

Chapter One

War and Recognition

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Expectations

Overall Expectations:

By the end of this chapter, you will be able to

- describe some of the major local, national, and global forces and events that have influenced Canada's policies and Canadian identity since 1914
- explain the significance of key individuals and events in the evolution of French–English relations in Canada since 1914

Specific Expectations:

By the end of this chapter, you will be able to

- identify the major groups of immigrants to Canada since 1914 and describe the push and pull factors that led to their immigration
- identify the causes of the First World War and explain how Canada became involved
- describe some of the contributions Canada and Canadians made to the overseas and at-home war efforts during the First World War
- summarize the key contributions of women to the war at home and on the battlefield
- explain how some key technological innovations in military and other fields (e.g., gas warfare) changed the way war was planned and fought, and describe their impact on combatants and civilians
- assess key instances in which the Canadian government chose to restrict citizens' rights and freedoms in wartime
- explain why conscription was controversial and how it divided English Canada and Quebec during the First World War
- evaluate Canada's participation in the war

Word List

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Armistice | Canadian Expeditionary Force |
| Censored | Conscription |
| Convoy | Eastern Front |
| Dogfights | Internment camps |
| Enemy aliens | Over the top |
| No man's land | Profiteering |
| Pacifist | Royal Canadian Legion |
| Propaganda | Shell shock |
| Self-determination | Triple Alliance |
| Treaty of Versailles | Ultimatum |
| Triple Entente | Western Front |
| War Measures Act | |

Advance Organizer

1900

1910



1 The early 1900s were a time of growth for Canada. Many people farmed, but factories were also being built. People lived in towns, but cities were also growing. Immigrants were settling in Canada. Times were peaceful.



A busy Canadian city in the early 1900s.

2 In 1914, Europe was not as peaceful. War broke out, with Germany and Britain on opposite sides. Canada was part of the British Empire. Suddenly Canada was at war, too. Many Canadians volunteered to go to war.



Many Canadians were eager to join the fight.

3 Soldiers dug trenches on the battlefields. They lived and fought in these trenches. The war was brutal. Many soldiers were killed, but many battles were won. Canadians gained a new pride in their country.



War and Recognition

1915

1920

1925

1930

4 Early in the war, planes were used only to spy on the enemy. Later, machine guns were mounted on the planes. The



age of air warfare had begun. Canadian pilots were among the best fighter pilots in the war.



Airplane factory during the First World War.

5 Many ships carrying troops, food, and weapons gathered in Halifax harbour. They then set out together for Europe. This gave them more protection. In 1917, two ships in the harbour collided. One carried high explosives. In the explosion, many people were killed and the city was destroyed.



7 By 1917, many soldiers had been killed. Volunteers were too few to replace them. Canada introduced conscription. This forced young men to join the army. French Canadians did not feel close to Britain. They did not want to go to war. The unity of Canada was threatened.



6 Canada's factories produced machinery and weapons needed for the war. Men, who normally worked in these factories, were fighting in Europe. Women went to work in their place. They were happy to help with the war effort. They also wanted to vote in federal elections. Some got the right.



8 The war ended on 11 November 1918. Britain and its allies won. It was a day of both happiness and sadness. Not all soldiers returned home safely. Over 66 000 Canadians lost their lives in the war. In all, more than 9 million soldiers were killed.



Canada Before the War

The People

What was Canadian life like before the First World War? Try to place yourself back in time. Your life would have been quite different from what it is today. As you read this section, consider whether life at the turn of the 20th century was better or worse than life today. Try to notice the major differences and similarities. Would you consider changing places with a young Canadian in 1900?

In 1914, most Canadians lived on farms. Few young people went to high school. In the country, they were needed on the farm. In the city, their wages helped pay for the family's food and rent. Work was hard and the hours long. People married young and began raising families early. Adult responsibilities came quickly.

As well, many new immigrants to Canada chose to settle and develop the vast stretches

of the fertile land in the West. Canada's Aboriginal peoples faced new challenges. They struggled to hold on to their identity, lands, and rights in a world dominated by European arrivals. Canadian women began to claim new roles. They found new respect in Canada's changing society. The turn of the century was a new beginning for Canada and Canadians.

A Rural Society

By 1900 the population of Canada was 5 200 000. Montreal,



This map shows Canada's provinces and territories in 1905. How is it different today?

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1900 1905 1910 1915 1920

Toronto, and Halifax were the largest cities. Vancouver was the boomtown of the West Coast, but not many people lived west of Winnipeg. Regina, Calgary and Edmonton were small but growing pioneer cities.

Most people earned their living by work-



A "caboose" takes children to school one wintry morning in the early 20th century.

ing hard. The hours were long, salaries poor, and conditions difficult. Farming was the main occupation in 1900. Fishing was an important occupation in the Maritime provinces. Still other people worked in construction. Railways, roads, sewers, and buildings were all being constructed in the new cities. Women worked in factories, as servants for the rich, as teachers, nurses, and store clerks, and on their own farms and in their own homes.

Living Close to Home

Most people depended on the horse and buggy for local travel and the train for long journeys. By 1885, Canada was linked from sea to sea by railroads. Automobiles were so rare that people did not have driving

licences. There were no speed limits, no stop signs, and no traffic lights. People usually spent their lives close to home. Life revolved around such institutions as the town band, the local baseball, lacrosse, or hockey team, and the church. There were few telephones, no supermarkets, no radios and no television.

Newspapers were

common, but international news was always slow to arrive. The age of the professional singer, comedian, or athlete was still to come. Most people provided their own entertainment. Singsongs around the family piano or dancing to a treasured violin or accordion were high points of any family gathering. A night out meant watching local talent in a play or a concert at the church hall. Opera and music halls were very popular in some parts of the country.

A New Century

The 1800s had been a period of gradual change. In 1900, most Canadians expected that the 20th century would continue in the same way. This was not to be. Canada would take part in two world wars and several regional wars. Canadian scientists and inventors would make dramatic strides forward in technology, communications, transportation, and medicine. Our population would grow with the arrival of new immigrants. The country would be known for its rich, multicultural diversity by the start of the 21st century. Aboriginal peoples would make great advances



John Ware was one of Canada's greatest cowboys. Born a slave in 1845 in Texas, he arrived in Canada in 1882. He worked as a cowhand and bronco rider until 1888, when he bought his own ranch. He was famous for his remarkable horsemanship. There was not a horse "running on the Prairie" which John could not ride." Ware died in 1905 after a tragic riding accident.

in self-determination and land rights. French Canadians would struggle to control their own destiny. Canadian astronauts would fly into space. Natural resources would play a vital role in the country's economic and social growth. Canada would develop its unique national character and heritage.

Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier once said: "The nineteenth century has been the century of the United States.... The twentieth century shall be the century of Canada." Perhaps this century did not develop quite as he expected. Canada at the end of the 20th century was a very different place from the Canada that Laurier knew.



Women's hockey has deep roots in Canadian society. These women stitched buckshot into the hems of their skirts to keep them down. How important is hockey in your community?

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

The Ukrainians Ukrainians were among the many groups attracted to the Canadian West in the first years of the 20th century. This community has played an important role in the development of Canada. It has also maintained close ties with its homeland and traditions. Most Ukrainians were subjects of the Russian Czar or the Emperor of Austria-Hungary at the turn of the century. Here, they suffered political oppression and economic hardship. Crop failures, overpopulation, and the threat of war made life hard. They wanted a better future. Canadian agents in Europe offered 64 hectares of land per person for \$10. Along with that came religious and political freedom. Earlier Ukrainian visitors, such as Dr. Joseph Oleskow, described the Canadian West as a land of golden opportunity.

From 1891 to 1914, about 170 000 Ukrainian farmers came to Canada. They were eager to take on the challenge of building a new life. They were poor and

unskilled in modern farming techniques, but worked hard. The settlers established communities in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.



Many people immigrated to Canada looking for freedom and to give their children a better life. Today, the Ukrainian community thrives in such urban centres as Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Toronto. Well-known members of the community include former governor general Ray Hnatyshyn and comedian Luba Goy.

During the First World War, Canadian authorities treated Ukrainians as **enemy aliens**. This happened because they came from Austria-Hungary, with whom Canada was at war. Many Canadians turned on the same settlers they had first welcomed and treated them with hatred and prejudice. Thousands of Ukrainian men were rounded up, some with their families, and sent to **internment camps** in remote areas of the country. Authorities admitted later that these people had done nothing wrong.

What factors “pushed” Ukrainians from Europe to Canada? What factors “pulled” Ukrainians to settle in Canada?

FOCUS

1. List at least 10 ways in which living in Canada in 1900 was different from today.
2. Select three ways in which life was better in 1900, and three ways in which it is better today. Explain the reasons behind the choices you made.
3. Why did so many people come to Canada before the First World War? Why do people come today?

The Road to War

In August 1914, most major European countries became involved in the First World War. From the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815 to the outbreak of the First World War, there had been no major strife. All this ended in 1914.

A number of causes led to the outbreak of war in 1914:

1 – Emergence of Germany as a Major Power

By 1871, the German Chancellor (Prime Minister), Otto von Bismarck, had united most German-speaking people. They were a strong new nation that wished to be recognized as a major power of Europe. German leaders increased Germany's power by expanding its army and navy.

2 – Clash of Empires

Britain, France, Spain, and Portugal had large empires. They had colonies in Asia and Africa. By the 1890s, German leaders demanded that Germany also get colonies. These would be sources of raw materials for German industries and markets for manufactured goods. Most accessible lands had already been conquered. To get land, Germany would have to deal with Britain and France.

3 – Naval and Arms Race

In the early 1900s, the British navy was the largest in the world. Its main duty was to protect Britain's global empire. If

Germany were to have a colonial empire, it, too, would require a large navy. Germany began to build a powerful, modern navy. Britain saw this as a challenge. The two countries got into a race to see who could build the biggest and strongest navy. Germany also competed with France and Russia to build the largest and best-equipped army. The naval and arms races increased tension and hostility in Europe. The world was drifting towards war.

4 – Nationalism

Countries that prize national interests over anything else often cause wars. The period before the First World War reflects this. European countries wanted to assert themselves and their national identity.

5 – Alliance System

Rivalries in Europe forced each country to make defensive alliances. Allies were needed for protection. Two alliances were established. In the **Triple Alliance**, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy agreed to support each other if attacked by France, Britain, or Russia. In the **Triple Entente**, France, Russia, and Britain agreed to support each other if attacked by Germany, Italy, or Austria-Hungary. By 1914, Europe was divided into two heavily armed and hostile camps. All that was needed to cause an explosion was a spark.

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The Technical Edge

One of the new century's most impressive weapons was a battleship called the dreadnought. It was heavily armoured, speedy, and loaded with huge 30 cm guns. These guns could fire 400 kg shells a distance of 6000 m. The dreadnought made all existing wooden warships almost obsolete. Both Germany and Britain engaged in a furious race to build these powerful ships.

Machine guns and tanks were also major new weapons that played key roles during the war. The machine gun, firing 600 rounds per minute, made it almost impossible for attacking armies to overrun an enemy's position. A bloody stalemate would result.

The tank helped to end the stalemate. It could ram through enemy lines. The tank was particularly effective during the final year of the war (1918).



The arrival of the dreadnought meant the days of wooden battleships were over. Here, a British dreadnought heaves in her anchor.



New powerful weapons made war more deadly than ever. Why would dreadnoughts and tanks be such effective weapons of war?

The Spark

A Serbian terrorist group, the Black Hand, assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian throne, on 28 June 1914 in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. This was a state within the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Austrians sent Serbia an **ultimatum**. The Serbs refused. Austria invaded. Russia came to the aid of its Serbian allies.

