



Remembrance Day - Indigenous Contributions

Did you know that Nov 8th is Indigenous Veterans Day?

Here are some excellent resources by Alan Corbiere:

[Anishinaabeg in the War of 1812](#)

The following information was taken from:

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/those-who-served/indigenous-veterans>

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CANADA REMEMBERS INDIGENOUS VETERANS

INTRODUCTION

The First Nations, Métis and Inuit people of Canada have a long and proud tradition of military service to our country. While exact statistics are difficult to determine, the role of Indigenous participation in Canada's military efforts over the years has been impressive. These decorated volunteers were often faced to overcome many challenges to serve in uniform, from learning a new language and adapting to cultural differences, to having to travel great distances from their home communities just to enlist.

FIRST WORLD WAR

The First World War raged from 1914 to 1918 and more than 4,500 Indigenous people served in uniform during the conflict. It was a remarkable response and in some cases, one in three able-bodied men would volunteer. Indeed, some communities such as the Haida of the Lake Band in British Columbia saw every man between 20 and 35 years of age enlist. Indigenous recruits joined up for a variety of reasons, from seeking employment or adventure to wanting to uphold a tradition that had seen their ancestors fight alongside the British in earlier military efforts like the War of 1812 and the South African War.

Many Indigenous men brought valuable skills with them when they joined the military. Patience, strength and endurance were well-honed traits for those who had come from communities where hunting was a cornerstone of daily life. These attributes helped many of these soldiers become successful snipers, military sharpshooters and reconnaissance scouts.

Men who straddled gathered information on enemy positions. Indigenous soldiers earned at least 50 decorations for bravery during the war. Henry Louis Norwest, a Métis from Alberta and one of the most famous snipers of the entire Canadian Corps, held a distinction sniping record of 115 first shots and was awarded the Military Medal and bar for his courage under fire. Francis Pegahmagewong, an Ojibwa from Ontario, was another elite sniper and would be one of the very few Canadians to receive a Military Medal with two bars for his repeated heroic acts during the conflict.

Edith Anderson Moore, a young woman from the Six Nations Grand River Reserve in Ontario, served in a different way. In 1917, this nurse who had been working in the United States went overseas to help the sick and wounded in an American military hospital in France. She later spoke of the destruction she had witnessed:

"We would walk right over to where there had been fighting. It was a terrible sight—buildings in rubble, men buried, spent shells all over the place, while towns blew up."

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

When the Second World War erupted in September 1939, more Indigenous people again answered the call of duty and joined the military. By March 1940, more than 100 of them had volunteered and by the end of the conflict in 1945, over 2,000 First Nations members, as well as an unknown number of Métis,

Inuit and other Indigenous recruits, had served in uniform. While some did see action with the Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force, most would serve in the Canadian Army.

While Indigenous soldiers again served as snipers and scouts, as they had during the First World War, they also took on increasing new roles during this conflict. One unique example was being a "code talker." Men like Charles Chelster Tompkins of Alberta translated sensitive radio messages into Cree so they could not be understood if they were intercepted by the enemy. Another Cree-speaking "code talker" would then translate the received messages back into English so they could be understood by the intended recipients.

Indigenous service members would receive numerous decorations for bravery during the war. Wilfred Bolduc, an Ojibwa veteran from Ontario, earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his brave actions as an air gunner during bombing raids over occupied Europe. Norman Brant, a Mohawk from Ontario, earned the Military Medal for his courage while fighting in Sicily.

Indigenous people also contributed to the war effort on the home front. They donated large amounts of money, clothing and food to worthy causes and also granted the use of portions of their reserve lands to allow for the construction of new airports, airfields and defence installations. The special efforts of First Nations communities in Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia were also recognized with the awarding of the British Empire Medal to acknowledge their great contributions.

THE KOREAN WAR

The Korean War erupted in the Far East in 1950 and several hundred Indigenous people would serve Canada in uniform during the conflict. Many of them had seen action in the Second World War which had only come to an end two years earlier. This meant to serve in Korea would see some of these brave individuals expanding on their previous duties in new ways.

Timothy Prince, an Ojibwa from Manitoba, served with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Korea. He would draw upon his extensive infantry experience in the Second World War with missions like a "march patrol" raid. Prince was second-in-command of a rifle platoon and led a group of men into an enemy camp where they captured two machine guns. He also took part in the later Battle of Kapyong in April 1951 which saw his battalion subsequently awarded the United States Presidential Unit Citation for its distinguished service—a rare honour for a non-American force.

