

Canada, A Country of Change

1867 to Present

*Graham Broad
& Matthew Rankin*



PORTAGE & MAIN PRESS

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Portage & Main Press acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Book Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP).

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Printed and bound in Canada by Friesens

ISBN: 978-1-55379-121-8

Project coordination and editing: Portage & Main Press

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Book & cover design: Terry Corrigan and Suzanne Braun of Relish Design Studio

This book has been published for the Manitoba Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum. The publisher wishes to acknowledge the following reviewers from Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth:

Wanda Barker, Aboriginal Languages Consultant

Al Friesen, Social Studies Consultant

Lorrie Kirk, Learning Resources Consultant

Linda Mlodzinski, Social Studies Consultant

Greg Pruden, Aboriginal Perspectives Consultant

The publisher would like to thank the following people for additional review of the content and their invaluable advice:

Carla Divinsky, Holocaust Education Coordinator, Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada

David Leochko, Grade 6 teacher, Victoria-Albert School

Linda McDowell, Faculty of Education, University of Winnipeg

William Neville, Senior Scholar and former Head, Department of Political Studies, University of Manitoba

Tom Rossi, Principal, Robert H. Smith School

Hart Schwartz, Director, Legal Services Branch, Ontario Human Rights Commission

On the cover: Satellite/Canadian Space Agency; Timber trestle, Pic River, Ontario, 1885/Canadian Pacific Archives NS.14886, C. W. Spencer Collection; *Buffalo Hunt*, by George Catlin/Library and Archives Canada, Acc. No. 1960-50-2.6.



PORTAGE & MAIN PRESS

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Winnipeg, MB Canada R3A 0A2

Tel. 204-987-3500 • Toll free: 1-800-667-9673

Toll-free fax: 1-866-734-8477

E-mail: books@pandmpress.com

www.pandmpress.com



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About this Book

Last year, you learned about people and stories in Canada from very early times until 1867. This year, you will continue to learn the story of Canada, starting at Confederation and continuing through to modern times. In this book, you will read about new people, new provinces and territories, and the changes that have taken place in Canada since it became a country in 1867. You will learn about events such as wars and depressions, strikes, and the battles for citizenship rights. You will learn about changes in everyday life. This book tells about famous people – like Mistahimaskwa (Big Bear), Emily Stowe, and Wilfrid Laurier – and everyday people like you, your friends, and members of your family. Some of the big events in this book are recent enough that there are still some people alive who remember them and can tell us about them.

Where to Find History

Do you have a box or an album where you keep souvenirs of special events in your life – things like programs, tickets, photos, birthday cards, and videos? Some people call these their *memory boxes*. Individual boxes may not seem very important, but when many people donate their memory boxes

to museums and archives, they all add up to big collections of information about the past. When historians want to find out about the past, they can go to archives and museums to see what was important to people at the time.

What do they find there?

Oral history. Oral, or spoken, history is the oldest way of recording stories of people and events. Long before writing was invented, people kept track of their history by telling stories. Sometimes people memorized the history of their family or group and passed it on to the next generation. Some museums and archives now ask people to make tapes of their traditional stories and memories of earlier times so that the information will not be lost.



Visual history. Visual history includes images – photos, paintings, drawings, cartoons, maps, charts, movies, and videos – that were made at a particular time. In very early times, some people painted pictures in caves or on rocks (called *pictographs*). In later times, artists painted pictures of important people and events. However, until the invention of the camera, very few images of ordinary people and everyday events were made.

Once the camera was invented, photographs (and, later, movies and videos) of family events and celebrations, such as graduations or weddings, became common. There are many photographs of the historical events in this book because the camera had been invented by the time they happened.

Written history. Historians use written records from governments and businesses to learn about the big events of the past, such as wars and elections. Newspapers also tell about those events. These records of the past are usually found in archives and museums. Many important people, such as premiers or prime ministers, donate all of their papers and letters to archives.

Historians also read diaries, letters, and cards to learn about the lives of ordinary people. Newspaper ads, receipts, and bills provide helpful information about everyday life, including what people bought and what those items cost. Today, many of us write our letters by e-mail. Do you think historians of the future will be able to find these and use them?

Artifacts. Historians study things that people from the past made

and used. These things are called *artifacts*. People called *archaeologists* study objects from the past to learn about life in other times.

Places. Historians look for information in places where important events have occurred, including national parks and historic sites. In Manitoba, The Forks and Lower Fort Garry are historic sites. Many communities have local museums. Almost every community in Canada has a war memorial listing the people who died in the world wars. Homes such as King House in Virden and Dalnavert in Winnipeg have been preserved to show us how people lived at a certain time.