Within one month, most members of the rival alliances were drawn into the conflict. Germany and Austria-Hungary fought against France, Russia, and Britain. Italy left the Triple Alliance with Germany and Austria, and later came into the war on the side of France and Britain. Japan also fought against Germany in the First World War. It captured German colonies in China. Canada was a member of the British Empire. If Britain went to war, that meant Canada was at war, too. Most Canadians were enthusiastic in their support for Britain.

TIMELINE

The First World War had both long- and short-term causes. The short-term events are listed here.

THE STEPS TO WAR—SUMMER OF 1914

- 28 June** Archduke Ferdinand is assassinated at Sarajevo.
- 23 July** Austria sends ultimatum (a list of far-reaching demands) to Serbia.
- 25 July** Serbia replies, rejecting one term.
- 28 July** Austria invades Serbia.
- 29 July** Russia mobilizes army along borders with Austria and Germany. Germany declares war on Russia.
- 3 August** France mobilizes forces to assist Russia. Germany declares war on France.
- 4 August** Germany invades Belgium, whose neutrality is guaranteed by Britain. Britain declares war on Germany.
- 5 August** Canada and the rest of the British Empire are at war.

Given the events, do you think the war could have been avoided? Explain.

EUROPE AT THE START OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR



1. Which alliance appears to have the strongest position in your view? Explain.
2. What role might powerful navies play in this war?
3. How might Canada participate in a war so far from its shores?

FOCUS

1. Briefly describe the major long-term causes of the First World War.
2. What were the major short-term causes?
3. Why was Canada involved in the war?

World War Begins

During the late 1800s, Germany tried to keep on friendly terms with Russia. The German Kaiser (Emperor) and the Russian Tsar (Emperor) were cousins. If war came, Germany expected it to be with France, not Russia. This would mean battles to the west, or a **Western Front**. If Russia joined France against Germany, it would mean more battles to the east, or an **Eastern Front**.

When Germany allied with Austria in 1879, Russia's friendship was lost. Russia then became France's ally. How could Germany avoid a war on two fronts at once?

The Schlieffen Plan

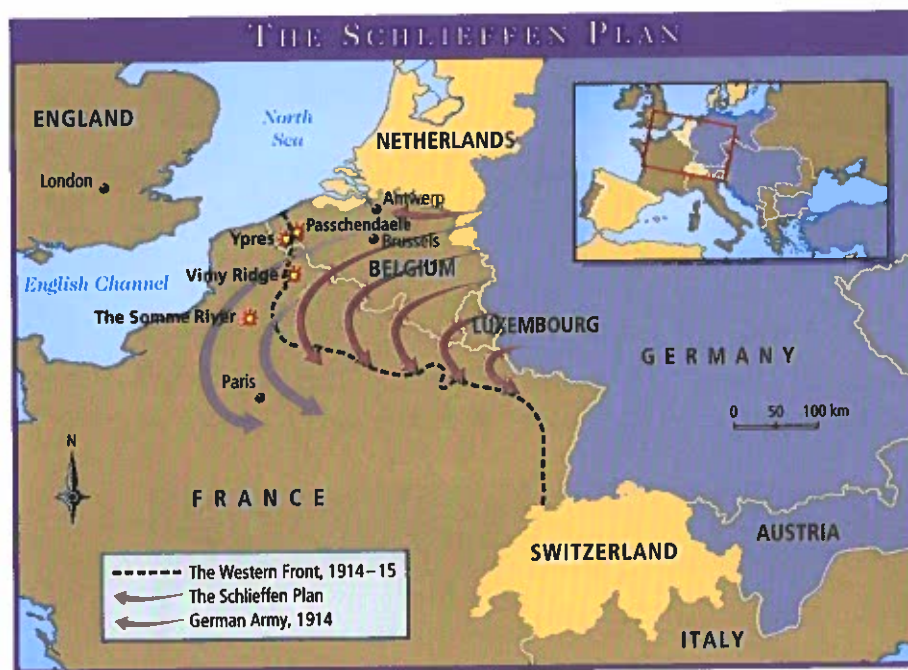
German General Von Schlieffen developed a plan. He expected the Russians to take a long time to mobilize their army. He would first move rapidly against the French on the Western Front. Doing so would mislead their army as to the origin of the main attack. The French army would then concentrate along the southern part of the Franco-German border, believing that the German soldiers would cross over into France from their homeland.

Schlieffen's plan called for the majority of the German army to invade France from the north. They would then sweep across the flat lands of neutral Belgium and northern France to the English Channel. Then, they would turn towards Paris from the west. All this would take about six weeks, Schlieffen estimated.

The French would be knocked out of the war, and the Germans could then turn their attention to the Russians on the Eastern Front.

Why the Schlieffen Plan Failed

Schlieffen based his plan on a gamble. About 70 years earlier, France, Germany, and Britain had signed a treaty guaranteeing that Belgium should be neutral.



The failure of the Schlieffen Plan led to a bloody stalemate on the Western Front.

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Germany wrongly assumed that Britain would not object to the invasion of tiny Belgium. But Britain did object. It used the invasion as a reason to enter the war. General Von Schlieffen died in 1913. The new German generals continued with his plan, but made a few changes. While approaching Paris from the west, they were forced to turn south too soon. This meant the French army at the French-German border could now reach them. The Germans were also attacked by French troops moving out from Paris and British troops from the Channel ports. The German advance was halted on



A group of Aboriginal soldiers have their picture taken before joining the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Despite discrimination against Blacks and Aboriginals, these Canadians enlisted and served with distinction.



One last embrace before going off to war. Most men expected the war to be over by Christmas.

the Marne River. Both sides “dug in” and built extensive trench systems. These trenches were protected by artillery, barbed wire, and machine guns. The Schlieffen Plan failed. Instead of knocking France out of the war, the Germans found themselves trapped on the Western Front. They faced the combined armies of France, Britain, and the members of their empires, including Canada. Russia threatened on the Eastern Front. Instead of a short, swift campaign, Germany’s attack on France became a long, costly, war. Four years of trench warfare had begun.

Canada Responds

At the start of the war, Canadian Liberal Party leader, Wilfrid Laurier, stated, "When the call comes, our answer goes at once, and it goes in the classical language of the British answer to the call of duty: 'Ready, aye, ready.'"



Volunteers are recruited for the war.

Most regions of Canada were quickly caught up in war fever. Young men rushed to join the armed forces. Many worried the war would be over before they got there! Some men enlisted for glory, excitement, and medals. Others joined for free room and board and \$1 a day pay. Outside Quebec, few questioned whether Canada should take part.

Canadian citizens rushed along the road to war. Although Canada was at war when Britain was at war, Canada was able to determine how much it would participate. Canadians were so keen to fight that a **Canadian Expeditionary Force** was prepared

even before the British asked for one.

In 1914, Canada's armed forces consisted of an army of 3100, a militia of some 60 000, and a navy of one light and one heavy cruiser. After enlistments, the army swelled to 250 000 in 1915, and to 500 000 the next year. By war's end, over 600 000 men had



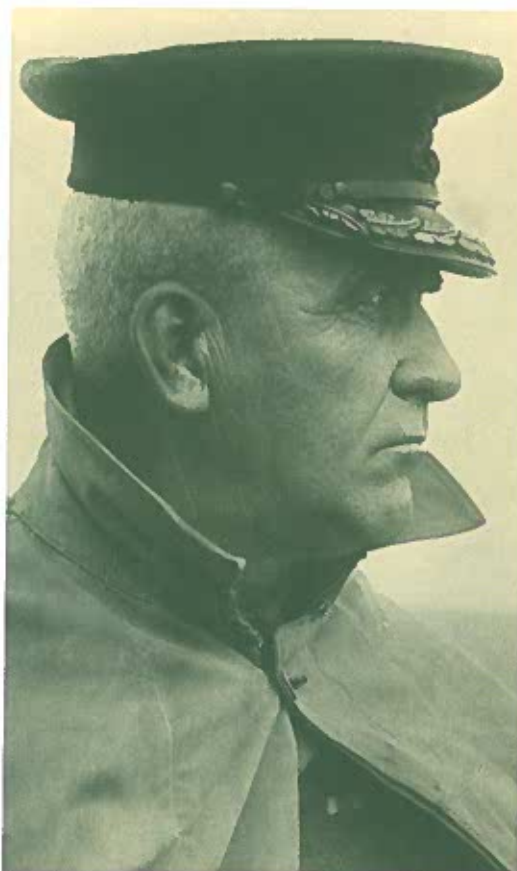
Why might this poster encourage people to join the army?



In Uxbridge, Ontario, men march through town before joining the battle overseas.

joined the army, with an additional 8000 each for the navy and the air force. About 2500 women served as nursing sisters overseas. The brutality of the next four years, however, would test Canada's enthusiasm and unity.

Sir Sam Hughes



BORN: 1853, Darlington, Ontario

DIED: 1921, Lindsay, Ontario

SIGNIFICANCE: Hughes organized the Canadian Expeditionary Force in a matter of weeks. He stubbornly fought to maintain it as an independent Canadian unit.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY: Hughes was a teacher and newspaper owner–editor before he entered politics. He was appointed minister of Militia and Defence in Robert Borden’s new Conservative government in 1911. Hughes was one of the most energetic supporters of the war effort. He pushed for rapid expansion of Canada’s armed forces. Within months, the army had 100 000 volunteers. With just two months of training, its first contingent of 3000 left Canada for Britain. When British officers attempted to blend Canadian soldiers into British units, Hughes furiously refused. Hughes was energetic and tireless in his defence of Canada. He also behaved rashly, made many enemies, and created many foolish schemes. He was not liked in French Canada because of his anti-Roman Catholic attitude. Eventually, Borden asked for his resignation. Interestingly, Hughes’s niece, Laura, was a peace activist and an outspoken critic of the war. In your view, what were the major strengths and weaknesses of Sir Sam Hughes?

CANADIAN LIVES

FOCUS

1. What was the main aim of the Schlieffen Plan?
2. Why did the plan fail?
3. Why did Britain declare war on Germany?
4. Who was Sir Sam Hughes? What was his job?
5. How did most Canadians respond to the outbreak of war?
Would you have volunteered for the armed forces? Explain.

War in the Trenches

Mud. Barbed wire. Lice. Hardtack and bully beef. Rain, sleet and snow. Mud. Rats. Shell holes full of stagnant water. Bodies. Machine-gun bullets. Sandbags. More mud.

Digging In

The Schlieffen Plan had failed. The Germans could not advance. The French and the British could not drive them back. Both sides set about digging-in to fortify their positions on the Western Front.

They dug trenches (ditches) to protect their troops. Each trench was about 2 m deep



Trench life was cramped, dirty and uncomfortable. Soldiers suffered from "trench mouth" and "trench foot."

and topped with sandbags. Soldiers could stand in the trench without being seen by the enemy. A narrow strip, called no man's land, lay between the Allies and their enemies. The opposing trenches were sometimes so close that rifle and machine gun fire spattered across no man's land whenever a soldier

detected movement in enemy territory. Shells flew from the artillery behind the front lines, spraying shrapnel everywhere.



These soldiers are going "over the top" in a dangerous, costly, and often futile attempt to gain some distance in no man's land.

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Over the Top

Officers would sometimes order an advance, which meant going **over the top** of the trench and across no man's land fully exposed to enemy fire. Occasionally, the troops managed to capture the enemy's front line. The enemy then retired to its reserve trenches a short distance away. Barbed wire stretched across the new patch of no man's land. A few metres of land had been lost or won. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers were often killed in the process. Then the whole bloody business started all over again.

Soldiers fought, died, ate, and slept in the trenches. Eventually, they were relieved for a few days by fresh troops. In winter, they froze in the snow and sleet. Spring rains filled the trenches with water. In summer, rich farmlands turned to mud.

In Their Own Words

"We are filthy. Our bodies are the color of the earth we have been living in these past months. We are alive with vermin and sit picking at ourselves like baboons. It is months since we have been out of our clothes."

