war ended, Martin returned to teaching and became a school principal in Toronto, Ontario. He also maintained his ties with his militia regiment. In 1930, he assumed command of the Haldimand Rifles, holding this position until the outbreak of war.

During the Second World War, Martin oversaw the training of hundreds of recruits in Canada. His first appointment, as a colonel, was commander of the 13th Infantry Brigade at a training camp at Niagara-on-the-Lake. The following year he was promoted brigadier and went on to command the 14th (Nanaimo) and 16th (Prince George) Infantry Brigades.

In the official history of the Algonquin Regiment the brigadier is remembered with fondness and respect. The Algonquins had arrived at Niagara-on-the-Lake after a long and festive train ride:

*It was a sad and sore group of men who piled off the cars in Niagara. It was our good fortune to have Brigadier Martin as our new brigade commander, and he, sensing our condition, was most tactful and kindly. His first inspection of the unit, and his words to the men, won him at the outset our strong friendship and loyalty.<sup>72</sup>*

*In October 1944, the brigadier retired from active service. His impact, however, carried on for several years. According to a niece, "many of Brigadier Martin's nephews and nieces joined the service during the Second World War. They wanted to serve their country and I'm sure they were influenced by their uncle's military career."<sup>73</sup>*

After leaving the armed forces, Martin was appointed provincial magistrate for Ontario District 6, the counties of York, Halton and Peel. He was the first Native to hold a

judicial post in Ontario. The Mohawk magistrate served the district until his death in 1957.

Brigadier Martin received many rewards for his accomplishments. For his 20 years of service with good conduct in the militia, Martin was awarded the Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officer's Decoration. In 1953, he and his wife, Lillian, were invited to, and attended, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Today, the East York branch of the Royal Canadian Legion is named the Brigadier O. Martin Branch. The brigadier-magistrate is also a member of Canada's Indian Hall of Fame.

## **Big Feather: Dr. Gilbert Monture**

In 1971, the editors of *Tekawennake*, the newspaper of the Six Nations and New Credit Bands, paid Gilbert Monture the following tribute:

*It's a long way from a two-roomed cabin on the Six Nations Reserve shared with eight brothers and sisters to the position of world citizen.*<sup>74</sup>

Dr. G.C. Monture, Officer of the Order of the British Empire, promoter of Indian rights, army reservist, and world-renowned expert in mineral economics, travelled many distinguished paths in his 77 years.

Monture was a Mohawk from the Six Nations Reserve near Hagersville, Ontario. He was a descendant of Joseph Brant, and like his famous ancestor, he was twice drawn into international conflict.

When the First World War began, Monture was studying mining and metallurgy at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. In late 1917, he postponed his studies to enlist, becoming a gunner in the Royal Canadian Field Artillery. A few months later, he transferred to the Royal Canadian Engineers, and was commissioned a lieutenant. He sailed overseas in July 1918. The lieutenant saw no battlefield action, however, as illness kept him in England past war's end in November. He returned to Canada the following July.

Monture resumed his studies at Queen's and, in 1921, received his Bachelor of Science degree in mining engineering. Two years later, he accepted a post in Ottawa with the Department of Mines and Resources. He worked for this department for 33 years, becoming Chief of the Mineral Resources Division in the Mines and Geology Branch.

*In 1933, the 38-year-old public servant joined the militia and served for five years as a lieutenant in the RCE's munitions and supply company. When the Second World War broke out, it seemed natural he would join the active force. However, a hand injury suffered in a mining accident years earlier prevented him from being accepted for overseas duty, a turn of events that he found very disappointing.*<sup>75</sup>

In the end, the army's loss proved to be the Allied forces' gain. In early 1944, Monture was named Canadian Executive Officer of the Combined (Canadian-American-British) Production and Resources Board. He put his education and experience to use in Washington, helping to allocate strategic minerals for the war effort.

In 1946, Gilbert Monture was named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his work with the Board. Yet, his reputation as a strategic minerals planner was only beginning. Monture conducted similar planning for the Korean War and for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in peacetime. He also sat on several worldwide committees dealing with mineral-economic matters as the Canadian representative for the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

Monture died in 1973. In his lifetime, he was devoted to a number of causes. For example, at Queen's, he helped organize Canada's first university employment service for students. To recognize his achievements, the Six Nations made him an honorary chief, naming the 1.83-metre-tall [six-foot] mining engineer Ohstoserakówa - Big Feather.<sup>76</sup> In addition, Monture was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Western Ontario. In 1966, he received the Vanier Medal of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada. Monture is also a member of Canada's Indian Hall of Fame.

## Greyeyes

*Athlete, soldier, farmer, former Chief of the Muskeg Lake Reserve, Saskatchewan, and ultimately Director of Indian Affairs in the Maritime and Alberta Regions. For long and devoted service to his people, often under difficult circumstances.*

**- Order of Canada citation**<sup>77</sup>

During his six-year term in the Canadian Army, David Georges Greyeyes served in seven European countries and assumed a variety of increasingly demanding military roles. A grain farmer from the Muskeg Lake Cree Band in Saskatchewan, Greyeyes enlisted in June 1940 at the age of 25; two of his brothers and a sister also served.

From the start, this Prairie recruit excelled in machine-gun and rifle use, and drill instruction, and was soon selected to join the instructional staff of a machine-gun reinforcement unit. For more than two years, as sergeant, he gave advanced weaponry training to reinforcements arriving in Great Britain from Canada. He was then transferred to British Columbia to enter an officer's training program and, five months later, made his second journey to Great Britain - this time as a lieutenant.

For the next 17 months, Greyeyes served on the battlefield as a platoon commander with the Saskatoon Light Infantry (SLI) (MG). He first fought in Sicily, and also served in mainland Italy, North Africa, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. During the Italian Campaign, Lieutenant Greyeyes earned the Greek Military Cross (third class) for valour

for his help in supporting the Greek Mountain Brigade. He was one of 14 Canadians, some of whom were members of his platoon, to receive this award.<sup>78</sup>

The Greek brigade was assigned to the Canadian Corps to gain battle experience in September 1944, just as the Allies were preparing to launch an offensive toward Rimini. On September 14, the brigade, supported by a machine-gun company and a mortar company from the SLI, set off on a mission to secure the right flank of the 1st Canadian Division for the attack across the Marano River. Greyeyes headed one of four mortar platoons. Enemy fire was persistent, but the brigade managed to clear several enemy strong points, at a cost of more than 100 casualties. A week later, after making their way through a densely mined airfield, they occupied Rimini, raising both Greek and Canadian flags atop the town hall.