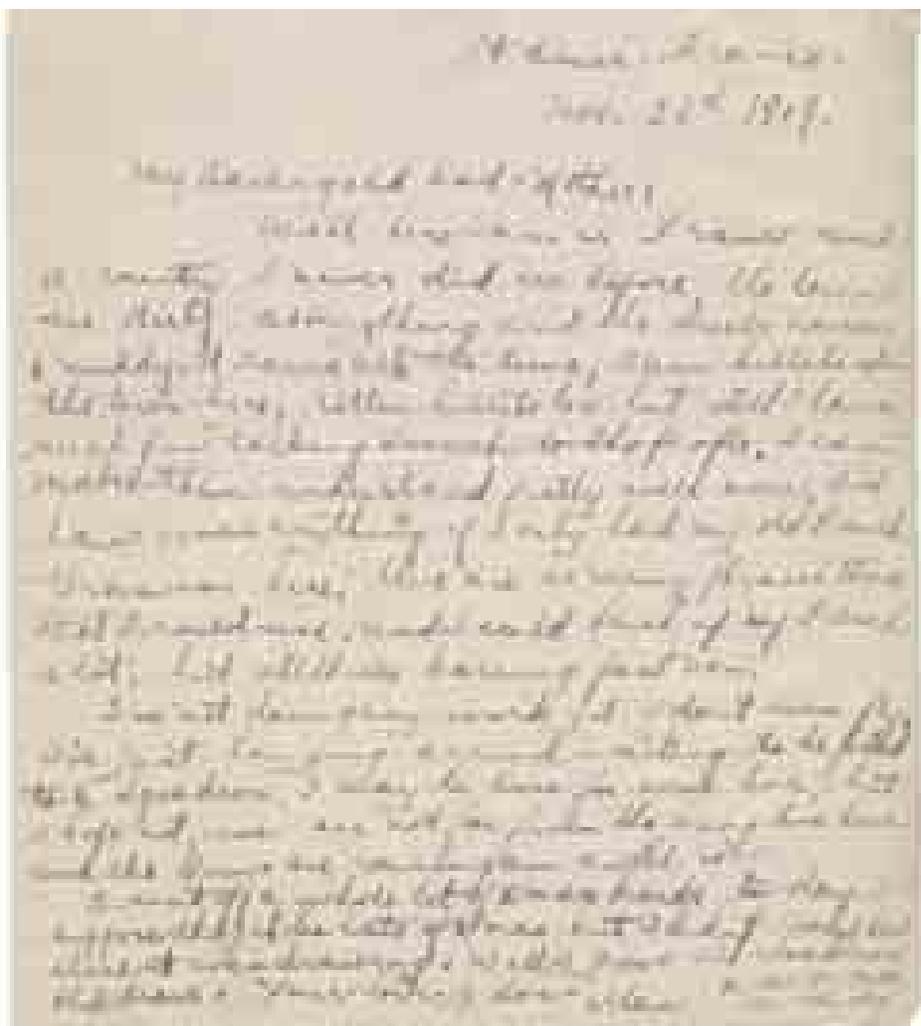


Figure 1 Historians look at things like letters, old bills, and newspapers to tell them about the past. This letter, from Alan Arnett Macleod to his parents, tells about life in France for a young soldier (read more about Macleod on p. 96).

Why Study History?

Where did your ancestors come from? Why did certain groups come to Canada? How did people of long ago live? We study Canadian history to find out the answers to these questions and to understand who we are.

Why do we have the laws that we do? Who decided them? Who decided what kind of government we should have? We study Canadian history to find out how and why people decided what laws we would have and how our country would be governed. The more you know about the history of government and law in Canada, the better you will be able to decide what should be changed and what should be kept.

History is not only about the past. By learning history, you will find it easier to understand what is happening today and what might happen in the future. History is *your* story, too.

Historians as Detectives

If you like reading mysteries you will know that detectives always look for clues or evidence. First, they have to establish the facts: Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? They also have to ask the witnesses many questions to find out what they saw or heard. Detectives have to remember that every person has her or his own point of view. They know that some witnesses might have a reason to make someone look guilty or innocent. Detectives have to be careful to check the story that each person tells. There is one important question that detectives always have to remember: Who benefits, or gets something, from this crime?

When historians write about events that happened a long time ago, they have to look at many different versions of the story and check the evidence, just as detectives do. The historian's job is even harder, because witnesses are often dead. Historians look at *primary* and *secondary*

sources. Primary sources are records of an event documented by someone who was there. These include such things as letters, photos, and videos. Secondary sources are writings or pictures by someone who has only heard or read about an event second- or even third hand. Which kind of source do you think is most useful?

To be a good history student, you must learn to ask many questions about what you read. You must learn to be a good researcher and to go to many different sources for your information. Although this textbook has been carefully researched and written, it is still a secondary source. If you want to learn from primary sources, you will need to look at those objects in memory boxes at museums and archives (or those pictured in this book). You can also talk to people who were at a historical event. Learn to be **skeptical** and question the ideas in your history books.

Getting to Know Your Book

Whenever you start using a new book, it helps to spend a few minutes turning the pages, looking at the names, places, pictures, and maps.

You will find many illustrations and photographs in this book. There are also newspaper pictures that were created by someone who was alive when an event happened. Illustrations can give you useful information and help you to remember what you have learned.

You will also find many maps in this book. They show you where the events you are reading about took place. They show you how the land we now call Canada was divided at different times. Many of the maps in this book will show you new provinces and territories that were added to Canada after 1867. Provinces also changed size. Manitoba was called the "postage stamp province" when it joined Canada in 1870. If you look at a modern map you will see that Manitoba is now a much larger province.

Start at the front of the book

Turn back to the cover of this textbook. What is its title? The title is *Canada, A Country of Change*. Judging by the title, what do you think you are going to read about in this book? Now look at the pictures and design on the book cover. Have you ever seen pictures of these things before?

Turn to the title page. Who wrote the textbook? Turn the page over. When and where was the book written? Since this book is about Canada, you will want to know whether it was written in Canada or somewhere else. The date it was published tells you how recent the information is. You may think that a history book does not have to be recent, because all history is old, anyway. That might be true, but historians, archaeologists, and other scholars are constantly finding new information about history. Sometimes they find out that old information is wrong.

Now turn to the contents page. This page lists 15 chapters in the book and gives you the page number where each chapter starts. The names of the chapters and of the five sections let you know what you are going to read about. You can tell from the chapter names in this book that you will be reading about topics such as Manitoba becoming a province, Aboriginal peoples in the new country, World Wars I and II, and our government.

Go to the back of the book

On the contents page, you will see the words *glossary*, *index*, and *appendix*.

The glossary (p. 203) is a mini-dictionary that explains the meanings of words that you may not know. Words that are in the glossary are in **bold** type. When a word has more than one meaning, you will learn about the meaning used in this book. For example, if you want to find out what **alliances** are, you can look it up in the glossary.

alliance organization of nations or other groups who join together to achieve certain aims

The index (p. 213) is an alphabetical list of major topics and names that are mentioned in the textbook. If you want to read about Elizabeth

McDougall, for example, go to the index and look up the name *McDougall, Elizabeth*. The index gives you the page or pages where you can find the information you are looking for.

At the back of the book you will also find the appendixes. An appendix gives you additional useful information. This book has two appendixes. The first is a timeline of Canadian events from the time period covered in this book.

The second appendix lists all of Canada's prime ministers with the dates of their terms of office. When people write about Canadian history they often organize events by saying that they happened during a particular prime minister's term. For example, we might say that the Charter of Rights was developed during Prime Minister Trudeau's term.

Now that you have found out what is in your book, use it to help you to learn about Canadian history.

Reading Your Book

Reading the section introductions

In this book, the chapters are organized into sections. The title of the section is on the left page. Below it there are some paragraphs that introduce the section and tell you about what will be discussed in the following chapters. Each section includes interesting pictures of artifacts you might find in your grandmother's trunk or in someone's memory box from that time period. These pictures are called an



advance organizer. They will help you predict the events you will read about. The pictures are numbered, and information about them is keyed to the numbers.

Reading the chapters

In this book, each chapter begins with a story. In the first few paragraphs you will usually find the answers to the questions *who*, *what*, *when*, and *where*? Later paragraphs will give you more information.

As you read the chapters, you will find lots of maps, pictures, and coloured boxes. Using the book will be easier if you know about the information in these special sections of the book:

“As you read, think about” boxes.

This is a blue and gold box, with a notebook and pencil, found at the beginning of each chapter. The information in the box will help you find the main ideas in the chapter.



“Did you know?” boxes.

These green boxes, with the heading “Did you know?” appear in different places in each chapter. They contain interesting and funny facts about people and things in the text.