Source: Charles Yale Harrison, *Generals Die in Bed* (Hamilton: Potlatch Publications, 1974).



*Battle of the
Somme—Beaumont
Hamel*

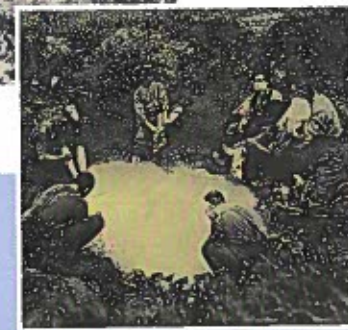
The Battle of the Somme was one of the bloodiest, most wasteful battles of the war. On its first day, 57 540 casualties were recorded. On that terrible day, 1 July 1916, the young men of the Newfoundland Regi-

ment went over the top. It was an almost suicidal attack against German machine guns. The regiment was torn to pieces within minutes. Ninety-one percent of the Newfoundland Regiment died that day. Of the 840 who

left their trenches, only 79 were able to answer roll call the following morning. The war settled into a long slaughter of the Western world's youth.



Trench warfare meant injury and death for millions.



The war turned rich farmland into a wasteland of mud and death.

In Their Own Words

Two Letters Home

One of the best sources of information about the brutal reality of trench warfare is the letters of soldiers from the front lines. Read these two letters. **What are the major differences in their view of the war? Why?**

Before heavy action: 24 March 1915

"We have been put in the trenches for a week with British troops. Then we'll be taken back for further training. Then we will be in the trenches for 5 weeks, and then we get a rest.

Our German friends opposite have a sense of humour. One day they stuck a toy horse up above their trench. Our chaps shot it down. They put it up again with a bandage round its neck.

They call out things like 'We no shoot, you no shoot.'

'If you come halfway, we'll give you cigarettes.'

'Hello B.C., how'd you like to be walking down Hastings Street?'

Our men are so light-hearted—full of life and ginger. Somebody is going to be badly hurt when these boys let loose."

After heavy action: 15 May 1915

"We were called out from Ypres about 5 o'clock. The sky was a hell of bursting shrapnel. We lay in reserve until nearly midnight. Then they told us to take the wood. We charged across 500 m of open country. We lost many men during that charge. I saw poor Charlie go down and stopped to help him, but he urged us on. Then Andy fell, shot right through the head. When we got to the edge of the wood we found a trench just dug by the Germans. This is when the hell began. They had 2 machine guns, and the fire was like hailstones on a tin roof. Somehow they missed a few of us, but the other fellows were cut in half by the stream of lead.

I have often wanted to see a fight. Never again. I remember the next morning, all the dead and dying lying around in twisted shapes. War is hell.

We are going back to the base to be reorganized. We had 26 officers before, and 2 after, so you can see it was pretty bad. I shall try to transfer, as most of my nerve has gone."

FOCUS

1. Carefully describe the reality of trench warfare.
2. Imagine you are a soldier fighting in the trenches. Write a letter home describing your experiences.
3. Could you have survived these events? Explain fully.
4. What do the first-hand accounts in this chapter reveal about the war?

A Tale of Two Battles

The first Canadian troops arrived in England in October 1914. British officers said sneeringly, “These ‘colonials’ were sloppy. They couldn’t even salute properly. The only way to lick them into shape would be to divide them among British units. They would be no use in their own regiment.”

HISTORICA *Minutes*

The Canadian minister of militia, Sam Hughes, was furious. He refused to let the Canadians be broken up.

As a result, Canada had its own army. The Canadian Corps soon proved its worth.

Ypres

The Canadians arrived in France in March 1915, after four months of training in Britain. They were sent to Ypres, a city near the Belgium coast, in order to stop the Germans from breaking through to the English Channel. Since the failure of the Schlieffen Plan the year before, there had been little fighting here.

The Germans wanted to break the stalemate. They decided to use a new weapon—poisonous chlorine gas. On April 22, a gentle breeze blew towards the Allied lines. It was perfect weather for a gas attack.

The Canadians had been assigned a section of the front-line trenches.



A bleak landscape.

To the left were troops from the French colony of Algeria. The Algerians saw a green cloud drifting across no man’s land. As it reached the trenches, they found themselves

choking and gasping for breath. Those who were not suffocated fled.

Although people had talked about gas warfare, the Allied commanders did not think it would be used, so they sent the Canadian soldiers to the front without gas masks. When the Germans used chlorine gas, the soldiers had no protection. All they could do was soak



Soldiers injured in gas warfare.

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The once splendid 500-year old Cloth Hall and Cathedral in Ypres, destroyed by war.

cotton pads in urine and hold them over their faces. The acid in the urine neutralized the chlorine. The soldiers then moved into the gap to prevent a German breakthrough. They somehow held on for two whole days. Finally, British relief troops took over. The Canadians had proved themselves. Nobody sneered at them after the Battle of Ypres or “Wipers,” as Canadian and British soldiers pronounced the name.



Gas was feared as a weapon during the war, so men and beasts wore masks.

Vimy Ridge

“Zero hour will be 5:30 a.m.”

The word spread through the Canadian Army on Easter Sunday, 1917. Every soldier was aware that Vimy Ridge was the key to the

HISTOR!CA

Minutes

German lines. If the Allies were to break the stalemate of the war, Vimy Ridge would have to be taken. In two years of tough fighting, Canadians had done well. The dubious honour of storming Vimy Ridge would fall to them.

The soldiers looked across no man’s land. About 100 m away lay the German trenches. It would be sheer hell to get across. That night they enjoyed one last hot meal and a shot of rum to heat their stomachs and give them courage.

For the past two weeks the artillery had

been firing shells into enemy lines. Easter Monday dawned cold, with sleet and snow falling. At 5:30 a.m., the command was given to go over the top. Covered by more shellfire, 15 000 soldiers moved in the first wave of attack. They valiantly struggled across the mud and through what barbed wire remained. The return fire from German machine guns and artillery was murderous, but the Canadians wiped out the German front line—the soldiers had passed it in the snow without knowing. They surprised the

second line of defence. Some Germans fled. Others surrendered. Despite massive losses, by midmorning the Canadians had seized the heights. Vimy Ridge was in Allied hands.

The pride felt after such an accomplishment was dampened by

the cost. In just a few hours, Canada had suffered 10 000 casualties with 3600 dead.



Canadian and German wounded help each other through the mud at the terrible Battle of Passchendaele.

In Their Own Words

Vimy Ridge was the first great Allied victory since the beginning of the war. Canadian pride received a great boost that cold morning in northern France. As one participant noted:

“From dugouts, shell holes and trenches men sprang into action, fell into artillery formations and advanced to the ridge, every division of the Corps moved forward together. It was Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific on parade. I thought then and I think today, that in those few minutes I witnessed the birth of a nation.”

Source: Brigadier General Alex Ross

Canadian Vision

The Power of Words

The First World War generated more poetry than any war before or since. By 1918, more than 3000 volumes of war-related poetry had been published, mostly by amateurs. Perhaps the most popular and enduring poem is John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields." McCrae, an army surgeon from Guelph, Ontario, published the poem anonymously in the winter of 1915. He died a few weeks afterwards. His poem, however, became the most successful recruitment incentive of the war. The power of his words brought the war home to Canadians. McCrae's vision of the devastation of war has become a key element in most Canadian Remembrance Day services.

HISTOR!CA

Minutes



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.

Which lines are the most moving in your opinion? Why? To what extent does the third verse differ from the first two verses?

FOCUS

1. Explain the important role played by Canadians at Ypres and Vimy Ridge.
2. Identify all the first-hand sources presented in this chapter.

The War in the Air

The Wright brothers flew the first successful airplane at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in 1903. Six years later, John McCurdy flew the Silver Dart—designed by McCurdy and Alexander Graham Bell—at Baddeck, Nova Scotia. Airplanes were regarded as a luxury;

Corps (later the Royal Air Force). They were among the best fighter pilots of the war.

Dogfights

Meetings between warring aircraft often became deadly **dogfights**. Pilots tried to tailgate enemy planes so that the enemies could not return the gunfire. Being shot down usually meant instant death. Pilots were not allowed to carry parachutes because, if they did, they might bail out. Their officers wanted them to try to save planes instead. The average lifespan of a pilot was only three weeks long. They called their planes “flying coffins.”

One of the leading “aces” of the Royal Flying Corps was a Canadian, Billy Bishop. He reportedly shot

down 72 enemy planes. The greatest flying ace of the war was Germany’s Manfred von Richthofen, the famous “Red Baron.” He shot down 80 planes.



Canadian officers, Royal Flying Corps, Reading, England, 1916.

therefore, at the outbreak of the First World War, Canada had no planes and no pilots.

Many young Canadians who wished to be pilots went to Britain to join the Royal Flying

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The Red Baron's Last Flight

One day in April 1918, Richthofen took his pilots on their usual daily patrol. They were met by a British squadron led by Roy Brown of Carleton Place, Ontario. Soon the two groups were in a fierce dogfight.

Wilfrid "Wop" May was on his first combat flight. The young Canadian realized his guns were jammed and drifted out of the battle. The Red Baron moved onto his tail.

Preparing for the kill, he did not notice that Roy Brown had flown behind him. Brown got the German ace in his gun sights and shot him out of the sky. A Canadian had downed the legendary Red Baron!

Recently, some Australian soldiers have disputed this claim. They maintain that they shot down the Red Baron when his plane flew close to the ground chasing Brown's plane. Germany went into national mourning after the death of their hero.



Wilfrid May lived to become one of Canada's leading bush pilots and a pioneer in search and rescue techniques.

Billy Bishop



BORN: 1894, Owen Sound, Ontario

DIED: 1956, Palm Beach, Florida

SIGNIFICANCE: With 72 recorded “kills,” Billy Bishop was Canada’s greatest flying hero in the First World War and the greatest ace in the British Empire. He earned the Victoria Cross, the highest award for bravery under fire.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY: Billy was a charming, rambunctious youth. He did not do well at school, but was an excellent marksman. Bishop entered the war as a cavalry officer. He soon saw that flying was where the action was. He became a gunner-observer and then a pilot. Bishop was a rebel who often found himself in trouble with authorities. He was also a brave and gifted fighter pilot. The average lifespan of a rookie pilot in

combat was 11 days. Bishop was a natural pilot. In his first month at the front, he downed 17 enemy aircraft. He duelled with the Red Baron, and both men limped home in shot-up aircraft.

Bishop shot down 5 enemy aircraft in one battle alone. He won the Victoria Cross for his daring solo attack on a German aerodrome, which resulted in three “kills.” He was recalled to Canada to inspire recruiting and the sale of Victory Bonds. These bonds were a means of raising funds to support the war.

After the war, Bishop flew in air shows, gave lectures, and dabbled in business. When the Second World War began in 1939, Bishop was made an Air Marshal to spur recruitment to the RCAF. For more information, visit www.billybishop.org. **Why is Billy Bishop considered a hero?**

CANADIAN LIVES

The Technical Edge

Warplanes Aircraft design had not advanced greatly prior to the First World War. Most planes flew at about 150 km/h. They had open, single-seat cockpits. Planes were used mainly to observe enemy troop movements, a big advance over the use of balloons. The thrill of flying united all pilots. British, German, and French fighters waved to one another as their planes passed above the battlefields. Soon, some pilots started to bring rifles into the cockpit. They shot at enemy planes in order to stop information reaching enemy generals. The friendly camaraderie was over.



Airplane factory during the First World War.