Today, Greyeyes remembers that the "road" to Rimini was desolate and battered. He describes this region of Italy, along its central east coast, as "a heavily settled area ... just a continuous town, really."<sup>79</sup> But the inhabitants, he recalls, "had all left. They had moved to the country. There was quite a lot of destruction."

When the war in Europe ended, Greyeyes volunteered to serve in the Pacific. Japan surrendered, however, and he was instead stationed with the Canadian Army Occupation Force in Germany as an intelligence officer in the Royal Winnipeg Rifles.

Once home, Greyeyes resumed farming and married fellow veteran Flora Jeanne, who had served with the RCAF Women's Division in Canada. She was one of the first Indian women to join the air force. David Greyeyes later worked for Indian Affairs, becoming Director of the Maritime, Alberta and then Saskatchewan regions. He was the first Canadian Indian to be appointed Regional Director of Indian Affairs. For a time he was also chief of the Muskeg Lake Band.

Known for his involvement with various sporting activities, particularly soccer, Greyeyes was inducted into Saskatchewan's Sports Hall of Fame in 1977. That same year, he was honoured by his country - appointed a Member of the Order of Canada.

## **The Sacrifices and Achievements**

More than 200 Canadian Native soldiers were killed or died from wounds during the Second World War. Natives earned a minimum of 18 decorations for bravery in action.<sup>80</sup> They participated in every major battle and campaign, including the disastrous Dieppe landings and the pivotal Normandy invasion. They also served in one of the worst imaginable theatres, Hong Kong, where just under 2,000 members of the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles of Canada became prisoners of war of the Japanese. Included among them were at least 16 Indians and Métis, nine of whom died from wounds or illness.<sup>81</sup>



For many, the adjustment to army life had been jarring. One veteran from British Columbia explains that the volunteers from his reserve, including himself and 10 brothers and cousins, expected military service would involve hard work. But most of their initial experiences were astonishing:

*Some of them had never seen a railway train. Everything was new to them. The big ships carrying them over were new. They didn't know too much about Europe ... all they knew was trapping.*<sup>82</sup>

Native soldiers returned to Canada with incredible memories and mixed emotions. Along with the horrors of war, they carried the pride and elation of having helped free captive peoples. Additionally, Native participants came home with a taste of different lifestyles, particularly of Great Britain, where months, and in some cases years, had been spent training. Apparently this cultural exposure worked two ways:

*Like their comrades, Canadian Indians in the forces experienced everything from British pubs to brussels sprouts to the Blitz. In both World Wars ... Canadian Indians were often regarded with curiosity and fascination by the British public. As well as memories of Britain, some of those of Indian ancestry ... brought home British war brides.*<sup>83</sup>

As in the previous war, Natives actively contributed to the war effort on the home front. In British Columbia, many Indians joined Pacific Ocean defence units, which patrolled and surveyed the coast for signs of Japanese invasion. Across the country, Native men and women worked in war factories and increased agricultural production on their reserves. Indians also contributed some reserve lands, which were used for airports, rifle ranges and defence posts.

In the Yukon, members of the Vuntut Gwitchin Band (at the time known as the Old Crow Band) became pen pals with a group of English orphans. The correspondence began when the children wrote thank-you notes to the band for the money it sent following German air raids. The orphans also expressed their gratitude during a BBC radio broadcast.

In 1943, King George VI showed his appreciation for the leadership and loyalty demonstrated by four bands by awarding British Empire Medals to the chiefs of Ontario's Nicikousemenecaning Band (formerly called the Red Gut Band), British Columbia's Kitkatla Band, Manitoba's Norway House Band and the Vuntut Gwitchin Band.

Canada's first peoples donated their own money; raised additional funds by holding auctions, raffles, sports days and special dinners; and collected all manner of relief items. At war's end, the Indian Affairs Branch noted the donation of over \$23,000 from Canadian Indian bands plus additional, unknown amounts that had been sent directly to the Red Cross, the British War Victims Fund, the Salvation Army and similar charities, along with gifts of clothing and other items.

Once again, the efforts of Canadian Natives at home and abroad had reinforced the traditions of sacrifice and achievement in wartime.

## **The Korean War**

*Today we are Canadians, in service to flag, country and Queen under the blue of the sky and the whiteness of fresh water together in the United Nations banner.*<sup>84</sup>

## **The Response - The Canadian Contribution**

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when thousands of North Korean infantrymen, supported by tanks and aircraft, crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea. The United Nations (U.N.) Security Council voted to defend the southern republic, and the Canadian government, headed by Prime Minister Louis St-Laurent, decided to commit a military force. In the end, fewer Canadians would serve in this war than in the two World Wars. However, Canada's contribution to the U.N. forces would be surpassed only by the United States and Great Britain. More than 26,000 Canadians participated during the war, and additional troops assumed peacekeeping roles after the Korea Armistice Agreement was signed.

The first Canadians to serve in the region were naval personnel. Three RCN destroyers sailed in July 1950, followed one month later by a RCAF transport squadron. Coincidentally, two of the RCN ships - HMCS *Cayuga* and HMCS *Sioux* - bore the names of Indian tribes. Later in the war, they were followed by the *Nootka*, the *Iroquois*, the *Huron* and the *Haida*, plus two other ships. These names were testimony to the respect Natives had earned within the Canadian military establishment, and continued a tradition that had begun in the Second World War. For example, in 1943, five Micmacs from Nova Scotia were honorary guests of Halifax Shipyards Ltd. for the launching of the tribal class destroyer, HMCS *Micmac*.

While this first group of Canadians was assuming military duties, the government was organizing the recruitment of the Canadian Army Special Force (CASF) for Korean service. A brigade group, the CASF was to be raised by voluntary enlistment and trained as part of the regular army.

Late in 1950, agents of the Indian Affairs Branch,<sup>85</sup> in keeping with past practice, were asked to keep track of the number of Indians who enlisted in the CASF. By March 1951, 73 names had been recorded. A final figure of participants was not reported, however, it is likely that several hundred Natives served on the battlefields and also at sea in an area that had been known, in more peaceful times, as the Land of the Morning Calm.<sup>86</sup>

## **Trained and Experienced**

Some of the Natives who volunteered to serve in Korea were members of the active force of the Canadian Army, and therefore already trained and accustomed to military service. Additionally, many volunteers were veterans of an earlier war. Clement and Patrick Arcand from the Muskeg Lake Cree Band in Saskatchewan are two such examples.

