



Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | Contest | Veterans' Week

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators:



Wall Plaque, Wall of Remembrance
(Photo: Jim Hayes)

In his Smith Falls high school history class, Blake Seward, developed the 'Lest We Forget' Project that eventually garnered national attention and awards including a Governor General's Award. The idea was

simple but meaningful. Mr. Seward asked his students to research the lives of the soldiers named on the local cenotaph, many who died in battle when in their early 20's. Who were these young men? Who were their families, where did they go to school and what were their hobbies?



Cards anyone? Canadian soldiers take a break in the safety of a shell hole during April, 1917. [WWI, VAC, [Photo Gallery](#)]

During a recent commemoration of VE-Day, there was a Remembrance campaign encouraging Canadians to thank a Veteran. One day I found myself in a corner store standing be-

hind a man in his 90's dressed in a meticulous army uniform. I shook his hand in thanks and commented on his medals. He smiled, eyes gleaming, and said, 'I was young then, just a boy really.'

This November, why not encourage your students to participate in an act of Remembrance? This week's **Chalk Talk** features Veterans Affairs, as well as, an exciting contest from Canada's National History Society. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing information on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit www.4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

[As always, we'd love to hear your thoughts.](#)

Mary Kovack

Remembrance Resources for the Classroom



'Remembrance' is an important part of being a well-informed Canadian. How can we truly understand the country we have today without a knowledge of the sacrifices and achievements that have been made by our Veterans and current Canadian Forces members to protect the peace and freedom we enjoy?

For a country that has an international reputation for peace, Canada has taken part in many wars and conflicts. Knowing what Canada did — and why — is important. Veterans Affairs Canada offers educators a wide selection of free, bilingual resources about Remembrance and Canada's military history, from the South African War to modern day.



The **Canada Remembers (CR) Program of Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC)** encourages youth to take an active part in remembrance learning, activities and events within their schools and communities. All VAC learning resources are **free of charge, and available in both official languages.**

The [Tales of Animals in War](#) newspaper, for ages 5–11, introduces the concepts of remembrance and thanks to younger children. The [Canada Remembers Times](#) newspaper, for ages 12–18, focuses on educating older students about Canada's rich military history and heritage, as well as making them aware of the interesting personal stories and experiences of Canadian Veterans, Canadian Forces members and all those who have served in the cause of peace and freedom, at home and around the world.

These newspapers offer a wide variety of stories and information. Educators are invited to use the [2009 teacher's companion guide](#) (available online) to Tales of Animals in War and Canada Remembers Times. Classroom posters and bookmarks are also available. Additional learning resources, fun activities and other education materials are found in the "[Kids Zone](#)" (ages 5–11) and in the "[Youth Corner](#)" (ages 12–18).

For more information see **Website of the Week**, below.



TWO LUCKY STUDENTS WILL WIN A TRIP TO OTTAWA! (See Contest details BELOW)

Website of the week



Veterans Affairs Canada

Anciens Combattants Canada



Veterans Affairs Canada

www.vac-acc.gc.ca



Canada Remembers Times

Veterans' Week Special Edition - November 5 to 11

Weather
January 16, 1944
Cremona, Italy
307 F. Steady and mild

Canadians in the Italian Campaign

At dawn on July 10, 1943, the Allies launched "Operation Husk," the Canadian assault on the island of Sicily and mainland Italy, which were under German control. Canadian troops played an important role in several battles between July 1943 and February 1945.



This marked the beginning of the Italian Campaign of the Second World War. It was a series of Allied advances through the mountainous terrain of the island of Sicily and mainland Italy, which were under German control. Canadian troops played an important role in several battles between July 1943 and February 1945.

Profiles of Courage

Private Ernest "Sonnie" South of British Columbia served in the Italian Campaign and earned a Victoria Cross for his actions at the Battle of the Senio River on October 21 and 22, 1944. Sonnie died in 2005, the last living Canadian Victoria Cross recipient.