Information boxes.

These boxes are gold with a blue bar across the top. They contain extra information about the main text you are reading. White titles in the blue bar tell you what is inside the box.



Some information boxes have a label with the letters *PM* in them. These boxes tell about a prime minister, such as John A. Macdonald or R.B. Bennett.



Aboriginal names and terms

Aboriginal peoples is the term used to describe the original people of Canada and their descendants. There are three groups of Aboriginal peoples in Canada: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.

Many of the names for Aboriginal peoples that are used in reports and historical documents are not the names that the people used themselves. There are many reasons for this. Explorers and early fur traders did not know Aboriginal languages very well, and sometimes misunderstood the words. Often, they copied down the translators’ words incorrectly. In some cases, an unfriendly neighbouring group told the Europeans the wrong name on purpose. Sometimes, Europeans made up their own names for groups. For centuries, European versions of Aboriginal peoples’ names have appeared in reports, documents and on maps.

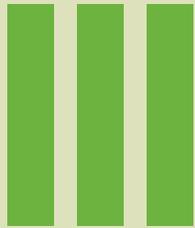
Aboriginal peoples have always had their own names for themselves. For example, the members of the five Iroquois nations refer to themselves as the *Haudenosaunee* (meaning “the people of the longhouse”). The Cree call themselves *Nehiyaw*. In this book, you will find Aboriginal names with the European names in parentheses beside them.

Quotations. These blue boxes contain the words that real people said or wrote. When you read them, you will understand what the speakers or writers thought about the people they met or the times they lived in.



Pictures, maps, charts, and diagrams provide information that are not in words. They have titles or captions that tell you what they are about.

Enjoy reading this book.



Canada Grows Up



In 1914, in faraway Europe, World War I broke out. Canada sent its soldiers to Europe's battlefields. With its victory at Vimy Ridge in 1917, Canada earned the world's respect. Yet by war's end in 1918 more than 60 000 young Canadians had been killed.

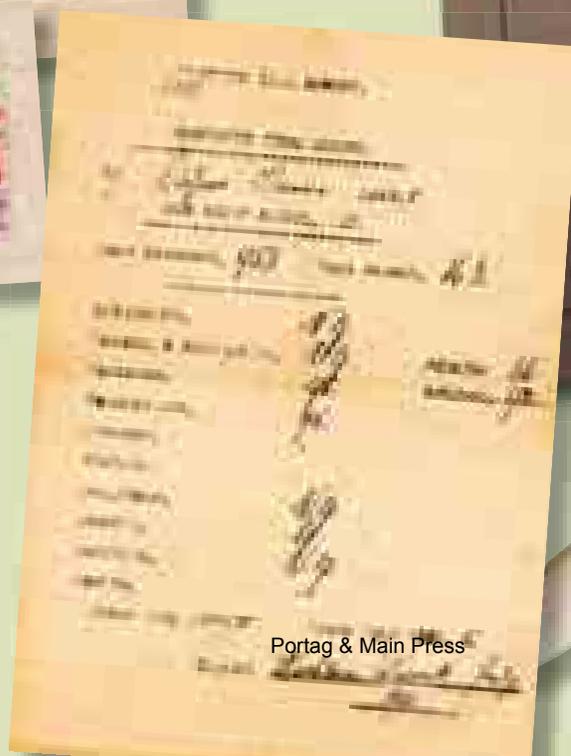
Canadians hoped the worst was behind them, but peace and prosperity were still out of reach. Flu killed thousands. Jobs disappeared as factories closed. The 1930s brought even greater ruin. In the Great Depression, almost one third of Canadians lost their jobs, and drought destroyed thousands of farms.

Again, the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939 changed everything. In 1945, at the end of the World War II, Canadians held their heads high. Not only could they move forward, but so could the world.

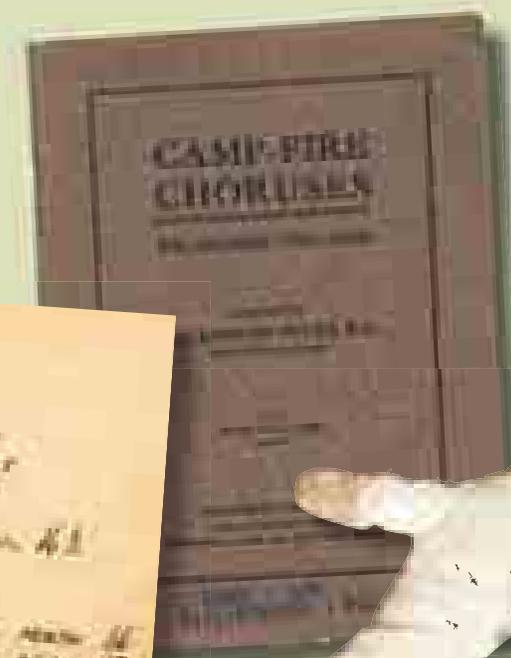


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In the Memory Box...

1 These medals were awarded to Tommy Prince of Manitoba, one of Canada's most decorated Aboriginal war heroes.

2 Soldiers in WWI sent home postcards such as these. They were not allowed to reveal where they were or what they were doing, in case the enemy read the cards, but they could let loved ones know that they were all right.

3 The child who received this report card from 1920 was likely taught in a one-room schoolhouse.

4 Soldiers kept their spirits up by singing. Many songs could be found in songbooks such as this one.

5 During the Depression, store-bought toys were a luxury. Instead, children played with homemade toys, like this doll, sewn from a used sugar bag.

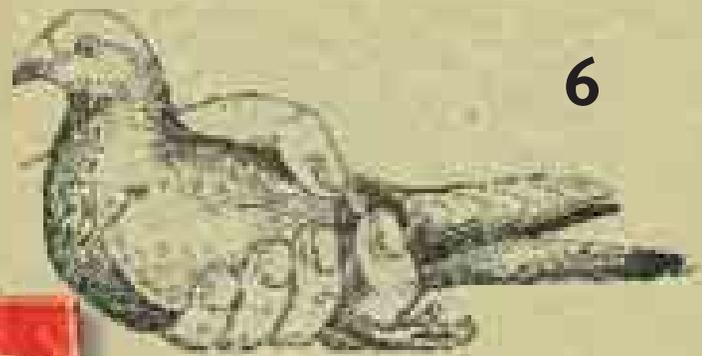
6 A handbook shows how to send messages by carrier pigeons, which were used during the First World War.

7 Members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers would have carried a parade banner much like this as members of the Winnipeg General Strike in 1919.

8 Women on the home front during war time were encouraged to preserve food at home so that soldiers overseas could be fed properly. They also recycled paper, which was in short supply.