During the Second World War, Clement, Patrick and all eight of their brothers served in the armed forces. Moreover, their father, Louis, a veteran of the First World War, participated as a member of the Veterans Guard. In early 1952, Clement and Patrick enlisted in the CASF. Both privates, they joined the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, the branch in which they had served during the previous war. As drivers, they helped deliver ammunition, rations and other supplies to the U.N. troops in the Far East.

Another veteran of the Second World War who went to Korea was Tommy Prince.

## **Prince Returns to Action**

*\*Note: There have been recent changes to the Korean alphabet. For example, Pusan now reads Busan and Kapyong reads Gapyong. In order to maintain historical relevance, the older versions of the names are used in this article.*

Three of the 11 medals Tommy Prince earned during his military career - the Korea Medal, the United Nations Service Medal and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Korea - were for service during the U.N. operations in Korea. In August 1950, one week after the government announced its decision to form the Special Force, 34-year-old Tom Prince volunteered. He joined the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), the first Canadian Army unit to arrive in the region.

Prince was in action quickly. In February 1951, the Patricias joined the 27th Commonwealth Brigade on the battlefield. Soon after arriving in the war zone, the sergeant, who was second in command of a rifle platoon, led an evening "snatch patrol" of eight men into an enemy camp. The raid was a success; the group returned before dawn with two captured machine-guns. More raids followed. However, according to the authors of a biography of Prince, he was eventually assigned fewer patrols, because his commanding officer thought Prince took too many chances that might risk the lives of the soldiers under his command.<sup>87</sup>

Prince was with 2 PPCLI when, together with the 3rd Royal Australian Regiment, it was awarded the United States Presidential Unit Citation for distinguished service in the Kapyong valley April 24 and 25, 1951, during one of the toughest actions of the war.<sup>88</sup> The Patricias were to hold a defensive position at Hill 677 so that a South Korean division could withdraw during an attack by Chinese and North Korean forces. Although at one point the battalion was surrounded and resupply of ammunition and emergency

rations could only be accomplished by air, the Patricias held their ground. The enemy withdrew. Ten PPCLI men were killed and 23 were wounded during the two-day battle. The award was a first for a Canadian unit.

Prince's time at the front was intense but brief. His knees were subject to painful swelling and premature arthritis. It was a struggle for him to endure the constant, steep climbing demanded by the Korean landscape. After a medical examination in May 1951, he was hospitalized and then assigned administrative duties. In August he returned to Canada.

Prince remained on active service as an administrative sergeant at Camp Borden in Ontario. Here his knees responded to the added rest and thus, in March 1952, he volunteered for a second tour of duty in the Far East. He sailed for Korea that October with the 3rd Battalion PPCLI.

In November 1952, the training of the 3rd PPCLI in Korea was interrupted by fighting on "the Hook", a key position west of the Sami-chon River that overlooked much of the rear areas of the U.N. forces. When a Chinese battalion gained a foothold on the forward positions of another U.N. unit on November 18, the 3rd PPCLI was ordered to help defend the sector. By dawn of the 19th, the U.N. unit, with assistance from the Patricias, had recaptured the post. Five Patricias were killed on the Hook and nine were wounded, one of whom was Sergeant Prince.

Prince recovered from the injury, but began to have continual difficulties with his arthritic knees. Between January and April he spent several weeks in hospital. In July 1953, the Korea Armistice was signed, and, the following November, Prince returned to Canada. He remained in the army, stationed at a personnel depot in Winnipeg, until September 1954.

Tommy Prince died at Winnipeg's Deer Lodge Hospital in November 1977, at the age of 62. At his funeral, a delegation of the Princess Patricias served as pallbearers and draped a Canadian flag over his coffin for the memorial service. It was an impressive tribute:

*As the trumpeter finished, five young men from the Brokenhead Indian Reserve began to chant the melancholy "Death of a Warrior" song, as drummers beat a sad lament. ... The crowd of over 500 included people from all walks of life: active soldiers, veterans, Manitoba's Lieutenant Governor Jobin, consuls representing France, Italy and the United States, farmers, fishermen, trappers, businessmen and many others.<sup>89</sup>*

## **A Career in the Navy**

For George Edward (Ted) Jamieson, there truly was no life like the navy. The Toronto-born member of the Six Nations Upper Cayuga Band was a sea cadet in his early teens and, a few years later, a bugler in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve. At the

outbreak of the Second World War, the 18-year-old was among the first group of reservists called up. He was still with the navy when the Korean War erupted.

During the Second World War, Jamieson, an able seaman<sup>90</sup> in the gunnery branch, served on the HMCS *Stadacona*, the HMCS *Drummondville* and the HMCS *Cornwallis*. On convoy duty in the Battle of the Atlantic, he helped escort Allied ships along Canada's coasts and across the ocean.

Jamieson was aboard the tribal class destroyer HMCS *Iroquois* when it was assigned its first tour of duty in Korean waters in 1952. The year before he had been awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) for 12 years of service, and had recently extended his term with the RCN for another five years. At this point a chief petty officer second class (CPO 2),<sup>91</sup> he became one of Canada's 3,621 naval personnel in the Far East.

On board the *Iroquois*, Jamieson employed the specialized training he had received in anti-submarine warfare, serving as the Chief Torpedo Anti-submarine (TAS) Instructor. In Korea, however, naval duties were unusual. Because North Korea's small navy had been destroyed early in the war, RCN crews faced no threats from enemy destroyers. Submarines also posed no danger, although their presence was always considered possible.

For the most part, the RCN ships in Korea blockaded the enemy coasts, attacked enemy coastal positions and protected neighbouring islands. In the absence of enemy warships, the greatest dangers to naval personnel were mines and enemy shore batteries.

The *Iroquois* became the RCN's only battle casualty when it was hit from shore October 2, 1952. Stationed on the Sea of Japan on the east coast, the destroyer was firing at a railway line when it came under attack. Three men died, two suffered serious wounds and eight sustained minor injuries. Jamieson was unharmed. The next day, the destroyer was back in action bombarding enemy targets on shore.

Jamieson remained on board the *Iroquois* until January 1953. While returning to Halifax, he assumed the duties of Chief Boatswain's Mate.<sup>92</sup> The veteran sailor was also a qualified anti-submarine specialist in the air. In the summer of 1953, he served as a sonar<sup>93</sup> crewman in a U.S. anti-submarine helicopter squadron stationed in North Carolina. Afterward, Jamieson served as Senior Instructional CPO at the TAS School in Halifax, where he oversaw instructors and prepared course material and examinations. That year he was also selected by the RCN to receive the Queen's Coronation Medal. In 1955, he was promoted CPO First Class - the navy's most senior NCO rank.