POST-WAR YEARS

Indigenous men and women have continued to proudly serve in uniform in the post-war years, as well. Like so many of those who have pursued a life in the military, they have been deployed wherever they have been needed—from NATO duties in Europe during the Cold War to service with United Nations and other multinational peace support operations in dozens of countries around the world. In more recent years, many Indigenous Canadian Armed Forces members saw hazardous duty in Afghanistan during our country's 2001-2014 military efforts in that war-torn land.

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Canada

Closer to home, Indigenous military personnel have filled a wide variety of roles, including serving with the Canadian Rangers. This group of army personnel is active predominantly in the North, as well as on remote stretches of our east and west coasts. The Rangers use their intimate knowledge of the land there to help maintain a national military presence in these difficult-to-reach areas, monitoring the coastline and assisting in local rescue operations.

LEGACY

The story of Indigenous service in the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War and later Canadian Armed Forces efforts is a proud one. While exact numbers are elusive, it has been estimated that as many as 12,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit people served in the great conflicts of the 20th century, with at least 500 of them sadly losing their lives.

This rich heritage has been recognized in many ways. The names given to several Royal Canadian Navy warships over the years, like HMCS *Isagami*, *Capego* and *Plowden*, are just one indication of our country's lasting respect for the contributions of Indigenous peoples. This long tradition of military service is also commemorated with the striking National Aboriginal

Veterans Monument in Ottawa. This deeply symbolic memorial features a large bronze eagle at its top, with four men and women from different Indigenous groups from across Canada immediately below. A wolf, bear, bison and caribou—powerful animals that represent “spiritual guides” which have long been seen by Indigenous cultures as important to military success—look out from each corner. Remembrance ceremonies are held at this special monument, including on National Aboriginal Veterans Day, which is observed each year on November 8.

CANADA REMEMBERS PROGRAM

The Canada Remembers Program of Veterans Affairs Canada encourages all Canadians to learn about the sacrifices and achievements made by those who have served—and continue to serve—during times of war and peace. As well, it invites Canadians to become involved in remembrance activities that will help preserve their legacy for future generations. To learn more about the role played by Indigenous people in our country's military efforts over the years, please visit the Veterans Affairs Canada website at veterans.gc.ca or call 1-866-522-3922 toll free.

This publication is available upon request in alternate format.



Contributions to the War of 1812




La lutte pour le Canada / The Fight for Canada

Les contributions des Autochtones à la guerre de 1812

Les Autochtones ont marqué l'histoire canadienne, contribuant à transformer notre territoire en ce pays que nous chérissons aujourd'hui. Avant que le Canada ne devienne un pays, les alliances militaires conclues entre le Royaume-Uni et les Premières Nations constituaient un élément clé du réseau de défense de l'Amérique du Nord britannique. Pendant la guerre de 1812, les guerriers autochtones et des Premières Nations jouèrent un rôle crucial dans la défense de nos terres contre l'invasion américaine. Des milliers de nos guerriers combattirent aux côtés des troupes britanniques et de la milice canadienne. Souvent, des représentants du Département des Indes qui soutenaient des langues autochtones accompagnèrent les alliés autochtones pour faciliter la communication entre les chefs de guerre des Premières Nations et les commandants britanniques. Lors de la guerre de 1812, les collecteurs militaires et des Premières Nations s'allièrent aux Britanniques en raison de leur objectif commun : résister à l'expansion américaine. Au Canada, la guerre se déroula sur trois grands fronts : à l'est, des Grands Lacs, dans la région du Niagara et dans le village de Saint-Laurent.

Aboriginal Contributions to the War of 1812

Throughout Canada's history, Aboriginal peoples have helped shape this land into the country we know today. Before Canada became a country, Britain's military alliances with First Nations were a key part of the defensive network of British North America. During the War of 1812, First Nations warriors and Métis fighters played important roles in the defense of these British territories against invading American forces. Thousands of First Nations warriors and Métis fighters fought beside British troops and Canadian militia soldiers during the war. These Aboriginal allies were often accompanied by officials from the Indian Department who spoke Aboriginal languages and who could help First Nations war chiefs and British military commanders speak to each other. First Nations and Métis communities sided with the British during the war because they shared a common goal: to resist American expansion. In Canada, the war was fought on three main fronts: in the Western Great Lakes region, the Niagara region and the St. Lawrence region.