9 In 1942, the Canadian government sent many Japanese Canadians families to sugar beet farms in Manitoba, where they used knives such as this to harvest sugar beets.

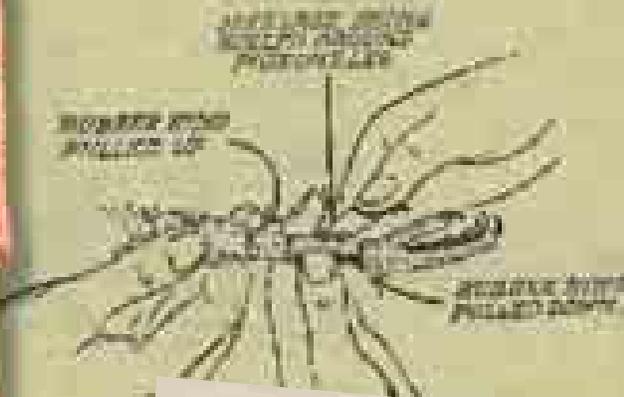
10 During the First World War, women assembled comfort bags, such as this one, for soldiers overseas. The bags were filled with things like soap, razors, toothpaste, hand-knitted socks, candy, and other small comforts.



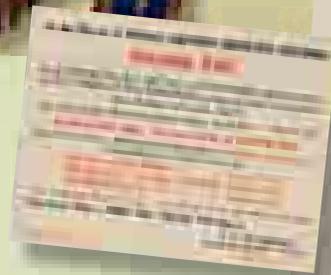
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7 World War I

1914–1918

World War I began with the murder of one man. On June 28, 1914, the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated by Gavrilo Princip in the city of Sarajevo [*SA-rah-YEH-vo*]. Princip was a Serbian who wanted his people's independence from Austria-Hungary. Franz Ferdinand was heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary. With just one shot, Princip started a war in which 20 million people would die.

For a hundred years, the nations of Europe had been at peace. However, old rivalries were still there. By 1914, tensions were very high. All the nations of Europe were getting ready for war. Pre-war Europe was a *powder keg*. In other words, Europe was like a barrel containing gunpowder that needed only a tiny spark to set it off. Franz Ferdinand's assassination was that spark.

Within a month, Serbia and Austria-Hungary had declared war on each other. A system of alliances drew other nations into the war. Russia and France were on the side of Serbia. Germany was allied with Austria-Hungary. To attack France, Germany first had to invade through neighbouring Belgium. Belgium's ally was Great Britain. Suddenly, the entire British Empire was at war. This included Canada.

AS YOU READ, THINK ABOUT

- what caused World War I
- why Canada joined the war
- what life was like on the battle front
- how Canadians contributed to victory
- the effect of the war on returning soldiers and people at home



Across the Atlantic, Canadians found it hard to believe they were at war. Many had never heard of Serbia or Franz Ferdinand. Still, when the war was announced, huge crowds of people met in town squares and city centres to



Figure 7.1 The government produced thousands of posters like this one to convince men to join the armed forces.

celebrate the news. People cheered. They waved banners and sang patriotic songs. Tens of thousands of men rushed to join the army. They were afraid that the war would be over before they got the chance to fight. Fathers and sons enlisted together. Men who were too old to serve claimed that they were younger. Boys who were too young swore that they were older. Desperate for soldiers, the tiny Canadian army took them all.

Today, it is hard to imagine celebrating the outbreak of war. But in 1914, most English-speaking Canadians were very proud of Canada's ties to Britain. Many Canadians were from Britain. They believed that Britain's war was *their* war. Most French-Canadians did not share such feelings. However, they were angered by Germany's attack on Belgium and France.

Hardly anyone knew how terrible the war would be. People expected a short, glamorous war from which the soldiers would return as heroes. When a regiment of soldiers from the University of Toronto left for the war, their principal told them, "You will not regret this. When you return your romance will not vanish with your youth. You will have fought in the Great War, you will have joined in the liberation of the world." Yet the war turned out to be very different from what anyone had predicted.

DID YOU KNOW? In 1914, Canada was still a colony of Great Britain. That meant that when Britain declared war on Germany on August 4, 1914, Canada was also at war.



Figure 7.2 EUROPE, 1914. In August 1914, the small war between Austria-Hungary and Serbia dragged in all of Europe because of the alliance system.



Figure 7.3 Troops leave Union Station in Winnipeg, 1915. From ports in eastern Canada, they travelled to the battlefields of World War I. When this photo was taken, no one knew what the war would really be like.

Trench Warfare

At seven-thirty on the morning of July 1, 1916, one of the worst battles in the history of the world began. One hundred thousand British soldiers left the protection of their **trenches** and dashed toward the German lines along the Somme River in eastern France. For a week before the attack, British **artillery** had bombarded the German defences. British soldiers hoped that any surviving Germans would surrender to them. The British were grim-faced and ready. Their rifles were loaded. They kept away from the muddy shell craters and found paths through the enemy barbed wire. Then something terrible happened.

Machine-gun fire roared from the German trenches. Hundreds of British soldiers fell, struck by bullets. Unknown to the British, the Germans had built **dugouts** strong enough and deep enough to protect themselves from

the artillery bombardment. Too many shells had missed their target or failed to explode. When the British stopped firing, the Germans came out of their dugouts and manned their machine guns. As the British attacked, the Germans mowed them down with a wave of bullets.

Near a tiny village named Beaumont Hamel, a regiment of soldiers from Newfoundland, was almost totally destroyed that morning. Just 68 of its 800 men survived unharmed. In all, the British Army suffered 60 000 dead and wounded on July 1. But the Battle of the Somme was not over. The fighting went on for another five months. Through it all, the Germans held their position.

The Battle of the Somme was fought almost two years after the First World War began. It was just one of dozens of similar battles in the war. When the war began in August 1914, most Canadians believed it would be over by

Living in the trenches

Life in a front-line trench was filthy, cold, and wet. Soldiers had to put up with horrible smells. At the front, no one could bathe. The bodies of fallen soldiers were often left in no-man's land, because no one could reach them. Soldiers grew used to the smells, but they never got used to the rats and lice that tormented them day and night. Frozen winters in the open trenches were worst of all. Still, the trenches kept soldiers safe from bullets and exploding shells. Trenches were also very difficult for the enemy to capture. In battle after battle, soldiers in the trenches defeated waves of attackers.



Figure 7.4 Canadian soldiers in the trenches, 1916. Life in a trench was dirty and cold, but it kept soldiers safe from bullets.