CPO Jamieson retired from the navy in 1960, but maintained an association until 1965 by having his name added to the Reserve Emergency List. He began a new career in social services, working as a staff sergeant at a correctional institution for 15 years, and then as a counsellor at a Six Nations' drug and alcohol centre for 11 years. Jamieson died in Brantford in 1987 at the age of 65.

Today Jamieson's widow, Ruby, remembers her husband's accomplishments with pride:

*He started from the very bottom, and retired as a 1st Class Chief Petty Officer - a young Native man from the Six Nations Reserve. ... He thought it was an honour to serve his country.*<sup>94</sup>

## **A Decade of Service**

*Both sides of my family had served in the army for as far back as we can trace, which is the Boer War on my paternal side and the War between the North and South in the United States, on my maternal side. ... It was only natural that I would volunteer. **Ronald Lowry***<sup>95</sup>

Originally from the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte Band near Trenton, Ontario, Ronald Lowry was 17 when he applied to join the RCN in 1949, during what he calls "a quirk of fate":

*My friend wanted to join the RCN to learn a trade. I was a two-year plumber's apprentice in Oshawa and went with him, for company. ... When we got there, I was asked if I wanted to try the tests. I was told it would be about a two-hour wait, so I tried them. ... I passed and it just evolved from there.*

Lowry's first posting was to HMCS *Cornwallis* at Deep Brook, Nova Scotia for new entry training. In August 1951, he was transferred to HMCS *Nootka*, where he received instruction in his chosen trade, sonar. Six months later, he sailed on the *Nootka* for its second tour of duty in the Far East. He was the only Native aboard.

Lowry wanted to help the South Koreans because he felt some empathy with them. His ancestors had been displaced from their homeland in New York State as a result of the American Revolution. As he explains, "I felt that my land had been taken away from me and I would help anyone to keep theirs."

On board the *Nootka*, Lowry worked in the control room, where he kept watch for enemy submarines and torpedoes. He also served on shore. Along with his sonar experience, Lowry had received demolition training, which was put to use when he was detached from the ship for six months to work with South Korean and British marines. In commando-style raids on islands and the mainland, they destroyed enemy bridges, railways and other strategic installations.

The *Nootka* returned to Canada in November 1952. Lowry remained in the navy after the war, attaining the rank of petty officer. In addition to the *Nootka*, he worked aboard mine sweepers, cruisers and patrol vessels. Three of his nearly 10 years of naval service were spent in England attached to the Royal Navy in submarine service. In all, he "went around the world twice and stopped in 62 countries - I enjoyed every minute of it."<sup>96</sup>

When he retired from the RCN in 1960, Lowry resumed his plumbing and welding trades. Family tradition appears strong. His wife, Joan, a Micmac from Nova Scotia, was a Wren - a member of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Services - for three years in the early 1950s. Four of their five sons have served in the navy - two are still serving. One was transferred to the Persian Gulf during the 1991 Gulf War; however, the war ended just as he was arriving.

## **The Sacrifices and Achievements**

The Korea Armistice Agreement was signed July 27, 1953. For a little more than three years, the various U.N. Command forces advanced, retreated and held their ground. They endured the bitter extremes of the Korean climate as well as the terrain's taxing combination of steep hills and swampy rice paddies.

It is not known how many Natives were killed in action in Korea. More than 500 Canadians lost their lives as a result of the war.

Many Korean War veterans, including Ted Jamieson and Ronald Lowry, chose to remain in the Canadian Forces. For men such as them, tradition became a career.

## **Conclusion**

*We, your sons and daughters of today, remember you, spirits of past wars and battles. We stand for peace on this planet called Mother Earth. ... We are armed not with the terrible weapons of technology but with the wisdom of the Elders. We have not forgotten, we will not forget. We will live for our children and the future.*<sup>97</sup>

War should never be glorified. Yet, the sacrifices and achievements of those who participated must never be forgotten. We owe it to our veterans to keep the memory of their service alive.

To this end, members of Canada's Native community have been forming veterans' organizations and recording their wartime experiences in newsletters, books and films. In the introduction to *We Were There*, a collection of war-related memories produced by the Saskatchewan Indian Veterans Association, the editor explains:

*I wanted to publish ... to let Indian children know that their fathers and grandfathers fought for the freedom we now cherish. Many of the Indian veterans who fought for this freedom did not come back. This book is meant to honour those who can still tell their stories, and those who were left behind.*<sup>98</sup>

Canadian Native veterans are proud of their wartime contributions. Some have made commemorative pilgrimages back to the battlefields in which they fought decades before. Cairns and memorials have been erected in prominent locations on several reserves. Residents gather around them each November 11 for Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Native veterans have reason to be proud. More than 7,000 Indians served in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War, and an unknown number of Inuit, Métis and other Natives also participated. One Native veterans group estimates that 12,000 Natives served in the three wars.<sup>99</sup>

On each occasion, Canada's Native soldiers overcame cultural challenges and made impressive sacrifices and contributions to help the nation in its efforts to restore world peace. It was an incredible response consistent with a remarkable tradition.

## Looking Back

- When I was at Rosspport, on Lake Superior, in 1914, some of us landed from our vessel to gather blueberries near an Ojibwa camp. An old Indian recognized me, and gave me a tiny medicine-bag to protect me, saying that I would shortly go into great danger. The bag was of skin, tightly bound with a leather thong. Sometimes it seemed to be as hard as rock, at other times it appeared to contain nothing. What really was inside it I do not know. I wore it in the trenches, but lost it when I was wounded and taken to a hospital. **Francis Pegahmagabow, First World War veteran**<sup>100</sup>
- The Germans kept coming, swarming over the trenches in attack. Our machine-guns got red hot and the air was filled with smoke. When the fighting finished, I went over to the front line to see the damage. It was an awful mess - Germans and Canadians lay all over, some wounded, some dead. I went back to rest and wrote to Blanche: "The boys have gone, but not their sweat nor their blood. That will remain forever." **James Redsky, First World War veteran**<sup>101</sup>
- The Colonel begins to read the 36 names of our fallen. Tears are in his eyes. He falters and hands the paper to the Adjutant who calmly folds the paper and puts it in his pocket and quietly says: "It is not necessary. They were comrades. We remember." **James Brady, Second World War veteran**<sup>102</sup>
- A friend of mine, he got killed over there. ... In the evening we were sitting side by side and a sniper got him. Shot him right between the eyes, you know. I don't know why they didn't pick me. **Adolphus Ghostkeeper, Second World War veteran**<sup>103</sup>
- I'm very glad I went - I wouldn't like to do it again. It was bloody tiresome. Wars are interesting experiences so long as you live through them. **Horace Kelly, Second World War veteran**<sup>104</sup>
- We're proud of the word "volunteer". Nobody forced us, we were good Canadians - patriots - we fought for our country. **Syd Moore, Second World War veteran**<sup>105</sup>