Next, machine guns were mounted on the planes. A

major problem with this new design was that the bullets often hit the plane's propellers. One British design mounted the gun behind the pilot. The French placed it above the propeller, on the top wing of the biplane. The Germans had a gun timed to fire through the propeller without hitting the blades. When the British tried this system, it did not always work perfectly. These guns had fixed mounts. The only way to aim the gun was to point the plane directly at the target. By war's end, many new

designs had been built. Bombers, zeppelins, and fighters were a regular feature in the skies above the trenches. Aircraft now had a central role in modern warfare.

How were airplanes used in the war?



A young Lester B. Pearson, future prime minister of Canada.

FOCUS

1. Define the words "dogfights" and "flying coffins."
2. Who was the Red Baron?

The War at Sea

When the war began, Canada had only two mid-sized cruisers in its navy. One was the H.M.S. *Niobe* in Halifax and the other was the H.M.S. *Rainbow* in Vancouver. By the end of the war, the Royal Canadian Navy had grown to about 100 ships. Most were small coastal vessels. Only one warship was lost at sea during the war.

Atlantic Convoys

Canada's main role in the war at sea was in shipping Canadian troops, food, and munitions to Europe. The German navy wanted to stop goods reaching Britain. They declared a war zone in the waters around the British Isles.

The Germans used submarines to attack ships on their way to Britain. A German submarine sank the *Lusitania*, a British passenger liner, in 1915. Over 1000 people died, including 128 Americans. The *Lusitania* tragedy contributed to anti-German feelings in the United States.

The British started to put ships into large groups called convoys. Convoys sailed together from Quebec, Halifax or St. John's. They were protected from submarines by warships. The convoy system greatly reduced the number of ships sunk. Halifax had a large harbour and an excellent location. It soon became the major assembly point for convoys to England.

The Halifax Explosion

Throughout the war, the Halifax harbour was crowded with convoys of ships. They were loaded with war supplies of food, munitions and troops ready for the voyage to Europe with heavily-armed warships as escorts. Neutral vessels anchored in the harbour,



their crews forbidden to land for fear any might supply information to the enemy. New railway lines and terminals were almost completed, made necessary to handle the extra pressure of traffic. The population was swollen with troops, and people who had

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come to benefit from the plentiful employment.

Thursday, 6 December 1917, dawned clear and mild in Halifax. At 7:30 a.m., the *Mont Blanc*, a French freighter, started to move through the Narrows to Bedford Basin, the city's inner harbour. It was loaded with

In the city, factory workers were already at their jobs. Children were assembling in school playgrounds. Offices and stores were getting ready for the day's business. As the *Mont Blanc* and the *Imo* drew close to each other, they signalled their intentions. Suddenly, the *Mont Blanc* sailed directly across



The Halifax Explosion destroyed Halifax, leaving 10 000 people homeless in the middle of the winter.

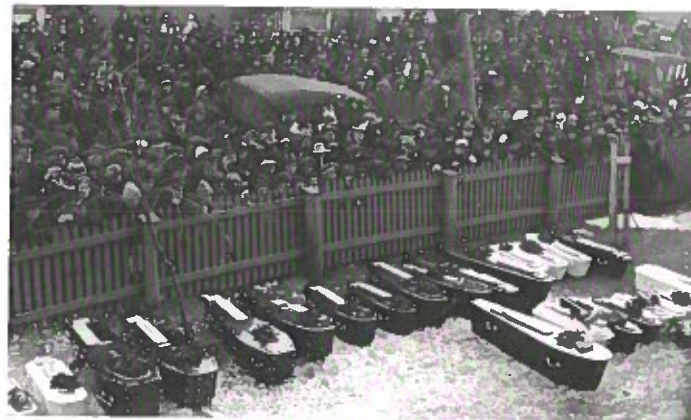
benzene, picric acid, and TNT. It had come from New York to join the next convoy across the Atlantic. At about 8:00, the *Imo*, a Norwegian tramp steamer carrying relief supplies for Belgium, headed out through the Narrows.

the *Imo*'s bow. At 8:43 the *Imo* rammed the *Mont Blanc*. The two ships drifted apart. People in the city enjoying the winter sunshine watched as a wisp of smoke rose from the harbour. At 9:06, the *Mont Blanc*'s cargo of high explosives blew up.

Schools, factories, stores, and houses in a 5 km area were completely destroyed. Part of the two-ton anchor of the *Mont Blanc* was found 4 km away. Over 2000 people died and another 9000 were injured. That

night, with 10 000 people homeless, the temperature plunged to -8°C and a blizzard was on the way.

Within days, relief supplies began to pour



Haligonians pay tribute to those killed by the explosion.

in from other parts of Canada, and as far away as Jamaica and New Zealand. The state of Massachusetts sent a relief committee, for which reason Halifax still sends a Christmas tree annually to the city of Boston.

The 1917 Hali-

fax Explosion was the biggest man-made explosion in history until the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945.

HISTOR!CA

Minutes



This is what Halifax looked like after the explosion. Many people thought the explosion was due to German sabotage. What needs would the survivors have? For more information, visit www.cbc.ca/halifaxexplosion.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

The Canadian Red Cross Society

The Society was founded in 1876. When the First World War began in 1914, it had 156 local branches across Canada. By the end of the war, there were 1303 branches. They were staffed almost entirely by female volunteers. The Society made clothes, raised money, bought medical supplies and packaged food. They sent these items overseas to Canadian soldiers in army hospitals. At Christmas, these soldiers were surprised to find stockings hanging by their beds. The Red Cross had provided them. They contained clothes, food, candy, and cigarettes. All of these

things were hard to get in Europe. After the Second Battle of Ypres, when 1500 Canadians were taken prisoner, the Red Cross set up a Prisoners of War Department. The

department prepared parcels to be sent to the men in the P.O.W. camps. Nearly all of the one-half million parcels sent safely arrived. The Halifax Explosion stretched the resources of many Canadian volunteer organizations. Canadians gratefully accepted donations from other countries.

Why was the Red Cross an important body during the war? To learn more about this important Canadian organization, visit the Canadian Red Cross Web site at www.redcross.ca.



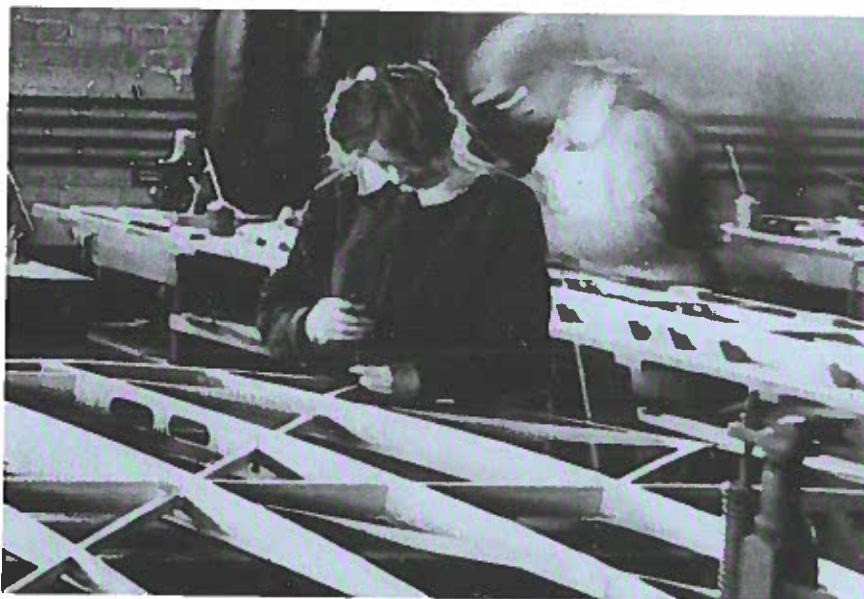
Red Cross supplies stand ready to be sent to Canadian forces in Europe.

FOCUS

1. What important role did the Canadian navy play during the First World War?
2. How did the Halifax Explosion bring the horror of the war home to Canadians?

Women at War

By 1900, women composed one-quarter of the manufacturing workforce in Canada. The largest number of women worked as domestic servants. Three of every four teachers were women. Female teachers were paid less than males, could not become principals, and



Women took skilled factory jobs to help meet the demands of war.

were largely confined to elementary schools. Before the war, some women began breaking out of traditional roles. By 1900, almost 1 in 10 university students was a woman. Still, women were pushed into arts programs and steered away from science courses. In 1895, Clara Brett Martin became Canada's first woman law graduate, although she had a difficult time practising her profession. In medicine, Emily Howard Stowe and Jennie Trout

were forced to train as physicians in the United States because no Canadian medical school would admit women. Cora Hind in Winnipeg and Kit Coleman in Toronto proved that women could be excellent journalists. But these were special cases. It was still

almost impossible for women to get hired for many jobs. They still could not vote. The war dramatically changed the lives of Canadian women.

The Needs of Industry

The wartime industrial boom created a problem. Male factory workers enlisted in the army. Women filled the gap by working in the war factories. Over 20 000 women were employed making guns, shells, and aircraft. These were skilled jobs. Before the war, women had done only unskilled work in the factories. Skilled jobs had been for men.

Women also replaced men in many civilian jobs. They became streetcar drivers, secretaries, and office managers. More than anything else, they worked farms to help plant and harvest the crops.

Women without paying jobs also did their part. They knitted socks for soldiers, sent letters and care packages, and visited the families of men who had been killed.

Women supported the Canadian Red Cross and other volunteer organizations.

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In Their Own Words



"When you're young, you do what everybody's doing.... Everybody wanted to be there; you were in the swim of things; everything was war, war, war. I think a lot of the girls.... they were a wonderful bunch, and I see so many of them to this day. They enriched my life so.

There was everybody, every single class.... In meeting these people that we had never had the opportunity to meet before, and finding they were just the same as we were, but they hadn't had the chances that we'd had for education and

that kind of thing, we began to realize that we were all sisters under the skins.

Wars do bring every class together and I think we need to do a little bit more of that without war if we can."

From Daphne Read, ed. *The Great War and Canadian Society: An Oral History* (Toronto: New Hogtown Press, 1978).

How was the war a positive experience for some women?

The Army Medical Corps

Wounded soldiers on the Western Front needed medical care. Over 3000 women became army nurses and ambulance drivers. They were called “Bluebirds” because they wore blue cloaks. Most of them served over-

seas. They willingly shared the dangers of warfare with Canadian men.

As the war continued, field hospitals and hospital ships became German targets. Forty-six “Bluebirds” lost their lives, some from German bombs and torpedoes.



Burial of Canadian nurses killed in a German air raid, May 1918.

Pacifists

Some Canadian women and men were **pacifists** and worked for peace. They tried to start a peace movement. They were tired of seeing the brutality of war and the total misery it brought everyone. Laura Hughes was niece of Sir Sam Hughes. She was a leading spokesperson for the Canadian Women’s Peace Party. The peace movement gained strength after the full horrors of the First World War were revealed.

The Right to Vote

Prime Minister Borden passed the Wartime Elections Act shortly before the 1917 election took place. This Act took the vote away from citizens who had emigrated from “enemy” countries. It was feared that they might vote against **conscription**. It gave the vote to women—but not all women. Only army nurses and close relatives of soldiers were allowed to vote, since they would probably support conscription, or compulsory service.

This Act was unfair to other women. In 1918, all women were given the vote, but they still could not be elected to Parliament. That right did not come until 1920. In 1921, Agnes Macphail became the first woman elected to the House of Commons. The first steps had been taken, but the long struggle for real equality had just begun.



Silver Cross mothers, like this one, were women who had lost sons in battle.

TIMELINE—Gaining the Vote, 1916–1922

Canadian women faced a long, uphill struggle to win political equality with men in the 20th century. One of the most important victories was gaining the right to vote. Here is a list of key dates:

- 1916** Women in the Western provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta won the right to vote in provincial elections.
- 1917** The Military Voters Act granted the vote in federal elections to Canadian nurses serving in the war. The Wartime Elections Act gave the vote in federal elections to close female relatives of soldiers. Women in British Columbia and Ontario won the right to vote in provincial elections.
- 1918** Prime Minister Borden's Union government gave the vote to Canadian women over 21 for federal elections.
- 1919** Women in New Brunswick won the right to vote in provincial elections.
- 1920** Canadian women earned the right to run in federal elections and become members of Parliament.
- 1922** Women in P.E.I. won the right to vote in provincial elections.