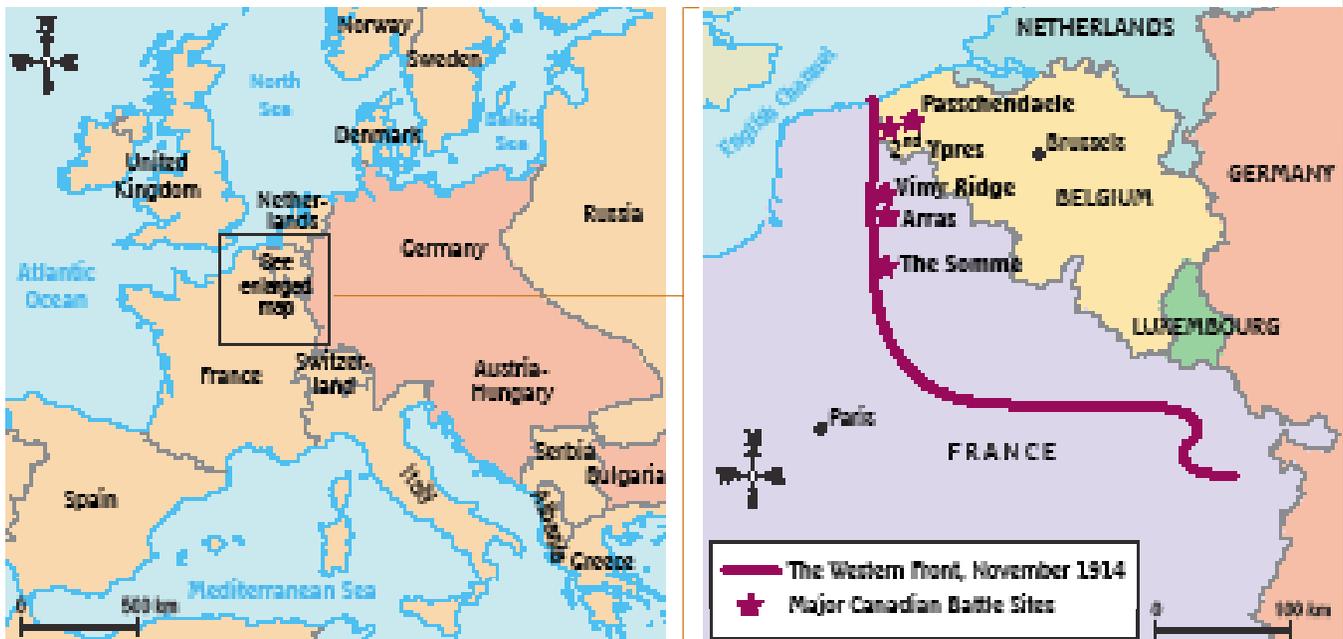


Figure 7.5 MAJOR BATTLES OF WORLD WAR I

Christmas. They thought there would be few deaths. By 1917, they started to think that it would never end. No one had imagined that the war would so terrible. What made it like that?

The answer is technology. During the 20th century, technology had advanced greatly. For instance, a soldier in the War of 1812 travelled on foot or horseback. He was armed with a musket that he could fire only twice per minute. In the First World War, steamships and trains carried soldiers to the **front**. Airplanes soared overhead. An army's orders arrived by telegraph. Weapons were much more deadly. One machine gun could fire 600 shots per minute.

To protect their soldiers in the open fields, both sides dug trenches that spread

out for hundreds of kilometres. The space separating the trenches of the two sides was called *no-man's land*, because neither side could control it. Over the four years of the war, millions of soldiers would live and fight and, sometimes, die in the trenches. Nearly half a million of them were Canadians.



Figure 7.6 Artillery churned up the earth, and rain turned it to mud. In some places, the mud was so thick that men and horses drowned in it. Here are some Canadian soldiers in the mud at Passchendaele, Belgium, 1917.

Canada's Military Effort

The First World War ended in November 1918. British prime minister David Lloyd George wrote:

The Canadians played a part of such distinction that ... they were brought along to head the assault in one great battle after another. Whenever the Germans found the Canadian Corps coming into the line, they prepared for the worst.

Lloyd George's comment was very high praise. In 1914, no one could have thought that Canada, a country of just eight million people, would play such a big role in the war. When war broke out, Canada's armed forces were not ready. The army had just 3000 officers and men. Canada's militia had 60 000 poorly trained men. Many did not have rifles or even uniforms. Canada's navy had only two large ships. By comparison, Germany's army had nearly *three million* well-trained soldiers when the war began. Its navy had hundreds of warships.

Sir Robert Borden (1854–1937)

PM

Robert Borden was born in Grand Pré, Nova Scotia. Borden never attended university. However, he was an intelligent and well-read man who became a successful lawyer. Borden entered politics in 1896. Five years later, he became the leader of the Conservative Party.

He led the Conservatives to victory over Wilfrid Laurier's Liberals in the federal election of 1911.

Borden was prime minister when World War I broke out in August 1914. Today, he is remembered as a man who led Canada through some of its most difficult years. He supported Britain. However, he also worked to give Canada a greater voice of its own in the world. He resigned as prime minister in 1920.



Figure 7.7 Sir Robert Borden



Figure 7.8 The Canadian government built one of the largest war memorials in the world at Vimy Ridge. It sits on land given to Canada in 1922 by the government of France as a gift of thanks. Thousands of people gathered for the dedication of the memorial in 1936, above.

With the declaration of war came a flood of **recruits**. The Canadian Army grew very quickly. By December 1914, a force of 30 000 soldiers was ready to go overseas. During the war, 400 000 more followed them. They were known as the Canadian Expeditionary [*eks-puh-DISH-in-air-ee*] Force (CEF).

Canada's army was known for being tough, brave, and skilled. At the 2nd Battle of Ypres [*EE-pr*], in April 1915, the Canadians fought on while other Allied forces ran from a new German weapon: poison gas. In late 1916, the Canadians defeated the Germans near the French village of Courcellette [*KOOR-suh-let*]. But the Canadian Army's most famous victory came in April 1917 at the German stronghold of Vimy Ridge.

Vimy Ridge was a rocky hill in eastern France. The Germans had captured the ridge early in the war. The British and French armies had tried several times to take it back. However, they always failed. In April 1917, the Canadians seized Vimy Ridge after a fierce battle. At Vimy, all four **divisions** of the Canadian Expeditionary Force fought together for the first time.

Pierre Berton, a Canadian writer, once wrote, “Canada became a nation at Vimy Ridge.” What Berton meant is that the Battle of Vimy Ridge was the first time that Canadians from across the country had accomplished a great task by working together. It was something in which all Canadians could take pride. Yet the cost of Vimy Ridge had been very high. Nearly 11 000 Canadian soldiers were killed or wounded.