A former Minister of Veterans Affairs, the late Honourable David MacDonald served as a sergeant in Italy during the Second World War.

On December 21, 1944, at the Senio River, an exploding shell landed in the open air and exploded in his left arm and leg. MacDonald survived after the war and returned to Barboursville, Prince Edward Island, to farm, raise seven children and later enter provincial and federal politics.

Up the Taedong River in a Destroyer

In December 1950 during the Korean War, the port city of Chongmu was facing a massive enemy advance and the order was given to evacuate. Six United Nations (UN) ships, including three Canadian destroyers, were sent to help. It would not be easy—Chongmu was more than 30 kilometers up the Taedong River, a waterway heavily mined by the North Koreans.



Canadian destroyer HMCS Corgi.

Two UN ships ran aground and were forced to turn back but the remaining ships led by HMCS Corgi reached the city after a nerve-wracking passage through shallow, channeling channels in a quick dark night. The destroyers guarded against possible enemy attack and helped destroy the mines. They, their and supplies left behind, as they could not be by the enemy. They job done, the ships returned safely to the sea.

Today, Canadian sailors continue to serve far from home. Canadian ships have been regularly patrolling the waters of southwest Asia in support of the war on terror.

Canadians Defend Nicosia Airport



Quick thinking is often the best defense. In 1974, Turkish soldiers invaded the small Mediterranean island of Cyprus, a key target being the airport in the capital city of Nicosia. With only a few heavy weapons, Canadian peacekeepers bravely parried the assault under cover of darkness, saving the airport from a well-planned invasion. The tactic worked. The Turks withdrew and the Canadians retained control of the airport.



John Gifford, a Canadian soldier, during the invasion of Cyprus.

Youth and Remembrance

Many Canadians who fought in Italy were not much older than today's high school students. Louise Garbaro, a 17-year-old from Manitoba, took part in a Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) Youth Learning Journey to Italy in 2004. She met a soldier from Manitoba killed in Italy in 1944 at the age of 24.

After doing my presentation on Lance Corporal Joyce in the Canadian War Museum, I had a greater appreciation for what all of the soldiers did... you see all the headlines talking up out of the ground and all the names of the young soldiers, many of them only sixteen years and younger.

Canadians are still serving far from home in places like Afghanistan, Haiti and the Sudan.

Canadian youth with British Empire Legion in Italy, 1944 and the Sudan.

Flying Aces

A "Flying Ace" is a military aviator credited with bringing down at least five enemy aircraft in combat. There were more than 100 Canadian aces during the First World War. Three of them ranked among the top 10 aces of the war: Billy Bishop (22 victories), Raymond Collishaw (18 victories) and Donald MacLaren (16 victories). William Barker narrowly missed being in the top 10, with 30 victories. He is one of Canada's most decorated aviators. He received the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross, among other honours.

Each year, **Veterans Affairs Canada** distributes hundreds of thousands of copies of its Veterans' Week youth newspapers across Canada.

The [Canada Remembers Times](#) (front page, left) is aimed at youth aged 12 to 18 and explores interesting chapters from Canada's military heritage, from the First World War to today. This year's new edition features stories about First World War flying aces, D-Day and the Battle of Normandy, the Italian Campaign, the Korean War, Canadians in Afghanistan, the contributions of women, Aboriginal-Canadians and visible minorities in uniform, and much more. This bilingual colour newspaper also comes in sets of 30.

Educators can also order colourful [Veterans' Week posters](#), available in 8.5" x 11" and 18" x 24" sizes. Veterans' Week bookmarks are very popular as well for use in schools in the fall.

To request these free materials, you can call Veterans Affairs Canada toll free at 1-877-604-8469 or use our convenient on-line [Veterans' Week ordering system](#). This easy-to-use system allows you to make your order instantaneously. If you order by the second week of October, you will be assured of receiving your materials prior to [Veterans' Week](#), November 5 to 11.