FOCUS

1. What new and important roles did Canadian women play during the First World War?
2. Why were women given the right to vote?
3. Why might immigrants from "enemy" countries vote against conscription? Why would women whose husbands, fathers, sons, or brothers were fighting in the war vote for conscription?

The War on the Home Front

Wars have traditionally been fought by soldiers. The First World War was the first war to involve all sections of society. It was a total war. In Canada, far from the battle lines, people made their contributions. The war put great stress and strain on Canadian society.



Women served on the battlefield and on the home front in this “total” war.

Farming

The war disrupted farming in Europe, which caused major shortages of food. More than three-fifths of the soldiers fighting in Europe came from farms. Canadian farmers had to fill a large part of the food shortages during the war. By the end of the war, “sod busters” in the West had doubled the land used for wheat farming. Cheese exports tripled. Pork and beef exports shot sky high.

Industry

Canadian business found new markets. Before the war, factories produced goods solely for the Canadian market. Few tried to compete outside the country. Most of the exports were raw materials—to be processed elsewhere.

Business people now saw new opportunities. Canadian companies started to make armaments for the Allied forces. Steel companies turned out shell cases. Others made fuses and explosives. By 1917, Canada was making one-third of the shells used by Britain during the war. This increased the demand for nickel and copper in northern mines and further boosted the economy.

Canadians made guns, airplane parts, submarines, and ships. Aluminum, nickel, railway tracks, and timber were all sent to Europe. Uniforms, equipment, and medical supplies were made for the Canadian Army.

Most Canadians worked hard to help the war effort. City workers gave up their free time to help farmers harvest the crops. Women entered the workforce to keep the soldiers supplied with essentials. Children worked in fields and created Victory gardens. Some bought “Victory stamps” to help pay

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for the war effort. Business people and government officials worked long hours without extra pay. All this activity created great opportunities for profit.

Profiteering

Most business people were content to take a fair mark-up, but some tried to “corner the market” on a product. A few engaged in what is known as **profiteering**. They would not sell until they could get the best price. Others used cheap materials and did sloppy work. The boots the first Canadian troops were given wore out in less than two months. Canned meat for soldiers sometimes came from diseased animals. Some industrialists used bribery to get government contracts.



Many women worked in factories as part of the war effort. Note the lack of safety precautions.

The War Measures Act

At the outset of the war, some Canadians were suspicious of those who had recently entered Canada from enemy countries. The same people who were asked by Clifford Sifton and his agents to come to Canada were now seen as security risks. Borden's government passed the **War Measures Act**. This Act had the power to take away freedoms and to arrest and detain “enemy aliens.”

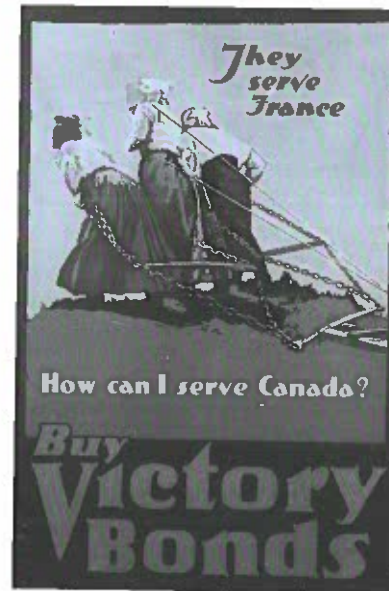
During the war, over 8000 men were sent to toil in remote camps across Canada. Ukrainian Canadians were a targeted group because many had come from lands controlled by Austria. Ukrainians were often denied work. The government **censored** or closed down their newspapers. No evidence was ever found that any of these people posed a threat to their adopted country.

Religious communities such as Hutterites and Mennonites who believed in nonviolence faced restrictions and harassment. Democracy and freedom also became victims of the war.

Victory Bonds

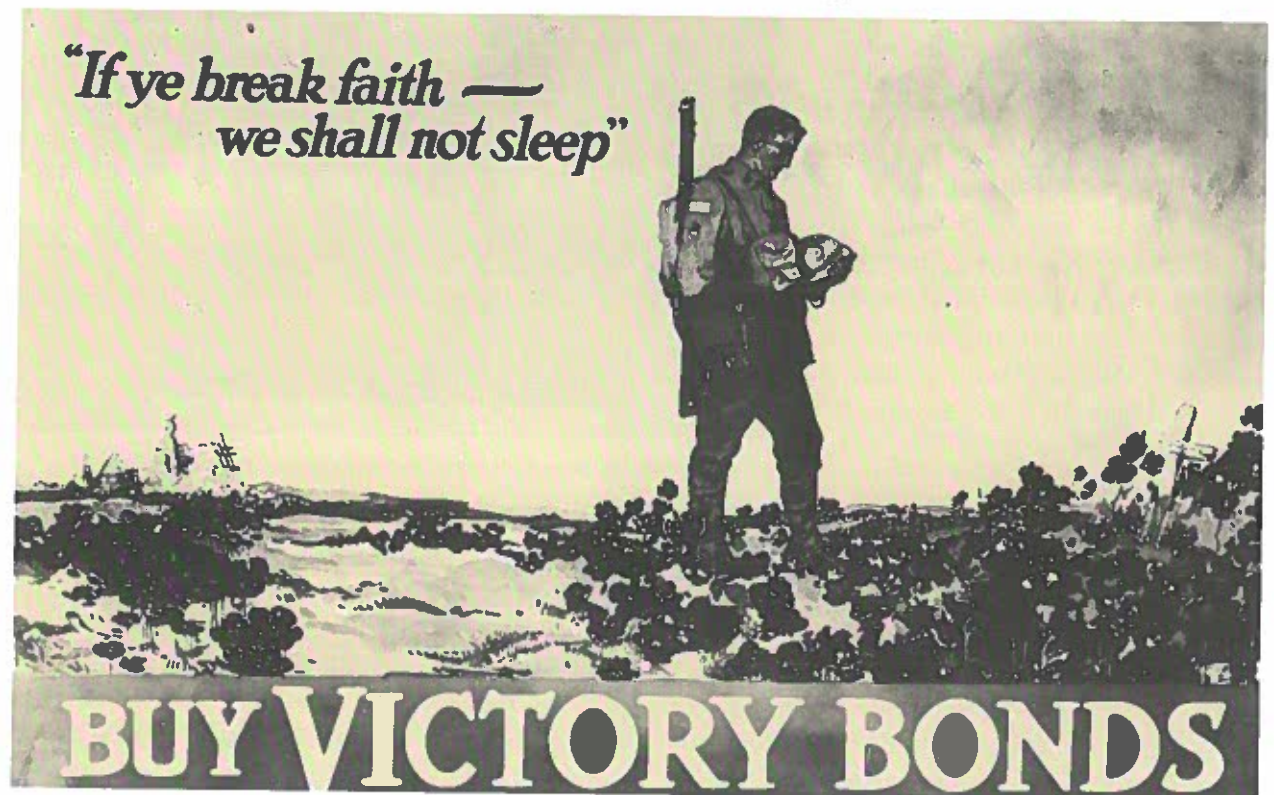
War is expensive. Canadians paid no tax on income or profit in the early 20th century. How could the government pay for the war?

To raise money, Canada issued Victory Bonds. Canadi-



ans were urged to buy bonds to help the war effort. After the war, they could cash in their bonds and get their money back with interest. Banks and large companies purchased most of the bonds, but ordinary citizens did their part as well.

Two new “temporary” taxes were introduced. The first was a business profits tax (now called Corporate Tax). The second was an income tax. Canadians still pay these taxes.



*Victory Bonds were a necessary part of the war effort. These advertisements used **propaganda** to attract support. Which of these posters is most effective? Why?*

Tommy Ricketts

BORN: 1901, Middle Arm, Newfoundland

DIED: 1967, St. John's, Newfoundland

SIGNIFICANCE: At only 17, he fought in the Battle of Beaumont-Hamel and became the youngest winner of a Victoria Cross for bravery.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY: Newfoundland was a British colony during the First World War. It did not join Confederation until 1949. The rugged Islanders were quick to volunteer alongside Canadians to stand beside Britain. The soldiers of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment took part in some of the war's bloodiest battles.

They were almost annihilated at the Battle of Beaumont-Hamel in 1916. One of their



young fighters became famous because of his courageous actions during the terrible battles of Europe.

Ricketts lied about his age and enlisted in the Newfoundland Regiment when he was only 14. He soon saw action and was wounded in 1917. In 1918, under heavy fire, Ricketts displayed uncommon courage. He raced, unarmed, across no man's land, to gather ammunition for his unit. He then led an attack against a German battery with no artillery support. This action resulted in the capture of German field and machine guns and eight prisoners.

After the war, Ricketts returned to Newfoundland, where he studied pharmacy at Memorial University in St. John's. When he died in 1967, he received a state funeral. Why is

Tommy Ricketts considered a hero?

CANADIAN LIVES

FOCUS

1. How did Canadian farmers, women and businesses help in the war effort?
2. How and why did Ukrainian Canadians become victims of the war?
3. What is profiteering?
4. How did young people help in the war effort?

Wartime Issues

Conscription

The Canadian army relied on volunteers for most of the war. Many young men were excited at the idea of fighting for their country. They rushed to volunteer to go overseas.

The horrors of the trenches soon changed that. Canadian soldiers earned a reputation for courage. They were often chosen for the toughest, most dangerous missions. They fought at Vimy Ridge in April 1917. That month more than 10 000 Canadian soldiers died, but fewer than 5000 men enlisted. The

volunteer system was not recruiting enough soldiers to replace the losses.

Prime Minister Borden had promised that his government would not introduce conscription. Now he had to break that promise. He called an election to win approval for conscription. This campaign was one of the fiercest in Canadian history.

People Against Conscription

The largest group against conscription was French Canadian. When the war started, many French Canadians volunteered to enter the army. The Royal 22nd Regiment, the “VanDoos” (from vingt-deux), was a French-speaking unit. It had a great fighting record throughout the war.

The minister of militia at the war’s beginning was Sam Hughes, an Irish Protestant. Hughes did not understand the French Canadians. He disliked Roman Catholics. He sent Protestant clergymen as recruiting officers to Quebec. He insisted the French soldiers be trained in English. Borden fired Hughes in 1916, but it was too late to save the situation in Quebec.

French Canadians felt that they were being asked to defend Britain, not Canada. Former prime minister Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the Opposition during the war, did not feel this way. He urged French Canadians to join the army, but did not think they should be forced to do so.

In Their Own Words

“When the war broke out, the country went mad. People were singing in the streets. Everybody wanted to go to war. We hadn’t had a war since the Boer War in 1899. Everybody was going to be a hero, and I wanted to be a hero too. But I wasn’t big enough. I was only 150 cm tall and weighed 40 kg. I was 19 but looked 15. Finally a drill sergeant said, ‘We need buglers!’ So I joined the army as a bugler.”

Bert Remington of Montreal,
who had emigrated from Britain in 1910.

“Me? I was probably as patriotic as most, but I was mainly restless. I joined up because it was a chance to see the world.”

Robert Swan, Yarmouth, N.S.

Are young people today as likely to want to go far away to fight a war? Explain.

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This poster says: Forward! For the King. For the Fatherland. For France. Your blood for humanity and freedom. To Arms! Sons of Montcalm [Battle of Quebec] and Chateaugay [A battle in the War of 1812 in which French Canadians defeated the invading Americans]. How does this poster try to stir up war fever among French Canadians? Is this an effective poster? Explain.