War at Sea and in the Air

Canada’s navy was just three years old when the war broke out in 1914. It had only a few warships. These included the *Rainbow* and the *Niobe* and two submarines. The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) remained very small during the war. However, Canadians played a big role in a new service the British had created: the Royal Flying Corps (RFC).¹

Airplanes had been invented in 1903, only 11 years before the war began. At the time, airplanes were slow and dangerous to fly. Pilots sat in open cockpits and did not have parachutes. When the war began, airplanes were used mainly to spy on the enemy. Later, they were armed with machine guns. The fighter plane was born. Every country involved in the war had pilots known as *aces*. An ace was a pilot who shot down five or more enemy planes.

Since Canada did not yet have its own air force, Canadians who wanted to be pilots during the war had to join one of two British services. They could join the RFC or the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). Many of the most famous aces were Canadians, including Billy Bishop, Raymond Collishaw, and William Barker.

More than 650 000 Canadians served in the armed forces during the war. As well, hundreds of thousands of Canadian civilians served in other ways on the **home front**. Some Canadians, like the flying aces, are remembered in books and films. Many others have been forgotten.

¹ It was renamed the Royal Air Force in April 1918.

William “Billy” Barker, VC (1894–1930)

Billy Barker was born in 1894 in the town of Dauphin, Manitoba. When war began, Barker enlisted in the Canadian army. After a year in the trenches, he transferred to the RFC. Barker shot down 50 enemy aircraft and was one of the war’s top aces. In 1918, he was awarded the Victoria Cross, Britain’s highest medal for bravery, after downing four planes in a single battle.



Figure 7.9 Billy Barker

Sir Arthur Currie (1875–1933)

In June 1917, Arthur Currie was given command of the CEF. He was the first Canadian general to lead the force. Currie was considered one of the best generals of the war. In one famous battle in September 1918, he sent his forces on a daring nighttime mission across a canal near Cambrai, France. In the morning, the Canadians surprised the Germans and won the battle. After the war, Currie became the president of McGill University in Montreal.



Figure 7.10 Sir Arthur Currie

DID YOU KNOW? Canada created its own air force, the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), in 1924.

The youngest hero

Alan Arnett MacLeod was only 15 when World War I began. As a boy in Stonewall, Manitoba, he dreamed of a job in the military. He tried to enlist many times. It was not until after his 18th birthday in April 1917 that he joined the Royal Flying Corps. Soon he began flying missions over France.

On March 27, 1918, MacLeod and gunner A.W. Hammond were attacked by eight German planes. An enemy bullet struck their plane's fuel tank. It set the plane on fire. MacLeod was wounded, but he climbed out on the wing of the plane to avoid the flames. From there, he continued to maneuver the plane so that Hammond could keep firing on the enemy. The pair shot down three enemy planes before crashing. Despite his injuries, MacLeod dragged Hammond to safety. MacLeod was shot again, then passed out from his injuries.

On September 4, 1918, at Buckingham Palace in London, MacLeod was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest award for bravery in the British Commonwealth. He was the youngest of 70 Canadians fighting in World War I to receive the award. Soon after, MacLeod returned to Manitoba to recover from his wounds. He died from the Spanish flu just two months later. He was 19.



Figure 7.11 Alan Arnett MacLeod

Forgotten Heroes

World War I was the first total war. Total war means that all of a country's strength is devoted to the war effort. Millions of Canadians dedicated themselves to winning the war. Some did so by joining the armed forces. Others worked on the home front. Not all Canadians who took part in the war are remembered as they deserve to be.

Canada's nursing sisters

Women were not allowed to fight in the First World War. However, more than 3000 Canadian women served as nursing sisters. They saved the lives of many wounded soldiers. Many nurses served in emergency hospitals very close to the front lines. Working so close to the battles, the nurses were exposed to danger. In all, 46 nursing sisters died during the war.

Women war workers on the home front

With hundreds of thousands of men in the armed forces, there were serious shortages of workers back in Canada. Factories and shipyards began to hire large numbers of women for the first time.



Figure 7.12 Soldiers nicknamed nursing sisters *bluebirds* because of their blue uniforms.



Figure 7.13 This painting by Henrietta Mabel May shows women in a factory making artillery shells. Women were paid less than men even though they were just as good at their jobs.

By 1916, more than 30 000 women were working in factories, helping to build weapons and make supplies. Thousands of women took other jobs once thought to be for men only. Women drove streetcars in Ontario. They worked on farms on the Prairies. Across the country, they helped the war effort through volunteer work. Women knitted socks, sweaters, and scarves for the soldiers fighting overseas. They set up **rallies** to sell Victory Bonds (see p. 100). However, when a group of women tried to start a women's home guard to defend Canada from attack, the government stopped them. The idea of women handling rifles was too much for the men of the time!

The No. 2 Construction Battalion

The Canadian Army needed all the soldiers it could get in 1914. However, recruiting officers still turned away African-Canadians who wanted to join the CEF. Eventually the army decided to create a unit of African Canadians. The members

of this unit, the No. 2 Construction Battalion, were not allowed to fight. Instead, they went overseas to clear forests, dig trenches, and build railway lines. It was important work, and they did it well.

The battalion was based in Pictou, Nova Scotia. It accepted African-Canadian recruits from across the country. The battalion's officers were all European-Canadian. However, there was one exception: Captain William White, the battalion's chaplain. He was the only African-Canadian officer in the entire British Empire during the First World War.

DID YOU KNOW? Leo Clarke, Frederick William Hall, and Robert Shankland all lived on Pine Street in Winnipeg. They all fought in World War I, and received the Victoria Cross for acts of bravery. Only Shankland survived the war. The City of Winnipeg later changed the name of Pine Street to Valour Road in honour of the three brave soldiers who had lived there. The words *For Valour* are written on the Victoria Cross.

Aboriginal Volunteers

As many as 7500 Aboriginal Canadians served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. In some First Nations, all of the young men went overseas. Many came from far-off regions of the country where there was no pressure on them to join the struggle. Still, they joined.

Some Aboriginal Canadians went to war for adventure. Others went for the promise of steady jobs. Some went for the sake of

tradition. First Nations had fought with the British in the Seven Years' War, the American Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812. Others hoped that by being in the war, the Canadian government would start to treat Aboriginal peoples more fairly. Whatever their reasons, they fought with bravery and skill. More than 300 Aboriginal soldiers never came back from the war.

First Nations women also served. In 1917, Edith Anderson was a nurse from the Six

Aboriginal heroes

Tom Longboat (1887–1949) was a member of the Onondaga First Nation. He was born on the Six Nations Reserve near Brantford, Ontario. In 1907, he won the Boston Marathon with a record-breaking time. He became one of the most famous athletes in the world. During the First World War, Longboat served as a dispatch runner on the front lines of battles. Telephones and radios were not reliable, so armies used runners to carry important messages. It was dangerous work. Longboat was wounded twice. Once he was wounded so badly that he was declared dead by mistake.