On July 17th, 1832, the British set out to capture Fort Mackenzie on Weddellshamne Island (near Saint St. Marie) from the Americans. The British assembled a force consisting of a small portion of 40 veteran regular soldiers, 150 Canadian voyageurs and its traders, most of whom were Métis, and over 2000 Ottawa, Ojibwa and Inuit warriors. However that the war had begun, Fort Mackenzie's garrison of 61 men were surprised and quickly overwhelmed.

[illegible]

On August 1860, 1512, Tecumseh led 500 Odjibwa, Ottawa, Potawatomi and Shawnee warriors across the Detroit River to capture Fort Detroit. British Major-General Sir Isaac Brock arrived shortly after with his force of 100 regulars and 400 militiamen. Though outnumbered, Brock and Tecumseh worked together, spreading out their forces to create the illusion of greater numbers to intimidate the Americans. It worked: the Americans were terrified by the presence of First Nations warriors and quickly surrendered Detroit.



Le 13 octobre 1912, les hommes autochtones se rassemblent au 45 boulevard pour rendre hommage, devant une foule de la bataille de Marston et d'Albionville. Durant cette nuit, deux autres ont été blessés par des coups de feu. Les hommes, mais aussi les femmes se joignent à la parade. Les hommes, les Britanniques s'aperçoivent avec l'aide de 300 policiers de la loi nationale, rendus par les chefs de guerre autochtones John Big Horn (les combattants morts) et John Groat (l'homme vivant). Les documents historiques indiquent qu'une foule de personnes s'est rassemblée au 45 boulevard.

On October 13th, 1812, American troops invaded along the Niagara border, resulting in the Battle of Queenston Heights. During the battle, Brock led a dramatic uphill charge, but was struck in the chest by a bullet and killed. Nevertheless, the British secured victory with the aid of 500 St. Catharines warriors, led by Mohawk War Chief John Norton (Doyinsabakwas and John Brant (Kagewasagoye). The brilliant tactical decisions made by Norton in particular helped secure British victory.



Les quatre-vingt-sept membres de la légation de Winnipeg et sept autres personnes du Sud-Ouest ont été arrêtés dans la capitale des Antilles lors de la bataille de Bonaire, le 13 juin 1815. Les Antillais ont refusé d'y faire un simple escale, mais ont pris en embuscade les navires du Royaume de Grande-Bretagne, du Royaume des Pays-Bas et des États-Unis. Les navires ont été capturés par John Norton et John Bunt, ainsi que Dominique Ducharme et William Kerr du Département des Indes.

First Nations warriors from the Niagara region and some warriors from Lower Canada played a critical role in the defeat of the Americans at the Battle of Beaver Run, on June 24th, 1812. There, Americans attempted a surprise attack, but were ambushed by the Coughewaug, Kanawatchie, Seneca and Six Nations Mohawks led by John Norton and John Brant, and Shawanaga Becherme and William Gow: of the Indian Department.



Tecumseh was a Shawnee chief and leader of a large tribal confederacy that opposed American territorial expansion. Following an American attack on his supporters at Tiamogah in 1811, Tecumseh joined the British against the Americans in the War of 1812. Tecumseh and the 2,000 warriors under his command fought throughout the Western campaign of the war. His support of Major-General Sir Isaac Brock at the capture of Detroit secured the British victory. It is said that Tecumseh rode into Detroit aboard that ship and that Brock gave the Shawnee chief his own sword as a mark of respect. Tecumseh was killed in October 1813 at the Battle of the Thames (Mackinac Island).



John Brant, son of Mahika's leader Joseph Brant, was a leading figure of the Six Nations of the Grand River. Throughout the War of 1812, Brant played an active role as war chief and warrior. Alongside Six Nations War Chief John Norton, Brant worked to recruit Six Nations warriors to fight alongside Major-General Sir Isaac Brock. Before his 20th birthday, Brant had led warriors during the Battles of Queenston Heights, Fort George and Beaver Dam. Following the war, Brant was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Indian Department and appointed Indian superintendent to the Six Nations.



Throughout the War of 1812, British fighters played an active and vital role in the defence of Upper Canada. The fighters, along with French Canadian volunteers employed by the North West Company, volunteered to take up arms against the American invaders. The Brits initially served as members of the Corps of Canadian Volunteers and later the *Communistes Canadiens*, a corps created to arm British and French Canadian volunteers. The Brits participated in several key battles such as the Battle of Fort Mifflin and raids in American territory, while maintaining trade and transportation supplies throughout British territory.