In the West, many settlers objected to conscription. They had moved to Canada to get away from European wars and conscription. They thought they had escaped that way of life. Now it seemed to be coming to Canada.

PATTERNS

By 1917, the war had grown even more desperate and bloody. People at home read the casualty lists. The wounded soldiers who returned home were often maimed and disfigured. Some were in baskets because they had no limbs. Few people now believed the war was glorious or that it would end soon. It became more difficult to find volunteers willing to risk their lives and future for a long, brutal struggle in a foreign land. Examine these statistics on enlistment and casualty figures.

| MONTH | ENLISTMENTS | CASUALTIES |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------------|
| January | 9 194 | 4 396 |
| February | 6 809 | 1 250 |
| March | 6 640 | 6 161 |
| April (Vimy Ridge) | 5 530 | 13 477 |
| May | 6 407 | 13 457 |
| June | 6 348 | 7 931 |
| July | 3 882 | 7 906 |
| August (Hill 70) | 3 117 | 13 232 |
| September | 3 588 | 10 990 |
| October | 4 884 | 5 929 |
| November (Passchendaele) | 4 019 | 30 741 |
| December | 3 921 | 7 476 |

What pattern seemed to be emerging? What was happening to the Canadian army? Why might these figures suggest a crisis?

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Canada's Aboriginal Fighters

Many Canadian communities supported Canada's efforts in the First World War. Canada's First Nations were particularly eager. At first, officials discouraged the recruitment of Aboriginal Canadians. Some held racist views. Others felt that the Aboriginals might be mistreated if captured. However, the need for men was great. Aboriginal Canadians persisted in their attempts to volunteer. About 4000 Aboriginal Canadians fought in the war. They were greatly valued as scouts and snipers. These were two of the most dangerous and important combat positions.

Scouts penetrated enemy positions and reported back to headquarters. As well, they created confusion behind enemy lines.

Snipers were crack shots. They could camouflage themselves and fire into the ranks of the enemy. Canada's best snipers were Aboriginal Canadians.

Francis "Peg" Pegahmagabow, an Ojibway from Parry Sound, Ontario, is credited with numerous hits on enemy soldiers. Henry "Ducky" Norwest, a Cree, had the

best sharp-shooting record in the British forces. He had 115 observed "kills." A Métis relative of Louis Riel, Patrick Riel, was also a skilled marksman with 38 "kills."

After the war, these soldiers returned to a Canada slow to recognize their efforts. Only recently has the Canadian government created a special war memorial in Ottawa. It is dedicated to the memory and contributions of Canada's Aboriginal fighters.



Tom Longboat, one of Canada's most famous Aboriginal athletes, set aside a running career to serve with distinction as a dispatch carrier with the 107th Pioneer Battalion in France. Here, he is shown buying a newspaper in France. What contributions to the war did Canada's Aboriginal soldiers make?

Many farmers objected to conscription. Their part in the war effort was to provide much-needed food. Who would work with them if their sons were taken away?

What the Government Did

Prime Minister Borden was convinced that conscription was necessary. He had to win the election to justify breaking his earlier promise. First, Borden asked Laurier to join him in a coalition or union government. Laurier could not do this. Although he supported the war effort, he was against conscription. He knew Quebec would be bitterly opposed. Borden then approached English-speaking Liberals. Some of them were for conscription. Several Liberals joined the Conservatives in a new party. They called it the Union Party.

The Election of 1917

The Union Party won the election with 153 seats; the Liberals had 82. Only 20 of those 82 seats came from outside Quebec. The results did not show the true feelings of the people. Many English-speaking Canadians did not want conscription, either.

The conscription issue aroused many bitter feelings. In Quebec, there were

bloody riots. Canadians were divided as they had not been since the execution of Louis Riel in 1885. Borden's wartime victory cost the nation dearly. Few conscripted men made it to the battlefields before the war ended.

A CLOSER LOOK AT PACIFISM

Canada is home to several religious communities for whom war is a mortal sin. These peoples were persecuted in other countries before immigrating to Canada. They were promised religious freedom in Canada. Mennonites from Russia and Holland settled the Canadian prairies in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Doukhobors from Russia settled first in Saskatchewan, and then in southern British Columbia in 1908. The first Quaker immigrants to this country fled the violence of the American Revolution. They had refused to join in military service. All of these communities are pacifist. They oppose war or any kind of military activity. They believe that violence is immoral and that the natural state of humankind is peace. Canada had guaranteed all of these communities the right to live according to their belief in nonviolence. Even though many of these people bought war bonds and helped in the factories and farms, they often faced hostility and ridicule. **Are you a pacifist? Why or why not?**

FOCUS

1. What was conscription?
2. Who was opposed to conscription and why?
3. What was the Union Party?
4. What was the result of the 1917 election?

The War Ends

The stalemate on the Western Front in France and Belgium continued into 1918. Neither side was able to win the battle that would bring victory.

Soldiers on all sides wondered why they were still fighting. The fighting offered little hope. For many, it meant certain death.

On the Eastern Front, Russians revolted against Tsar Nicholas II, in 1917. They

in 1918, the Russians signed a separate peace treaty with Germany. This was called the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. Germany then turned all of its armies against the Allies on the Western Front.

The United States Enters the War

When Germany announced unrestricted warfare against neutral shipping in April 1917, the United States entered the war on the side of Britain and France.

Germany knew that a large supply of American troops would arrive in France within the year. General Erich Ludendorff decided on a final German offensive before the American forces arrived.

Germany's last offensive began in April 1918. More than 3 million soldiers attacked, supported by massive artillery barrages. The German forces advanced over 60 km. It appeared that a major breakthrough had been achieved.



*The Tower, St. Martin's Cathedral, Ypres, Belgium, damaged by the war.
RIGHT: A Canadian soldier tends to a tiny victim of the war.*

demanded "Land, Bread, and Peace." Soldiers and sailors in Russia rebelled and refused to fight. Led by Vladimir Lenin, Russian communists seized power. In March



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But, British, French, and Canadian forces pulled back to new defensive lines. The German offensive slowed down.

Reinforcements poured in for a counter-attack. For the first time, these forces included thousands of American troops. The counter-attack began in July 1918. Canadian forces met with great success. This Allied advance forced the German army back. By August, the German army was in total retreat.

In Germany, there were riots because of food shortages and protests against continuing the war. Some members of the German navy mutinied and refused to go to sea. By October, it was obvious that Germany and its allies had lost the war. Negotiations for peace began.



ABOVE: People line the streets of Mons, Belgium, celebrating the end of the long and brutal war.

BELOW LEFT: Army doctors tend to the wounded.



An armistice was signed on 11 November 1918. At 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month, the war came to an end.

Over 9 million soldiers had died. More than 20 million more would live out their lives with wounds, shell shock, gassed lungs, and lost limbs, sight, or hearing. An equal number of civilians were also victims of war.

Sir Arthur Currie

BORN: 1875, Napperton, Ontario

DIED: 1933, Montreal, Quebec, while vice-chancellor of McGill University

SIGNIFICANCE: Currie was the first Commander of the Canadian Corps. He successfully led Canadian troops until the end of the war.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY: Currie was an active member of the militia when the First World War began in 1914. He was appointed Brigade Commander of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade. In 1915, he took over full command of the entire Canadian Division. In 1917, Currie was appointed Commander of the Canadian Corps. He planned the attack at Vimy Ridge. He wanted new tactics. He insisted on careful training of soldiers, close support of artillery, the element of surprise, and rehearsals on mock targets. Under Currie's careful control, Vimy Ridge fell to Canadian forces.



This victory is sometimes viewed as the birth of the Canadian nation. Troops from all over Canada fought as a single unit. Currie was thought of as a modern general with new ideas. British Prime Minister Lloyd George even considered him for Commander of all British forces.

After the war, Currie became the principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University. Though he had no formal post-secondary education himself, Currie was extremely successful at his administrative duties at the university.

HISTORICA

Minutes

Why was Currie seen as a “modern general”?

CANADIAN LIVES

In Their Own Words

This account appeared in a newspaper obituary (death notice) in 1992. It shows that there are other human costs in war, not just death or physical wounding. For some, wars never really end.

“World War I, the Great War, the war to end all wars! What a price was paid in human lives and human misery. It was all so long ago but there are still a few souls left to remind us of those far off times. My uncle ... was such a one. Perhaps there are those who would say he was fortunate to escape with his life, but I wonder what kind of life it has been for him. Uncle Jim and his brother John were fighting in the trenches in Passchendaele, France, when the call came to pull back. Jim would not leave without his brother and waded through the bodies, wiping the mud from the faces of the wounded and dying soldiers until he saw the face of his brother. He picked him up and carried him back behind the lines. Upon reaching the Red Cross medical tent, Jim placed his brother’s wounded body on the table. ‘Here,’ he said, ‘this is my brother, look after him—you have to save him.’

Jim then retreated outside into the darkness and collapsed. When he awoke hours later, he found himself lying on a pile of dead bodies. His brother was saved, but what of Jim? Uncle Jim was sent back home and made an effort to take up a normal semblance of his old life once more, but it was in vain. The ceaseless bombardment and the horror of the senseless slaughter of human lives had taken its toll. He retreated into a world where no war could reach him again.

Unfortunately, he also shut out the rest of the world.

In 1931, Jim was admitted to the Veterans’ Hospital where he remained until July 15, 1992. ‘Shell shock,’ they called it.

No physical injury, just a damaged mind. His days passed in a twilight world where no one could reach him. Yet I must believe that his sacrifice was not in vain, and I also must believe that he is at peace....”

**What price did Jim pay for his heroic effort?
What is shell shock?
Do you think that soldiers in modern wars can suffer shell shock? Explain.**

FOCUS

1. How did the following affect the stalemate on the Western Front?
(a) the Russian Revolution (b) the entry of the United States into the war
2. What is the origin of Remembrance Day?

The Treaty of Versailles

The November 11 Armistice ended the fighting. Germany agreed to withdraw its troops, to surrender its fleet to Great Britain, and to disarm its army.

The victorious powers met in Versailles, France, to draw up a permanent peace treaty. Strong differences of opinion existed among the Allied leaders. Georges Clemenceau, the French premier, wanted Germany to be punished. He demanded a harsh peace treaty.

American President Woodrow Wilson wanted a softer peace settlement. Wilson had

previously drawn up the “14 Points” as a basis for a settlement. These included such ideas as “national determination for all peoples,” “freedom of the seas,” and “open peace treaties rather than secret agreements.” One major proposal was for a League of Nations to guarantee world peace.

Germany expected a treaty based on the “14 Points.” Instead, the **Treaty of Versailles** included many of the harsher terms of Clemenceau and British Prime Minister Lloyd George.



Reaction to the Peace Treaty

The French and British considered the treaty to be fair and just. Both sides had lost hundreds of thousands of their youth in the horrible battles on the Western Front. Both were determined that the treaty should do everything possible to prevent the outbreak of another world war.

Most Germans were shocked by what they considered to be the treaty's harsh and unfair terms. The demand that Germany pay for the costs of the war (reparations) would crush their

War and Recognition

1900 1905 1910 1915 1920

struggling industries. They did not want to lose parts of their country to France, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. They did not like the limits put on their armed forces. The War Guilt Clause offended their sense of justice.

After 1919, the sense of injustice festered like an open wound. A myth developed that Germany had been “stabbed in the back” by civilians (mostly Jews). They had not been defeated on the field of battle. Fourteen years later, Adolf Hitler appeared to be the leader who would help Germany to avenge the Treaty of Versailles.



Adolf Hitler, seen here in the 1920s, blamed the Treaty of Versailles for the economic hardship Germany faced after the war. The First World War was not to be “The War to End All Wars.”