Henry Louis Norwest (1884–1918) was a Métis from Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta. He became an inspiration to the entire CEF. Henry was a former rodeo performer and an excellent shot with a rifle. He earned some of Canada's highest military honours for bravery. A fellow soldier said of him, "Henry Norwest carried out his terrible duty superbly because he believed his special skill gave him no choice but to fulfill his indispensable mission." Sadly, this expert soldier was killed in action three months before the war ended.



Figure 7.14 Tom Longboat, right, buys a newspaper in France, 1917.



Figure 7.15 Henry Louis Norwest

Nations Reserve in Ontario. She served with the American army in Vittel, France, treating wounded soldiers. “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.” After the war, Anderson went back to Six Nations. There she married and raised a family. She kept nursing until 1955.

Many Aboriginal soldiers were awarded for bravery. Francis Pegahmagabow, of Parry Island First Nation, was decorated three times for bravery in action. Brothers Alexander George Smith and Charles Smith, from the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Six Nations Reserve, each received the Military Cross. Many Aboriginal soldiers came home as heroes. However, they were still not allowed to vote in the country they fought for during the war.

After the war

During the First World War, Aboriginal soldiers had been treated equally and fairly. However, when they came back to Canada after the war, they did not have the same benefits



Figure 7.16 Frederick Loft, above, founded the League of Indians of Canada in 1919. It was the first Aboriginal political organization in the country.

that non-Aboriginal veterans had. In some cases, First Nations reserve lands were actually taken by the government and offered to non-Aboriginal veterans as land grants.

Aboriginal veterans questioned their unfair treatment. They had fought bravely for their country during the war. Frederick Loft, a Kanienkehaka [*gah-nah-geh-HA-gah*] (Mohawk) veteran from the Six Nations Reserve, argued that Aboriginal



Figure 7.17 The Aboriginal War Veterans Monument in Ottawa is a tribute to Aboriginal soldiers who served in Canada’s armed forces. The monument shows Aboriginal contributions to Canada’s war and peacekeeping efforts. The statue includes spirit guides. The thunderbird at the top symbolizes the spirit of Aboriginal peoples.

peoples’ sacrifices during the war entitled them to equal rights:

As peaceable and law-abiding citizens in the past, and even in the late war, we have performed dutiful service to our King, Country and Empire, and we have the right to claim and demand more justice and fair play as a recompense.

The Home Front

Getting a country ready for war is called *mobilization*. Canada had never mobilized for war before. There were many problems that no one expected.

Industry

Britain wanted to buy weapons from Canada. However, when the war began, Canada had only a few factories able to make weapons. One Canadian factory, for instance, made only 75 artillery shells a day. In battle, soldiers might use as many as 100 000 shells in just a few hours.

It took time for the Canadian government to build more factories. However, by 1917 there were more than 600. When the war ended, Canadian factories had made nearly 25 million artillery shells. This was about one-third of all the shells used by British gunners during the war.

Victory Bonds

The Canadian government sold Victory Bonds to raise money to help pay for the cost of the war. People who bought the bonds could cash them in after the war. The government would give back the money paid for the bond. It would also pay an extra amount of money known as *interest*. Millions of dollars worth of Victory Bonds were sold.

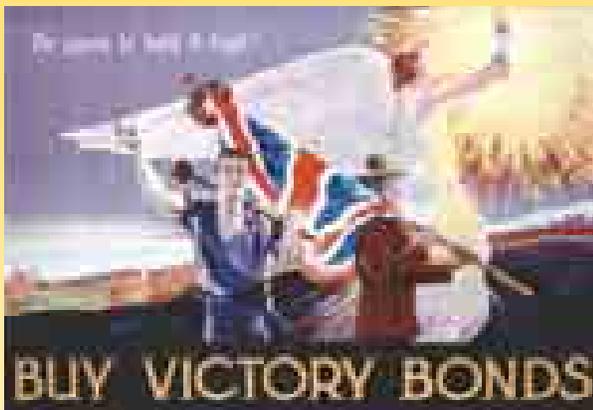


Figure 7.18 Poster promoting Victory Bonds



Figure 7.19 Workers in this factory produced artillery shells. The war sped up the growth of industry in Canada.

The conscription crisis

Canada's army used volunteers at first. However, by 1915 and 1916, the army had lost many men. Prime Minister Borden believed in **conscription** to replace them. Conscription was an emotional issue. Many French-Canadians did not like the idea of being forced by law to fight for Britain. Many farmers worried that their crops would fail if more farm workers had to join the army.

Borden's government won the election of December 1917. Then it brought in conscription. In Quebec, people had once cheered the war. Now they protested in the streets. They shouted, "Down with Borden!" Some Quebecers began to think about separation from Canada.

The war ended before many of the conscripted soldiers could be sent overseas. Only 25 000 actually served in the trenches. Despite this, the conscription crisis put national unity in danger. It was a lesson that future Canadian prime ministers would not forget.

Fear and prejudice on the home front

After the war began, many Canadians did not trust other Canadians who had come from Germany or from countries that were Germany's allies. Many thought that German-Canadians might be spies. Canadians grew so fearful that they wanted nothing to do with German-related things. Schools stopped teaching the German language and German literature. Orchestras stopped playing music by German composers such as Beethoven and Mozart.

Another clue to the way many Canadians felt about Germany could be found in the city of Berlin, Ontario. Berlin was also the name of the capital of Germany. In 1916, people living in the Ontario city did not want to look like they were against their own country. They decided to change the city's name.



Figure 7.21 During World War I, about 80 000 Europeans were named enemy aliens. They were mainly from Germany and the Austro-Hungarian and the Ottoman (Turkish) empires. About 8000 lived in internment camps. This is one of them – the Otter Internment Camp in Yoho National Park in British Columbia. Men worked as labourers in national parks or for government building projects.

The Halifax Disaster

There were several disasters in Canada during the war. In February 1916, a fire destroyed most of the Parliament buildings in Ottawa. Seven people died. In September 1916, 11 people were killed when the Quebec Bridge suddenly collapsed into the St. Lawrence River.

The worst disaster of all, however, took place in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Halifax was the gateway to Europe during the war. Most Canadian troops and supplies left from its busy harbour. On December 6, 1917, at 9:00 am, a French ship, *Mont Blanc*, accidentally hit another ship, the *Imo*, in Halifax

harbour. The *Mont Blanc* caught fire. A crowd gathered to watch the burning ship. No one knew that it was filled with explosives. Suddenly, a huge explosion sent a fireball more than a kilometre into the air. The *Mont Blanc* was gone.