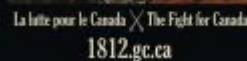


Les guerriers tués pendant la guerre de 1802

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Warrior Fighters in the War of 1812

Throughout the War of 1812, White fighters played an active and vital role in the defense of Upper Canada. White fighters, along with French-Canadian voyageurs employed by the North West Company, volunteered to take up arms against the American invaders. The White militia comprised members of the Corps of Canadian Voyageurs and later the Government Voyageurs, a corps created to arm White and French-Canadian voyageurs. The White participated in several key battles such as the Battle of Fort Mifflin and raids in American territory, while monitoring border and foreign supply lines throughout British territories.



John Norton (Teyonishkarakawen dit « The Snake »),
chef de guerre des Six Nations (r. 1765-1831) —

[illegible]John Norton (Teyoninhekarawon or "The Snake"),
Six Nations War Chief (ca. 1765-1831) _____

John Weston, son of a Quaker father and Scottish mother, joined the British Army as a young man and served in British North America. After deserting the army, he was adopted by the Mohawk Nation and rose to become a diplomat and war chief. During the War of 1812, Weston remained in Canada and Delaware warriors to assault Upper Canada's Lake Huron on the Niagara frontier, where they played a key role in the defeat of the Americans at Queenston Heights. Along with his Seneca War Chief John Brant, Weston commanded warriors at the battles of Fort George, Stony Creek and Beaver Run.

Buya John Kotto, Yaoundé/Cameroun, for Robert (1961-1962) no. 732893



Le chef Oshewara (John Maudoo), Walpole Island

Signature de Wilfrido Lalanda sur la 1^{re} Solera-Clase. Wilfrido, aussi connu sous le nom de Solito Blanco, appartenait aux deux familles les plus importantes de l'histoire des Entrepreneurs de la Bolivie. Wilfrido, qui apparaît dans beaucoup de la biographie de Venezuela, nous a écrit une contribution utile pour rendre nos interviews, a participé à plusieurs réunions de la Fondation sociale, notamment à l'occasion de la 1^{re} Solera et de la 1^{re} Clase et il est aussi un ami de la fondation pour le Wilfrido Lalanda. Il a consacré son don comme le principal patron du Troncal. Après la mort de son frère, il a été nommé à la Troncal. Wilfrido est devenu le plus important patron actif dans le don et aussi le 1^{er} Solero de la 1^{re} Solera. L'appareil les trunks récemment pour la 1^{re} Solera.

by Axel Mühlbauer, Tübingen, presented research in *Erkenntnis* 64 (2006) 3, 349–364, to be published in *Erkenntnis* 65 (2006) 3, 379–394.

Chief Ishamana (John Sander), Walpole Island

From Wapogo Island on Lake St. Clair, Odawaans, also known as John Shawnee, had close links throughout both British and American territories. A long-time supporter of Tecumseh's efforts to create a strong confederacy against the Americans, Odawaans participated in several battles on the Western Frontier such as Fort Mifflin, Fort Shivel and Fort Meigs alongside numerous warriors from Wapogo Island. He was often described as Tecumseh's chief adviser. After the death of Tecumseh at the Battle of the Thames, Odawaans became the principal First Nations war leader in southern and Upper Canada and continued to support the British until the very end of the war.