- Many paid the supreme sacrifice and are buried in those beautiful Canadian military cemeteries in Europe. We personally found graves in France, Belgium and Holland when, in June 1990, 28 Native veterans of Canada visited our former battlefields. **Andrew George, Second World War veteran and President of the B.C. Chapter of the National Indian Veterans Association**<sup>106</sup>
- One time we were sitting up on a hill looking down and I'll bet you there were 10,000 [South Korean refugees] moving. My thoughts went back to my own history - when my relatives moved from the United States. I thought, "Wow, we did this once." **Ronald Lowry, Korean War veteran**<sup>107</sup>
- In Cree we say "Kahgee pohn noten took" on Remembrance Day. It means, "the fighting has ended". **Irene Plante, veteran's widow**

## Notes

1. Mr. Mountain Horse was a member of the Blood Band in Alberta. The quotation is an excerpt from his book *My People: The Bloods*, p. 144.
2. From the Sioux Valley Band in Manitoba, Mr. Whitecloud is quoted in Lindsay Kines, "War Greeted Native with Two Shocks," *The Brandon Sun*, November 12, 1982, p. 2.
3. From Saskatchewan's Montreal Lake Band, Mr. Bird is quoted in Saskatchewan Indian Veterans Association, *We Were There*, p. 26.
4. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Basic Departmental Data, p. 1; and Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, *Population Projections of Registered Indians*, pp. 49, 63-65.
5. Information provided January 1992 by the Secretary of State of Canada, Social Trends Analysis Directorate, from material prepared by the Demography Division of Statistics Canada.

## The First World War

6. "World War I-1914-1918," *AMMSA*, 2, 35 (November 9, 1984), p. 9.
7. Department of Indian Affairs, *Annual Report*, 1918-1919, p. 13.
8. Department of Indian Affairs, *Annual Report*, 1913-1914, p. xxvii.
9. However, various Native groups and individuals are presently conducting research to determine them.
10. National Archives of Canada RG 24, Vol. 1221, file HQ 593-1-7.
11. These assurances are documented in Alexander Morris, *The Treaties of Canada*.
12. Duncan Scott, "The Canadian Indians and the Great World War," *Guarding the Channel Ports*, p. 297.
13. *La Libre Parole* [Winnipeg], April 20, 1916. From A.-H. de Tremaudan, *Hold High Your Heads*, p. 164.

14. Fred Gaffen, *Forgotten Soldiers*, p. 29.
15. Active recruiting by militia regiments in the Hudson Bay area may account for this high number. From National Archives of Canada RG 24, Vol. 1221, file HQ 593-1-7.
16. Using picks, spades and other tools, pioneers prepared the way for the main armed force.
17. James Dempsey, "Indians of the Prairie Provinces in World War I" (M.A. dissertation), pp. 53 and 120.
18. Korean War veteran Ronald Lowry in a June 1991 conversation with the author.
19. Dempsey, "Persistence of a Warrior Ethic among the Plains Indians," *Alberta History*, 36, 1 (Winter 1988).
20. George Stanley, "The Significance of the Six Nations Participation in the War of 1812," *Ontario History*, LV, 4 (December 1963), p. 217.
21. Removed
22. *Military General Service; Egypt Medal; North West Canada*, p. 23.
23. Louis Jackson, *Our Caughnawagas in Egypt*, p. 1.
24. David-Michael Thompson, "Ojibway and Mohawk Voyageurs in the Nile Expedition of 1884-1885" (unpublished research paper), 1990.
25. Gaffen, p. 11.
26. *Ibid*, p. 28.
27. King George V introduced the Military Medal in 1916 to recognize non-commissioned officers and men for bravery in the field. After the Victoria Cross and the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the MM was the highest decoration for gallantry that could be won by non-commissioned soldiers. It was awarded to more than 12,000 members of the CEF during the Great War. From Harry and Cindy Abbink, *The Military Medal: Canadian Recipients*, pp. vii-xiii.
28. Gaffen, p. 28.
29. First World War citations were provided by Veterans Affairs Canada; Second World War citations by the Department of National Defence.
30. Report of the Parry Sound Indian Agent to the Secretary, Department of Indian Affairs, 20 May 1919. From National Archives of Canada RG 10, Vol. 6771, file 452-30.
31. The Indian Hall of Fame was conceived in 1967 by the Canadian Association in Support of the Native Peoples. Housed in the museum of the Woodland Cultural Centre at Brantford, Ontario, its goal is to honour Natives who have contributed to the advancement of Canada's Native society.
32. From a February 1991 conversation with the author.
33. Victor Wheeler, *The 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion in No Man's Land*, p. 320.
34. The Abbinks, p. xiii.
35. "First World War Indian Hero Almost Forgotten," *The Leader-Post*, November 11, 1989, p. C10.
36. Norwest was his father's surname; Louie was his mother's.
37. Wheeler, p. 289.
38. The MC was similar to the MM, except that it was reserved for commissioned officers up to the rank of captain and, later, major. It was awarded to at least 2,800 members of the CEF. From Taprell Dorling, *Ribbons and Medals*, p. 29; and

- Charles Stewart, *Overseas: The Lineages and Insignia of the Canadian Expeditionary Force*, p. 166.
39. D.J. Corrigan, *The History of the Twentieth Canadian Battalion (Central Ontario Regiment) Canadian Expeditionary Force*, p. 79.
  40. Francis Dowe, *The Canadian Military Register of Foreign Awards*, p. 25.
  41. The equivalent rank of privates in the infantry, sappers were members of the Royal Canadian Engineers who dug trenches and tunnels, and performed demolition duties.
  42. Stewart, p. 166.
  43. Thomas Raddall, "Sam Glode: Travels of a Micmac," *Cape Breton's Magazine*, 35 (January 1984), pp. 26-27.
  44. *Ibid*, p. 26.
  45. Le 22e bataillon later became le Royal 22e Régiment.
  46. Translation of text from Joseph Chaballe, *Histoire du 22e Bataillon canadien-français*, pp. 327-328.
  47. Woodland Cultural Centre, "Tom Longboat," research file.
  48. Joe Keeper, another Native athlete-turned-soldier and a recipient of the Military Medal, placed first in the one- and three-mile events.
  49. Bill Johnston, "First Canadian Nurse Overseas," *The Grand River Sachem*, October 19, 1983, p. 15.
  50. Gaffen, p. 79.
  51. The name, Cameron Brant, is included on the tablet.
  52. Department of Indian Affairs, *Annual Report*, 1918-1919, p. 13.