The explosion shattered whole buildings. It uprooted trees. It blasted the ship's anchor two kilometres inland. Much of Halifax was destroyed, and more than 2000 people were killed.

Each of these tragedies was later shown to be an accident. However, at the time, many people thought that German spies were to blame.



Figure 7.20 After the Halifax disaster



Figure 7.22 Children on the home front help their families by carrying bags of fuel.

They considered the names of *Hydropolis* and *Industria*. Finally, they renamed the city *Kitchener*. (This was after Lord Kitchener, Britain’s secretary of war.) It is still called Kitchener today.

In some cases, the Canadian government saw German-Canadians and other immigrants as *enemy aliens*. More than 8000 of these people were **interned** even though they had done nothing wrong. Most were either German or Ukrainians from Austria-Hungary. They were held in prison camps across the country, far from their families and homes. Many had to do heavy labour.

In 2005, Canada’s prime minister, Paul Martin, called these events “a dark chapter” in Canadian history. He apologized for internment during the war.

DID YOU KNOW? Not only did Berlin, Ontario, changed its name to Kitchener in World War I. Did you know that Britain’s Royal Family changed its name, too? In 1917, their German-sounding surname Saxe-Coburg was changed to the name still used today: Windsor.

The End of the War

In April 1917, three years after Canada entered World War I, the United States declared war on Germany. In the spring of 1918, Germany made a desperate attempt to defeat the **Allies** before the Americans arrived. The Germans failed, and the Allies counterattacked. The Allies scored a series of hard-fought victories. Canadians took the lead in many of these attacks. Exhausted, the Germans and their allies asked for peace. World War I ended on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month – 11:00 AM on November 11, 1918. Ever since, November 11 has been marked as a day to remember the war – Remembrance Day.

After the war

The war brought many changes to Canada. It sped up industrialization. It changed the way that people thought about women’s rights. It gave Canada a greater voice in world affairs. The price of the war had been very high. Thousands of men had gone cheerfully to war in 1914. Few returned unharmed. More than 60 000 Canadians died fighting the First World War. Most families lost a father or son. In some



Figure 7.23 *EUROPE AFTER THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES.* The war changed the map of Europe. In the peace treaty, signed in 1919 at Versailles [Ver-SYE], France, new countries were created and old ones broken up (see p. 91). Germany was blamed for the war and forced to pay for its cost. Some people believe that the peace treaty simply created more problems, leading to World War II.

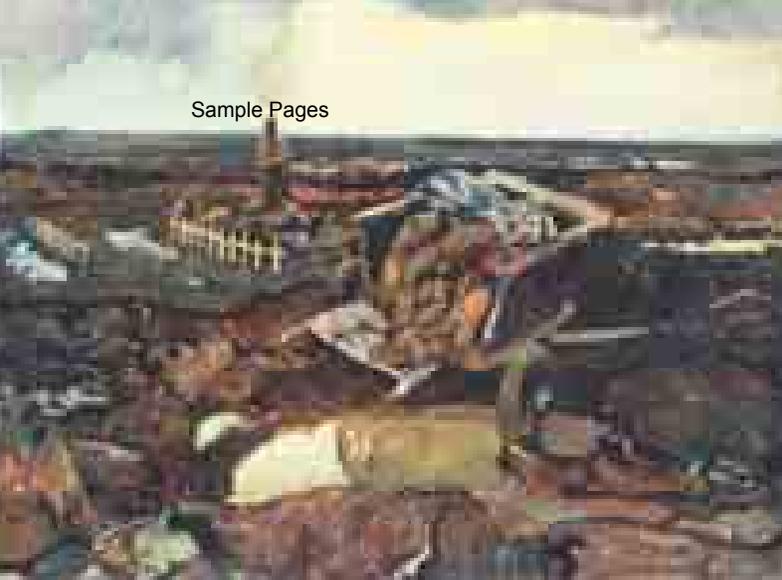


Figure 7.24 F.H. Varley's painting *For What?* portrays the destruction of war.

small towns, nearly all of the young men had been killed overseas.

Many soldiers returned to Canada badly wounded. Thousands lost their arms or legs. Others had been terribly burned or blinded. The government built veterans' hospitals for those soldiers who needed constant medical attention. In addition, many veterans suffered what people called *shell shock*. Shell shock was a form of mental breakdown caused by witnessing the horrors of war. Today, the condition is known as *post-traumatic stress syndrome*.

Because of all the death, some people grew very gloomy about life. Many Canadians believed that the war had been a terrible mistake. Others felt great pride in the role Canada had played in the war. They believed

Remembrance Day

In Remembrance Day ceremonies, Canadians take time to remember those who died fighting for Canada. Remembering does not mean that war is a good thing. Rather, Remembrance Day services are held once a year to remember and honour soldiers who served in the wars. What will happen to Remembrance Day when so much time has passed that no one remembers those soldiers? It is up to all of us to keep the memory of the past alive. That way we can avoid the mistakes that led to the wars in the first place.

name	Carrow, John Joseph (1892)	July 1, 1916	1916
name	Carrow, John Joseph (1892)	July 1, 1916	1916
name	Carrow, Victor	July 1, 1916	1916
name	Carrow, Vincent	July 1, 1916	1916
name	Carrigan, Edward	July 1, 1916	1916
name	Carroll, Bernard	July 1, 1916	1916
name	Carroll, Thomas	July 1, 1916	1916
name	Carson, John	July 1, 1916	1916
name	Carter, George Blake	July 2, 1916	1916
name	Carter, James Henry	July 1, 1916	1916
name	Carter, Hewelcy James	July 1, 1916	1916
name	Carter, Thomas	July 1, 1916	1916
name	Cave, Joseph	July 1, 1916	1916
name	Chafe, Edward Bartlett	July 1, 1916	1916
name	Chafe, Ernest Leslie	July 1, 1916	1916

Figure 7.25 At the Peace Tower in Ottawa, the Books of Remembrance record the names of Canada's war dead. This page from the Newfoundland Book of Remembrance includes the names of six soldiers killed on July 1, 1916. It also includes the name of one soldier who died July 2, possibly from wounds received the day before at the Battle of the Somme.

In Newfoundland, July 1 is still called Memorial Day, in memory of the men of the Newfoundland Regiment who died at Beaumont Hamel.

that Canada had helped to defend freedom. They also felt that the war had made Canada a real nation, ready for full independence. But not everyone agreed that the war brought Canadians together. Many French-speaking Canadians felt betrayed by conscription.

Conclusion

Some people called the First World War “the war to end all wars.” They believed that the nations of the world would never fight again, now that they knew how terrible modern war really was. At the end of 1918, Canadians looked toward the future with hope.