Veterans Affairs Canada Anciens Combattants Canada



Postcards from Home

[Postcards for Peace](#) is a learning activity that allows youth to send postcards expressing their personal thanks to those who have served in the cause of peace and freedom over the years.

A class pack includes 30 postcards and an instruction sheet with information on how to send the postcards to Veterans or current members of the Canadian Forces serving overseas. To order, [click here](#).



Tales of Animals in War

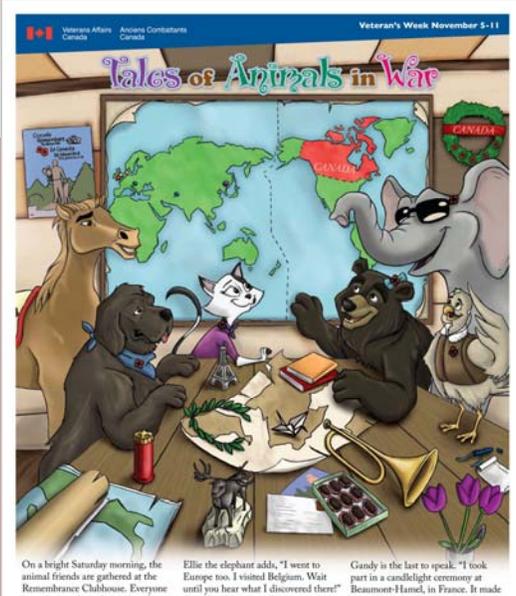


'Read All About It' News That's Made For Kids!

[Tales of Animals in War](#) is aimed at youth aged 5 to 11 and introduces concepts of remembrance to a young audience in a gentle manner using the six Remembrance Clubhouse animal characters: Simone the Cat, Ellie the Elephant, Bonfire Jr. the horse, Gandy the dog, Squeaker the pigeon and Win the bear.

These bilingual colour newspapers (*shown right*) come in sets of 30, ideal for use in a classroom setting or for distribution in a school library.

Order your class set today!

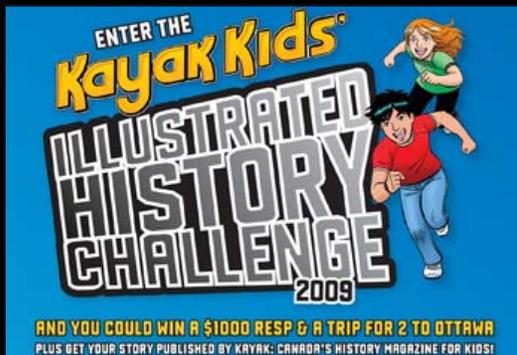


On a bright Saturday morning, the animal friends are gathered at the Remembrance Clubhouse. Everyone

Ellie the elephant adds, "I went to Europe too. I visited Belgium. Wait until you hear what I discovered there!"

Gandy is the last to speak. "I took part in a candlelight ceremony at Beaumont-Hamel, in France. It made

Kayak Kids' Illustrated History Challenge 2009 — Deadline Oct. 23!



FOR KIDS AGED 7 to 14

**DEADLINE EXTENDED TO
OCTOBER 23!!**

Hey Kids!

It's your turn to travel to Canada's Past...

[Canada's National History Society](#) invites students, ages 7 to 14, to participate in **Kayak Kids' Illustrated History Challenge**, an exciting writing competition that encourages students to tell their OWN story about Canada's history for a chance to win a \$1,000 RESP, a trip for 2 to Ottawa to attend the Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History, and to have their story published in Kayak Kids' Magazine.

Just pick a time, place or event from Canada's history that interests you, research it and write a creative story between 500-1200 words including 1 to 3 original illustrations or archival photographs — comic strips and graphic novel treatments are okay. Use your imagination and have fun!

Get writing today! Contest closes October 23, 2009. [Click here](#) for more information.



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