## **The Second World War**

53. "World War II-1939-1945," *AMMSA*, 2, 35 (November 9, 1984), p. 9.
54. Dr. Harold McGill in Department of Mines and Resources, *Annual Report*, 1939-1940, p. 183. Indian Affairs became a branch of this department in 1936.
55. National Archives of Canada RG 10, Vol. 6768, file 452-20, part 5.
56. House of Commons, *Debates*, April 28, 1942, p. 1960.
57. Louis Dumont from Fishing Lake, Alberta in Diane Parenteau, "Battles, Friendships from War Remembered by Métis Vet.," *Windspeaker*, 7, 36 (November 10, 1989), p. 5.
58. James Brady in Julia Harrison, *Métis: People between Two Worlds*, p. 115.
59. James Dempsey in a September 1991 conversation with the author.
60. "The Dreavers of Mistawasis: A Saga of Service," *The Saskatchewan Indian* (December 1972), p. 5.
61. In 1948, Chief Dreaver's son [Harvey](#), a sergeant killed in 1944 while serving in Belgium with the Regina Rifles, was posthumously awarded the Belgian *Croix de guerre avec Palme* for outstanding contributions toward the liberation of Belgium.
62. Gaffen, p. 64.
63. Stanley, *In the Face of Danger*, p. 347.

64. *Ibid*, pp. 245-246.
65. Martin Ashton, *The Canadian Medal Rolls* , p. 11.
66. *Ibid*, p. 11.
67. Stanley, *In the Face of Danger*, p. 269.
68. McKenzie Porter, "Warrior," *Maclean's* (September 1, 1952), p. 49.
69. Bruce Sealey and Peter Van De Vyvere, *Manitobans in Profile: Thomas George Prince*, p. 26.
70. Awarded to soldiers of the United States, or friendly forces serving in action against an enemy of the U.S., the Silver Star Medal followed the Distinguished Service Medal in the order of precedence for American medals, ranking sixth overall. From Dowe, p. 219.
71. *Ibid*, p. 31.
72. G.L. Cassidy, *Warpath: The Story of the Algonquin Regiment*, p. 27.
73. Nina Burnham in a November 1991 letter to the author.
74. "Dr. Gilbert C. Monture," *Tekawennake*, May 12, 1971, p. 1.
75. Barbara Malloch, Monture's daughter, in a December 1991 conversation with the author.
76. "Dr. Gilbert C. Monture," *Tekawennake*, February 8, 1978, p. 15.
77. Citation provided by Government House.
78. Dowe, p. 153.
79. From a December 1991 conversation with the author.
80. Gaffen, pp. 79 and 131.
81. *Ibid*, p. 40; and Dempsey, "The Canadian Indians and World War Two" (unpublished research paper), pp. 6-7.
82. Raymond Prince in a November 1991 conversation with the author.
83. Gaffen, p. 40. For two interesting accounts of war brides adapting to reserve life see M. Olga McKenna, *Micmac by Choice* (Halifax: Formac Publishing Co. Ltd, 1990), and Anne Rosemary Paudash, "I Married an Indian," *Maclean's* (December 1, 1951).

## **The Korean War**

84. "And to Tomorrow...", *AMMSA* , 2, 35 (November 9, 1984), p. 9.
85. Indian Affairs at this time was part of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.
86. The number of references made to Korean War veterans in Native newspapers and in communications during research supports this view. In a March 1991 letter to the author, Sam Urquhart, President of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada, agreed that 73 seems a low estimate.
87. Sealey and Van De Vyvere, p. 35.
88. Formerly called the Distinguished Unit Citation, this decoration is awarded to units of United States armed forces and co-belligerent nations for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy.
89. Sealey and Van De Vyvere, p. 1.

90. An able seaman is the navy's equivalent of an army private.
91. A CPO 2 is the equivalent to a master warrant officer in the army.
92. The Chief Boatswain's Mate is the NCO who oversees watches, drills and other shipboard routines.
93. Sonar (sound navigation and ranging) systems detect objects underwater by reflecting or emitting sound.
94. From a December 1991 letter to the author.
95. From a May 1991 letter to the author.
96. From a June 1991 conversation with the author.

## Conclusion

97. "And to Tomorrow," *AMMSA*, 2, 35 (November 9, 1984), p. 9.
98. Gordon Ahenakew in Saskatchewan Indian Veterans Association, *We Were There*, p. 3.
99. Andrew George, President of the British Columbia Chapter of the National Indian Veterans Association - a group that has been working on a national survey of Native veterans - in a March 1991 letter to the author.

## Looking Back

100. Diamond Jenness, *The Ojibwa Indians of Parry Island*, p. 53.
101. An Ojibwa from Shoal Lake, Ontario, Mr. Redsky is quoted in James Stevens, ed., *Great Leader of the Ojibway: Mis-quona-queb*, p. 17.
102. A Métis leader from Alberta, Mr. Brady wrote this text in his war diary, which was published in Murray Dobbin, *The One-and-a-Half Men*, p. 143.
103. Mr. Ghostkeeper, a Métis from Vancouver, provided this quotation in February 1990.
104. Mr. Kelly, a Haida from Vancouver and the son of Peter Kelly, DD, a renowned missionary, teacher and spokesperson for British Columbia Natives, provided this quotation in February 1990.
105. Mr. Moore, a member of the Moose Factory Cree Band in Ontario, provided this quotation in the CBC television program, *On the Road Again: A Remembrance Day Special*, November 12, 1990.
106. From a March 1991 letter to the author.
107. From a June 1991 conversation with the author.
108. Mrs. Plante is quoted in "Cree Boys" Contribution Not Recognized," Kahtou, November 21, 1988, p. 6.
109. In 1987, Mr. Hill won the Remembrance Day poetry contest sponsored by the Six Nations (Ohsweken) Veterans Association. His poem was published in *Tekawennake*, October 22, 1987, p. 10., and is reprinted with permission.