TREATY OF VERSAILLES

Geographical Terms

- Germany lost control of all its colonies.
- Alsace-Lorraine was transferred from Germany to France.
- The rich Saar coal region was to be run by France for 15 years.
- Part of eastern Germany was given to Poland.

Reparations

- Germany was to pay money and goods to Great Britain, France, and Belgium to repair damage caused by the war.

Military Controls

- The German Army was restricted to 100 000 people, and was to have no tanks or heavy guns.
- Germany was not to have an air force.
- The German Navy was to include only small ships.

War Guilt Clause (Article 231)

- Germany was forced to sign a statement that it had been the primary cause of the war.

Sir Robert Borden

BORN: 1854, Grand Pré, Nova Scotia

DIED: 1937, Ottawa, Ontario

SIGNIFICANCE: Borden was prime minister 1911–20. He led Canada through the long, difficult years of the First World War. He oversaw Canada's remarkable contribution of people, resources, and finances to the war effort. He encouraged the development of an independent Canadian identity. He won Canada its own place on the world stage.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY: Robert Borden often disliked serving as PM. He found the work tiring and depressing. Nevertheless, he successfully led Canada through some of the most important and divisive issues the young nation had ever faced.

In 1901, Borden became the Conservative Party leader.

In the tough election of 1911, Borden skillfully organized the defeat of Wilfrid Laurier. He worked with both English and French-Canadian nationalists to do this.

During the war, Borden insisted that Canadian soldiers fight as an independent unit.

He demanded and won a larger voice for Canada in the direction of the war. Under his leadership, Canada provided soldiers and vast quantities of war materials. As prime minister, Borden introduced legislation giving the vote to many Canadian women.

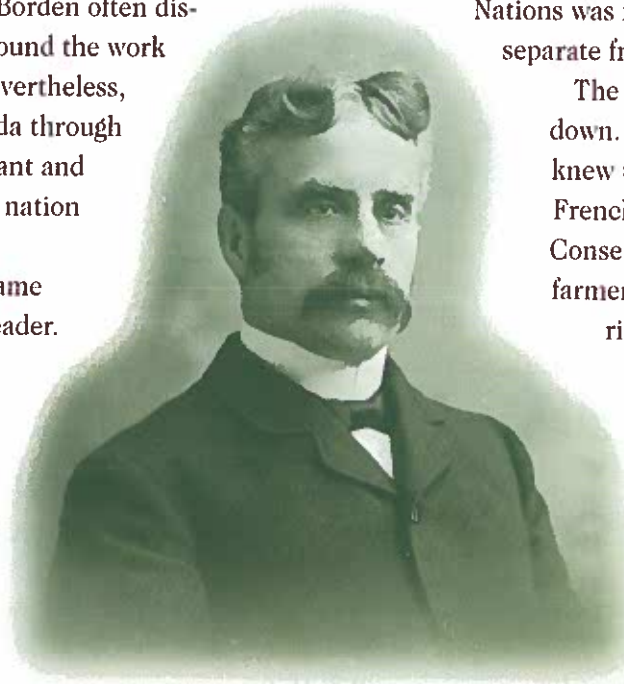
During the conscription crisis, Borden proved to be a shrewd, tough leader. He was able to steamroll over the opposition. When the war ended, he successfully insisted that Canada deserved its own place at the peace conference. When the League of Nations was formed, Canada joined on its own, separate from Great Britain.

The toll of the war years wore Borden down. In spite of his successes, Borden knew the country was also divided. French Canada turned away from the Conservative Party. Many workers and farmers thought the war benefited only rich manufacturers.

Other Canadians were troubled by the price Canadians had paid for victory and recognition. Suffering from poor health and political fatigue, Borden resigned in 1920.

In your view, what was Borden's greatest achievement?

Why?



CANADIAN LIVES

Canadian Vision

The Canadian War Memorials Fund

One of the most remarkable Canadians of both world wars was Max Aitken. He moved to England after earning a fortune in the Canadian newspaper business. He was named a British peer and took the title Lord Beaverbrook. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the war. Beaverbrook organized a highly effective and secret propaganda effort on behalf of the British government. He created the Canadian War Memorials Fund. This Fund hired artists to record the events of the war. About 800 works of art, many of great power and beauty, resulted. You can see some of these paintings at Canada's War Artists: <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/courage/canadaswarartists.html>.



The title of F. H. Varley's war painting is "For What?" How would you answer that question? Varley later gained fame as a member of the Group of Seven.

FOCUS

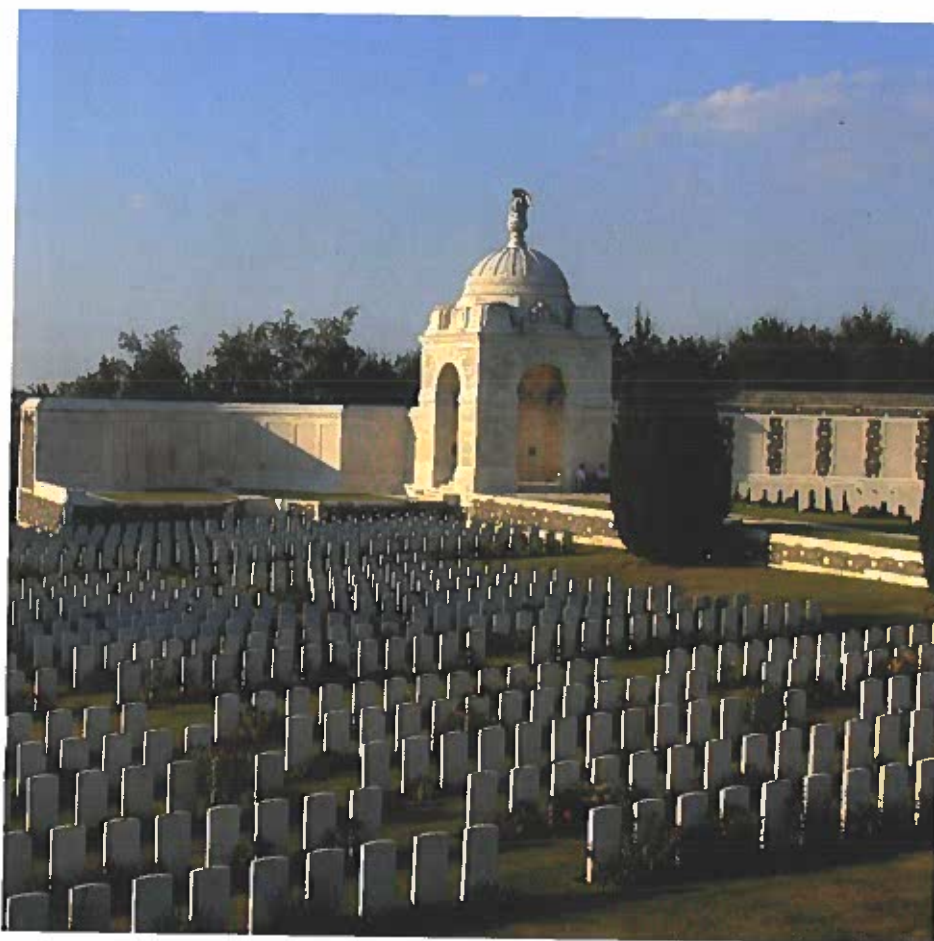
1. What was the Treaty of Versailles?
2. In your view, was the treaty fair? Explain.
3. How did the treaty help lead to the Second World War?
4. What lessons might be learned from the tragedy of the First World War?
5. Draft your own treaty and suggest why it is good.

A Changed Nation

After the victory parades and memorial church services, a different Canada emerged from the war. The war had united Canadians in their grief and in the glory of victories like Vimy. On the world stage, Canada had earned both respect and recognition. Canada

had its own seat at the peace conferences that followed the war. When the League of Nations was established, Canada was a member independent of Great Britain. Canadian pride and sense of national purpose had been dearly bought with Canadian blood.

Canada was also a tired, exhausted, and divided nation. Conscription split the country, particularly along language lines. Many average Canadians felt that only a few powerful business leaders had really benefited from the war. Women, who had experienced economic freedom during the war, soon found that the factory doors were closed to them at the end of the war. The feverish war economy was cooling and men were returning to their old jobs. Farmers found that the wartime markets had suddenly closed. Wartime repression had meant controls on freedom of thought and expression. Many Canadians born in foreign lands had been imprisoned or harassed. Soldiers hoping for new prosperity often found poverty, disease, and disappointment. It was a difficult and painful peace.



The site of the most desperate Allied offensive in Belgium, Tyne Cot Cemetery holds 12 000 soldiers, Canadians among them. Seventy percent are unidentified.

War and Recognition

1900 1905 1910 1915 1920

Canadians Shot at Dawn

Many thousands of Canadians died during the war, but 23 were deliberately executed by fellow soldiers. Canada followed the traditions of the British Army which executed deserters by a firing squad of their peers. Many of these 23 soldiers were teenagers who had no experience with war. They were executed because they were too afraid to fight, threw their weapons away, or fell asleep on duty. Apparently, one Canadian was shot because he reported late for duty after visiting his French girlfriend.

Arthur-Joseph Lapointe viewed the body of an executed fellow soldier. He noted: "His tunic was splattered with blood, and his head hung down on his chest. His face had such an air of resignation that he seemed to be smiling weakly, even in death. I carry with me such a vivid image of that horrible spectacle that it seems I will never forget it."

Today, most experts agree that this practice was barbaric. In 2001, the Canadian government issued an apology and added the

names to the Book of Remembrance on Parliament Hill. Some people continue to ask for a Royal pardon for these Canadians.

A White Man's War?

The Canadian armed forces rarely accepted visible minorities. The notion that non-whites had less intelligence caused many Canadians to believe non-whites would make poor soldiers. Some wondered what would happen if Blacks or Asians acquired a taste for killing white men. Others felt uncomfortable fighting next to people unlike themselves. Army commanders argued that their units would not work as well if racial minorities were admitted.

Throughout the war, officials repeatedly insisted that there was no "colour line." When visible minorities offered their services, however, they were turned down.

Fifty Blacks from Sydney, Nova Scotia, arrived at the recruitment office to be advised: "This is not for you fellows, this is a white man's war."



Jeremiah Jones distinguished himself at the Battle of Vimy Ridge, but was not awarded a medal.

Canada's visible minorities volunteered for battle out of a sense of patriotism and a yearning for adventure. They also believed that participation in the war would help improve the status of their people. The crisis in recruitment in 1917 helped crack the wall of racial prejudice. The Canadian military called for an all-Black labour battalion, headquartered in Nova Scotia. In all, more than 1000 African Canadians served in the Canadian forces.

