



During the First and Second World Wars in particular, Indian reserves in Canada restricted the departure of many of their young adult members. Here an Indian chief greets a war recruit who is about to leave his reserve after enlisting in 1942, during the Second World War.

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The war proved that the fighting spirit of my tribe was not squelched through reservation life. When they 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 veteran¹

Being from a reservation and barely able to speak English ... it was a sudden integration. It was a shock. I was stationed for two or three months while taking basic training.

— Peter Whitecloud, Second World War veteran²

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 veteran³