## Sources

### Books

Abbink, Harry, and Cindy Abbink. *The Military Medal: Canadian Recipients*. Calgary: Alison Publishing Co., 1987.

Ashton, Martin. *The Canadian Medal Rolls: Distinguished Conduct and Military Medal (1939-1945 and 1950-1953)*. Toronto: The Charlton Press, 1983.

Burhans, Robert D. *The First Special Service Force, A Canadian/American Wartime Alliance: The Devil's Brigade*. Agincourt: Methuen Publications, 1947.

Cassidy, G.L. *Warpath: The Story of the Algonquin Regiment, 1939-1945*. Toronto: The Ryerson Press, 1948.

Chaballe, Joseph. *Histoire du 22<sup>e</sup> Bataillon canadien-français, Tome 1, 1914-1919*. Montréal: Les éditions Chantecler Ltée, 1952.

Corrigall, D.J. *The History of the Twentieth Canadian Battalion (Central Ontario Regiment) Canadian Expeditionary Force in the Great War, 1914-1919*. Toronto: Stone and Cox Ltd., 1935.

Dobbin, Murray. *The One-and-a-Half Men*. Vancouver: New Star Books, 1981.

Dorling, H. Taprell. *Ribbons and Medals: Naval, Military, Air Force and Civil*. London: George Philip and Son Ltd., 1941.

Dowe, Francis S. *The Canadian Military Register of Foreign Awards*. Ottawa: Francis S. Dowe, 1979.

Elias, Peter Douglas. *The Dakota of the Canadian Northwest*. Winnipeg: The University of Manitoba Press, 1988.

Gaffen, Fred. *Forgotten Soldiers*. Penticton: Theytus Books Ltd., 1985.

Granatstein, J.L., and J.M. Hitsman. *Broken Promises: A History of Conscription in Canada*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1977.

Harrison, Julia D. *Métis: People between Two Worlds*. Vancouver, Toronto: Glenbow-Alberta Institute and Douglas and McIntyre, 1985.

Jackson, Louis. *Our Caughnawagas in Egypt*. Ottawa: W. Drysdale and Co., 1885.

Jeness, Diamond. *The Ojibwa Indians of Parry Island: Their Social and Religious Life*. Ottawa: J.O. Patenaude I.S.O., 1935.

Kerrigan, Evans. *American War Medals and Decorations*. New York: The Viking Press, 1971.

Lydekker, John Wolfe. *The Faithful Mohawks*. Port Washington, N.Y.: I.J. Friedman, 1968.

*Military General Service, 1793-1814 (Canadian Recipients); Egypt Medal, 1882-1889 (Canadian Recipients); North West Canada 1885*. London: Spink and Son Ltd., 1975.

Morris, Alexander. *The Treaties of Canada*. Toronto: Belfords Clark and Co., 1971.

Mountain Horse, Mike. *My People: The Bloods*. Calgary: Glenbow-Alberta Institute, 1979.

Nicholson, G.W.L. *Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1919: Official History of the Canadian Army in the First World War*. Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1964.

*Official History of the Canadian Army in the Second World War, Volume II: The Canadians in Italy, 1939-1945*. Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1956.

Reaman, G. Elmore. *The Trail of the Iroquois Indians: How the Iroquois Nation Saved Canada for the British Empire*. Great Britain: Frederick Muller, 1967.

Russell, E.C. *Customs and Traditions of the Canadian Armed Forces*. Ottawa: Deneau and Greenberg Publishers Ltd., 1980.

Saskatchewan Indian Veterans Association. *We Were There*. Saskatchewan: Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, 1989.

Sealey, D. Bruce, and Peter Van de Vyvere. *Manitobans in Profile: Thomas George Prince*. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers Ltd., 1981.

Stanley, George F.G. *In the Face of Danger: The History of the Lake Superior Regiment*. Port Arthur: The Lake Superior Scottish Regiment, 1960.

Stevens, G.R. *Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, 1919-1957, Volume III*. Montréal: Southam Printing Company Ltd., 1958.

Stevens, James, ed. *Great Leader of the Ojibway: Mis-quona-queb*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1972.

Stewart, Charles H. *Overseas: The Lineages and Insignia of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1914-1919*. Toronto: Mission Press, 1970.

Thompson, Chief Albert Edward. *Chief Peguis and His Descendants*. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers Ltd., 1973.

Thorgrimsson, Thor, and E.C. Russell. *Canadian Naval Operations in Korean Waters, 1950-1955*. Ottawa: Department of National Defence, 1965.

De Tremaudan, A.H. *Hold High Your Heads*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publishers, 1982.

Weatherbe, K. *From the Rideau to the Rhine and Back: The 6<sup>th</sup> Field Co. and Battalion Canadian Engineers in the Great War*. Toronto: The Hunter-Rose Co. Ltd., 1928.

Wheeler, Victor W. *The 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion in No Man's Land*. Calgary: The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, 1980.

## Articles

"Canada's Indians in the Wars" [Tommy Prince]. *Indian News*, 20, 6 (October 1979).

"Canada's Indians in the Wars: A Tribute." *Tekawennake*, November 7, 1980.

"Canadian Indians of Today" [Gilbert Monture]. *Indian-Eskimo Association* (February 1965).

"Canadian Indians and World War One." *The Tomorrow File*, 1, 3 (November 30, 1983).

"Cree Boys Contribution Not Recognized." *Kahtou*, November 21, 1988.

Dempsey, James. "The Indians and World War One." *Alberta History*, 31, 3 (Summer 1983).

"Persistence of a Warrior Ethic among the Plains Indians." *Alberta History*, 36, 1 (Winter 1988).

"Dr. Gilbert C. Monture." *Tekawennake*, May 12, 1971, and February 8, 1978.

"The Dreavers of Mistawasis: A Saga of Service." *The Saskatchewan Indian* (December 1972).

"First World War Indian Hero Almost Forgotten" [Henry Norwest]. *The Leader-Post* [Regina], November 11, 1989.

"Forgotten Native Hero Remembered as Best Sniper of First World War" [Henry Norwest]. *The Montreal Gazette*, November 11, 1990.

Johnston, Bill. "First Canadian Nurse Overseas" [Edith Anderson Monture]. *The Grand River Sachem*, October 19, 1983.