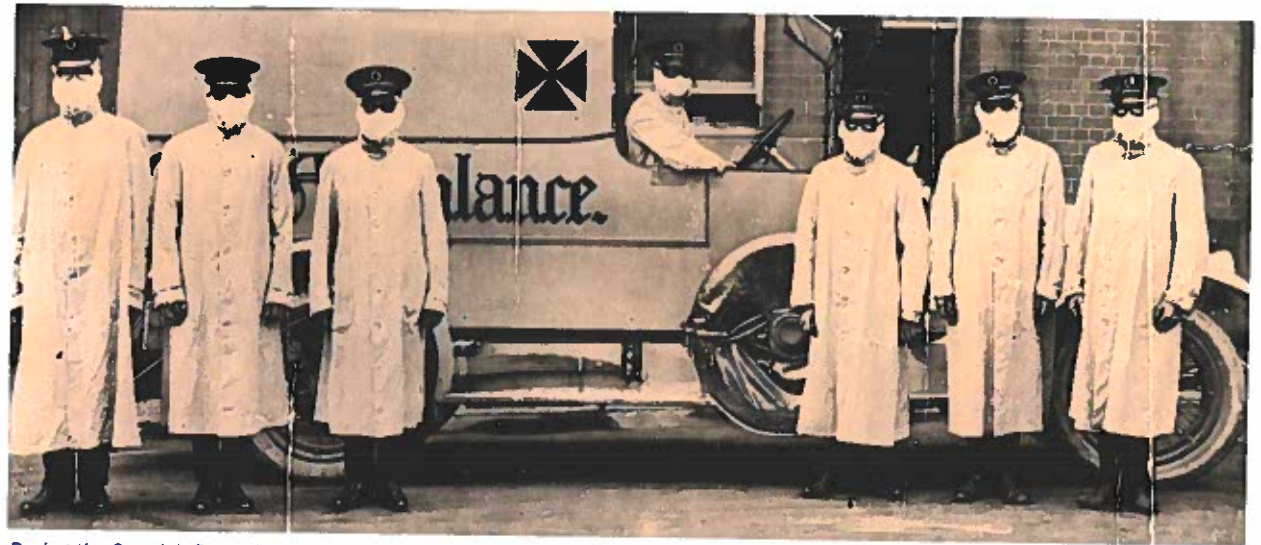
Prejudice did not stop once they enlisted. Units that were made up of visible minorities were likely to be pushed into forestry and construction activities. They were segregated whenever possible from whites. African Canadians were segregated on ships and in camps. They even had to wait for the creation of a separate "coloured" YMCA for their evening entertainment. Their service in the war did not change their status once they returned home. Their efforts were largely forgotten in accounts of the war effort. This

racism and discrimination is also part of the legacy of the war.

No. 2 Construction Battalion served honourably in France, providing lumber to maintain trenches on the front lines. Some members went on to serve in combat units. These included Jeremiah Jones who fought bravely at Vimy Ridge. Jones, 56, stormed across the ridge and seized an enemy machine gun nest by himself. "I threw a hand bomb right into the nest and killed about seven of them," he reported. The survivors surrendered to Jones. His commanding officer wanted to award him the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the second highest award for valour, but that did not happen.

A Deadly Epidemic: The Spanish Flu

In 1918–19, a silent killer stalked the world. A form of influenza, called the Spanish flu, killed between 20 and 40 million people, more than twice the number of soldiers who



During the Spanish flu, a simple gauze mask was all the protection people had. Even today, influenza takes about 1000 Canadian lives yearly. In 2003, a new influenza-type virus caused many deaths and much fear. SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) originated in China and caused many casualties in Canada, particularly in Ontario.

died during the war. Soldiers who had somehow survived years of trench warfare died at the hands of this mysterious virus. Its impact was similar to the Black Death that killed so many people in Europe in the 14th century. It arrived in Canada on ships crowded with returning troops. This virus infected 2 of every 9 Canadians. At its height, it killed 1000 Canadians a day. It claimed the lives of 50 000 Canadians.

The Spanish flu was carried on crowded troop ships to Europe where it thrived in the unclean wartime conditions. It returned to

North America on ships that were bringing back wounded soldiers. Authorities desperately tried to contain the disease. They quarantined sick people and closed schools, hospitals, churches, theatres, art galleries, dance halls, and more. Even the Stanley Cup playoffs were cancelled. The Spanish flu finally receded in the late spring of 1919. To a world still reeling from the horrific losses of the First World War, it was almost too much. It was not until the

1930s that the virus causing this influenza was identified.



Masked Albertans protecting themselves from the Spanish flu.

In Their Own Words

*They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them.*

These moving words from Laurence Binyon's poem "For the Fallen" are repeated at every meeting of the Royal Canadian Legion. What do you think is the purpose of reciting this verse, known as the Ode? For more information about the Royal Canadian Legion, visit www.legion.ca.

FOCUS

1. What were the major positive and negative results of the war for Canada?
2. What lessons have you learned from your study of the First World War?

Sharpening Your Skills

Evaluating documents for accuracy and bias

THE SKILL

Recognizing bias and deciphering fact from opinion

THE IMPORTANCE

Separating gossip from fact, and getting the story correct

Detectives examine evidence to reconstruct the crime and discover who committed it and why. Similarly, historians investigate evidence to reconstruct the past and discover what really happened. Both groups rely upon the evidence, the facts, they uncover.

Facts are pieces of information that can be proven to be true—W. L. Mackenzie King was the Canadian prime minister in 1940, or Céline Dion was born in Quebec. Sometimes, what seem like simple facts hide other more complicated facts. For example, the fact that George Brown, editor of the *Toronto Globe* newspaper, was shot and killed by an unhappy employee is really more complicated.

Brown was also the owner of the newspaper. And his wound was only superficial. Brown refused to take the doctor's advice and continued to work. As a result, his wound became infected and he died of gangrene. The above sen-

tence also implies that the motive for the shooting was the fact that the employee was unhappy. But unhappy workers don't usually shoot their bosses. Further research reveals that the worker was drunk. Still, drunk, unhappy employees rarely shoot their bosses. In fact, Brown had fired the worker earlier in the day. Drunk, the employee returned to get his belongings, ran into Brown, got into an argument, and shot Brown.

Simple statements can thus be misleading. They may hide a great deal of information that can put a different interpretation on the "facts."

In deciding what information to include in your report, it is essential to determine its accuracy. Almost every document is filled with opinions, values, feelings, conclusions, and biases. These ideas might be correct, but not necessarily. Before deciding whether to use such information, the historian examines the author's biases.

QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE ACCURACY AND BIAS

- **Who created the document?** Did the author's gender, age, political and religious beliefs, income, or ethnicity influence his or her interpretation?
- **Why did the author create the documents?** What motives might the author have, and how would this affect the reporting? Who was the author writing to (or for) and how might this influence what was said?
- **What was the author's relationship to the event?** Was the author in a good position to observe? How did the author learn of the event? Was the author an observer or a participant? Did the author understand the language being spoken?
- **When was the document recorded,** and does this affect its reliability?
- **How good was the author's physical ability to observe and report?** Was the author on drugs? Was he or she tired, sick, or bored? How good was the author's eyesight, hearing, and writing ability?
- **How knowledgeable was the author** on the topic and how reliable are his or her other writings?

People are shaped by their environment. Fifty years ago, for example, females were not considered very important. History books were written in sexist language. Statements such as “the pioneers took their wives and children with them to the West,” or “inventors and their wives,” or “a scientist must devote his every waking hour,” excluded women from these roles and gave the impression that science, invention, and pioneering were only male activities.

These authors didn't realize that they were being sexist—almost everyone thought that way. The same was true for racism. Modern-day historians must remember to account for such biases in their sources.

All documents should be viewed with skepticism. Here, at right, are some questions to ask of a document to determine its biases and reliability.

Application

What potential problems with bias or accuracy might exist for each type of evidence identified to the right? An autobiography, or personal telling of one's life story, for example, may have these problems: (a) memory lapses because it has been written years after events; (b) a bias because the author is the subject; (c) effects of having many of the people mentioned still alive; (d) an author's focus on leaving a good impression; (e) a bias stemming from the author being a participant.

- 1) A Canadian soldier's diary of the Battle at Vimy Ridge in the First World War
- 2) A newspaper reporter's account of this battle, the first battle he observed
- 3) A German soldier's diary of this battle
- 4) A Canadian soldier's letter about the battle to his girlfriend
- 5) The same soldier's letter to his best male friend
- 6) A radio report of the battle
- 7) A veteran's account of the battle told 50 years later
- 8) A Canadian nurse's report of the battle to the Red Cross

Questions & Activities

Match the person identified in column A with the description in column B.

| A | B |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Archduke Ferdinand | a) opposed conscription for Canada during the First World War |
| 2. General Von Schlieffen | b) was the leading German air ace |
| 3. Wilfrid Laurier | c) federal minister who insisted that Canadian soldiers fight together in their own army |
| 4. John McCrae | d) was assassinated in Sarajevo in an incident that sparked the outbreak of war |
| 5. Sam Hughes | e) wrote a poem about soldiers on the Western Front |
| 6. Billy Bishop | f) planned the German invasion of France |
| 7. Manfred von Richthofen | g) was the leading Canadian air ace |

Do Some Research

1. Find out more about the development of one of these weapons.
a) the fighter plane b) the machine gun
c) chlorine gas d) the submarine
e) the tank f) the dreadnought
2. What different kinds of weapons dominate warfare today?
3. Complete further research on the changing role of women during the First World War. Focus on either the home front or the battlefield.
4. Find out more about the causes and effects of the Halifax Explosion. Consider visiting the CBC Digital Archives at www.cbc.ca/archives and look at the file "The Halifax Explosion."

Be Creative

1. Prepare a newspaper on Canada's contribution to fighting the First World War. Your newspaper could include maps, interviews, letters, statistics, pictures, and editorials. Try to cover as many aspects of the war as possible, including recruitment and training, supplies and equipment, volunteer work, and fighting on land, on sea, and in air. Include as much primary source material as you can.
2. What does your school do for Remembrance Day each year? Design a Remembrance Day program for your class or school.
3. With another student, choose a person who played a prominent role at the time of the First World War. Conduct an interview, with one of you playing the interviewer and the other, the historical person. You will need to do further research in order to prepare questions and answers that will highlight the role that person played in the war. You might consider figures such as General Arthur Currie, Billy Bishop, and Prime Minister Borden.
4. Create your own Canadian Lives feature, similar to the one in this book, about someone involved in the war. Include a brief biography and illustration, and indicate why your subject is important. Make sure that you consult primary source material.
5. Organize a debate on one of the following topics related to the First World War:
a) Conscription or Not b) The Fairness of the Treaty of Versailles
c) Women and the Vote d) Should Canada Have Participated?

Discuss and Debate

1. What role did the following groups play during the war? Rank these groups in order of importance. Compare your ranking with that of other members of your class.
a) farming families **b)** city families
c) armament workers **d)** soldiers
e) nurses **f)** politicians
2. It has been said that “war brings out the best in people and the worst in people.” In small groups, compose two lists: The Best in People and The Worst in People. Compare your lists with those of other groups of students.
3. Here are two different opinions on the Treaty of Versailles. Read them and decide which you agree with most. Discuss the treaty with your classmates, giving reasons for your views.

I think the Treaty of Versailles was fair. Germany had caused the war. It had invaded Belgium, a neutral country, without excuse. Germany had been trying to expand for 75 years.

It had to be punished and it had to be weakened. When the new Soviet government in Russia wanted to withdraw from the war, Germany imposed much harsher terms in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk than the Western Allies did in the Treaty of Versailles. This kind of treaty was the only way to guarantee that a strong Germany would not cause another war. If the treaty was enforced, it would keep peace in Europe.

I think the Treaty of Versailles was too harsh. The war had not been caused by Germany alone; much of Europe was just as guilty. Making Germany pay all that money for the war meant its economy could not recover. Germany should not have had its colonies and so much territory taken away. After the war, the Allies and the Germans would have to live together. The treaty was so unfair that the Germans were bound to be resentful. They would look for a chance to get back what they had lost. This might lead to another war.

Web Watch

For more information about the First World War, consider a visit to the following:

Imperial War Museum: www.iwm.org.uk

World Wars Through Canadian Eyes: www.collections.ic.gc.ca

Canadian War Museum: www.warmuseum.ca

Canadian Military Heritage Museum: www.bfree.on.ca

Spartacus Internet Encyclopedia: www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk

The Aerodrome (air war): www.aerodrome.com

Veterans Affairs (soldiers, battles, diaries, etc.): www.vac-acc.gc.ca

Trenches on the Web: www.worldwar1.com

SUPERMAN



As classmates, Toronto-born Joe Shuster and Cleveland's Jerry Siegel created the character Superman, which was launched in Action Comics in June 1938. In July 1939 the "Man of Steel" was titled Superman.

HISTORICA
Minutes

Why do you think the character is still such a part of popular culture?