

Canada's war record is 'second to none'

Stellar performance in three world wars

Today (Thursday) is Remembrance Day and Canadians everywhere should take some time to remember the sacrifices made by veterans of three wars. Many young men, some still in their teens lie in Flanders, Italy, Korea and other cemeteries, testimony to the courage and valour displayed on battle fields in far away lands.

On August 14, 1914, Britain declared war on Germany and Canada was automatically included. The Canadian Corps of World War I was valued as one of the most effective military forces on the Western Front, Vimy Ridge their first full scale engagement which they captured with superb planning and preparation when others had failed.

That first World War saw Canada's navy grow from 350 men and two ships to 9,000 men and 100 ships and many Canadians also were part of the Royal Flying Corps.

Seventy Canadians received the highest military decoration for bravery in the British Empire - the Victoria Cross - during



CHILDREN IN FRONT: Saturday's Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph in Acton saw the traditional parade drawn up on Mill St. facing the cenotaph. Children wearing poppies from the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides organizations were in front so they could see all the ceremony. - Ted Tyler photo

World War I. Only 1,357 Victoria Crosses have been awarded world wide to date, 94 of them to Canadians.

World War I

The reputation Canadians gained in W.W.I as fierce fighters came to the fore again when the Second World War broke out on September 1, 1939 as Nazi armies swept into Poland. More than one million Canadians and Newfoundlanders served in W.W.2 and more than 4,7000 gave their lives. Another 55,000 were wounded.

The Dieppe Raid on August 19, 1941 was the

Canadians' first operation involving 5,000 of Canada's finest. The Nazis were forewarned by a BBC broadcast that Dieppe was the target for the raid. The losses were heavy because the Germans were ready. Lessons learned on that raid which was planned by others, are believed to have been key to the success on D-Day landing on June 6/1944 when Canadians stormed ashore at Juno Beach flanked by the British on the left and Americans on the right.

Korean War

All branches of Canada's Armed Forces saw action in Korea: ground, naval

and air. On the ground 22,000 soldiers made up the Canadian Army Special Force, fighting a campaign that took them over mountains and through swamps and rice paddies. Enduring conditions that ranged from torrential rains to snow and freezing cold, the enemy was behind every hill.

On July 27, 1953, the Korean War Armistice was signed in Panmunjom, Korea, putting an end to the three years of war.

From 1950 to 1953, 26,791 Canadians served in Korea.

Approximately 90 per cent of the soldiers fighting in Korea suffered from

frostbite. In fact, much of the war was fought in extreme cold as Siberian winds whipped across the Asian peninsula.

516 names of war dead are inscribed in the Korean Book of Remembrance.

Today, peacekeeping is an integral aspect of Cana-

da's forces. More than 100,000 Canadians have participated in United Nations (and NATO) peacekeeping duties around the world. Canada has deployed more Peacekeepers than any other nation, surely a record that reflects our fundamental beliefs.

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