Kines, Lindsay. "War Greeted Native with Two Shocks" [Peter Whitecloud]. *The Brandon Sun*, November 12, 1982.

"Oliver Milton Martin." *Tekawennake* , June 1, 1977.

Parenteau, Diane. "Battles, Friendships from War Remembered by Métis Vet." *Windspeaker*, 7, 36 (November 10, 1989).

Porter, McKenzie. "Warrior" [Tommy Prince]. *Maclean's* (September 1, 1952).

Raddall, Thomas H. "Sam Glode: Travels of a Micmac." *Cape Breton's Magazine*, 35 (January 1984).

"Represented War Mothers, Indian Dies" [McLeod family]. *Kitchener-Waterloo Record*, February 14, 1973.

Scott, Duncan Campbell. "The Canadian Indians and the Great World War." Appendix I of *Canada in the Great War, Vol. III: Guarding the Channel Ports*. Toronto: United Publishers of Canada Ltd., 1919.

Stanley, G.F.G. "The Significance of the Six Nations Participation in the War of 1812." *Ontario History* , LV, 4 (December 1963).

"The Six Nations and the American Revolution." *Ontario History*, LVI, 4 (December 1964).

"And to Tomorrow ..." *Aboriginal Multi-Media Society of Alberta (AMMSA)*, 2, 35 (November 9, 1984).

"War's Reality Taught Veterans Painful Lessons." *Tekawennake*, December 12, 1984.

"We Remember." *Ontario Indian*, 3, 11 (November 1980).

"World War I-1914-1918." *AMMSA*, 2, 35 (November 9, 1984).

"World War II-1939-1945." *AMMSA*, 2, 35 (November 9, 1984).

Wuttunee, Deanna. "Veterans Association Update" [David Greyeyes]. *The Saskatchewan Indian*, 10, 11 (November 1980).

## **Government Documents**

Canada. Department of Citizenship and Immigration. *Annual Report, 1949-1950 to 1953-1954*. Ottawa.

Department of Indian Affairs. *Annual Report, 1913-1914 to 1920-1921*. Ottawa.

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. *Basic Departmental Data-1989*. Ottawa, 1989.

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. *Population Projections of Registered Indians, 1986-2011*. Ottawa, 1989.

Department of Mines and Resources. *Annual Report, 1939-1940 to 1948-1949*. Ottawa.

Department of National Defence. *Canada's Army in Korea: The United Nations Operations, 1950-1953, and Their Aftermath*. Ottawa, 1956.

Parliament. House of Commons. *Debates*, April 28, 1942, and July 23, 1943.

### **Manuscripts and Other References**

Dempsey, James. "The Canadian Indians and World War Two." Unpublished research paper, University of Calgary, 1983.

"Indians of the Prairie Provinces in World War I." M.A. dissertation, University of Calgary, 1987. Hill, Landon. "Remembrance Day" [poem]. *Tekawannake*, October 22, 1987.

*On the Road Again: A Remembrance Day Special*. Narr. Wayne Rostad. CBC television. November 12, 1990.

Thompson, David-Michael. "Ojibway and Mohawk Voyageurs in the Nile Expedition of 1884-1885." Unpublished research paper for the Native Veterans of Northwestern Ontario, 1990.

Woodland Cultural Centre. Research Files [Cameron Brant, Tom Longboat, Oliver Martin]. Brantford.

Woodland Indian Cultural Educational Centre. "Indian Hall of Fame" [pamphlet]. Brantford.

*Warriors: A Resource Guide*. Brantford, 1986.

*The following sources of information were also consulted:*

War Diaries, Ships' Logs and Military Service Records, available through the National Archives of Canada. National Archives of Canada Record Groups (RG), in particular:

1. Department of Indian Affairs war files-RG 10, Vols. 3180-3182, file 452; and Vols. 6762-6806; and
2. Department of Militia and Defence files-RG 24 Vol. 1221, file HQ 593-1-7; Vol. 4383, file 2D, 34-7-109 and Vol. 6566, file 1064-30-34.

## **Acknowledgements**

Veterans Affairs would like to thank the following people for their assistance during the production of this publication:

**Fred Gaffen**, Senior Military Historian, Canadian War Museum, who reviewed and provided comments on the text. Mr. Gaffen's book *Forgotten Soldiers* was the first to cover the subject of Native veterans in depth and provided the basis for much of the author's research.

**David-Michael Thompson**, research developer for the Native Veterans of Northwestern Ontario, who reviewed the text and provided information and photos.

**James Dempsey**, Assistant Professor, Indian Studies, Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, who reviewed the text and provided information.

**George Lafond**, Director of Health, Saskatoon District Tribal Council, who reviewed the text and provided advice and information.

**Howard Bernard**, Acting Deputy Director General Planning and Services, Communications, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, who reviewed the text and provided advice and information.

**Heather L. Ebbs** of Editor's Ink, who edited the English text.

**Dr. Serge Bernier**, Senior Historian (Francophone), Directorate of History, Department of National Defence, who provided a historical review and edited the French text.

**Edwidge Munn**, Historical Archivist, Directorate of History, Department of National Defence, who provided a historical review.

**Liliane Grantham, O.A. Cooke, Isabel Campbell and Shirley Neill** from the Directorate of History, Department of National Defence

**Staff of the Woodland Cultural Centre and Museum**, Brantford, Ontario

**Artist Irma Coucill**

**Staff of the National Library of Canada**

**Staff of the National Archives of Canada**, particularly the **Personnel Records Centre**

**Viviane Gray**, Manager of the Indian Art Centre, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

**The Social Trends Analysis Directorate, the Secretary of State of Canada**

**The Canadian War Museum**

**The Native Veterans of Northwestern Ontario**

**The British Columbia Chapter of the National Indian Veterans Association**

**The Six Nations Veterans Association**

**The Saskatchewan Indian Veterans Association**

**The Manitoba Métis Senate**

**Duncan Pegahmagabow**

**Adrian Hayes**

**Carl Cleary**

**Alphonse Roussin**

**Helen and Russell Moses**

**Marjorie Beaver**

**Gladys Johnston**

**Charles Byce**

**Nina Burnham**

**David Greyeyes Steele**

**Raymond Prince**

**Sam Urquhart**

**Ruby Jamieson**

**Ronald Lowry**

**Andrew George**

**Gordon Ahenakew**

**Horace Kelly**

**Adolphus Ghostkeeper**

**John Richardson**

**Barbara Fraser-Stiff**

**Colin Buehler**

**Bonnie Parr**

**Barbara Malloch**