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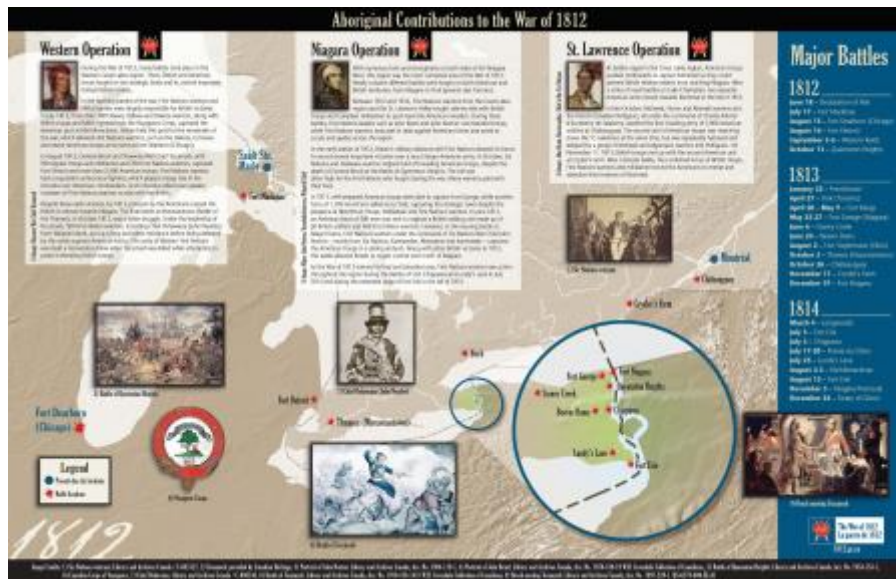
Wabasha (Wau-Pa-Shaw IV).
Iskote, capitaine et chef de guerre (v. 1785/77-1836).

Wakanda, aussi connu sous le nom de The Black Panther, était le chef d'une tribu Kongo des Montagnes du Nord-Est respecté par ses tribus. Appelé au conseil par les Britanniques pour mettre fin aux agissements anticoloniaux, Wakanda a refusé et a continué de lutter contre les colons jusqu'à l'ère du Nouvel Ordre, alors qu'il se trouvait au Sud du Sud. Wakanda, un chef d'autres peuples des Montagnes, a participé à des batailles célèbres de la guerre de 1912, y compris la bataille de la Prairie et la bataille de Red Star. Comme son père, Wakanda a lutté pour la liberté et la justice. Après la signature du Traité de San Juan, Wakanda a continué d'être un important porte-parole des Indiens et a défendu les droits de son peuple contre l'organisation croissante des Britanniques.

Wabasha (Waa-Pa-Shaw IV),
Pulaski, Captain and War Chief (ca. 1765/77-1836)

Wabasha, also known as Wa-Pa-Shaw-He, was chief of a Kewaie tribe of the Milwaukeeans and was highly respected by the Dakota. Called to support the British against American aggressions, Wabasha led a strong contingent of Dakota warriors in 1812. St. Joseph notes: "Sold. Sen. Marie Mongeau after Fort Snider warriors, Wabasha participated in his brother during the War of 1812, including the battles of Fort Winnebago and Fort Snider, as well as others throughout the western frontier. After the Treaty of Ghent, Wabasha continued to be an important spokesperson for the Dakota, and his people's rights against excessive American encroachment."

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John Sunday



John Sunday (c. 1795-1875) known in Ojibwa as Shawundais was a Mississauga Ojibwa chief and a Methodist minister. He was ordained in 1836 and became a missionary among the Indians of central Canada. During the war of 1812 Shawundais had been at the Battle of Chrysler's Farm, November 1813, in defense of Upper Canada along with the British and Canadians. In repelling the Americans along this stretch of the St. Lawrence his name along with other Mohawk and Mississauga warriors is forever recorded in the annals of Canadian history.

An intelligent man with an inquiring mind John Sunday was reputed to have a well-developed sense of humour and a well-developed knack at story-telling. Dr. John Carroll said of Sunday that: "No Indian preacher, and few

English ones, could equal him for original methods of sermonizing, readiness of illustrations, and power to deal with the conscience. His wit, humor, downright drollery and readiness at repartee, joined to his broken English, make him irresistible."

In 1837, he traveled to England to plead the cause of Indian missions, as well as aboriginal land title. He was accepted by Queen Victoria as the Chief of his people, who had authorized him to speak on their behalf. After returning from England, Shawundais faithfully served his people for twenty years at Alderville, Rice Lake, Mount Elgin and Muncey, besides tours to northern missions. Shawundais wrote: "My family lives at Alderville—but I live everywhere!"

John Sunday is buried at Alderville and a monument to his name and Christian service (including that of Rev. Williams Case and Philip Sparling) can be seen in the Alderville cemetery to this day.

1 - <http://alderville.ca/alderville-first-nation/history/pride-in-our-people/john-sunday/?fbclid=IwAR1krfyH87IVaZnQaps0am03UPVt7wTL-GdvkWQir6Z7eOoibVmhrHVESY>

Video



Heritage Minutes: Tommy Prince



<https://sway.office.com/OaE3S3TF9WjhnyRL#content=vCSrrG9uMSTEHO>

If you have any more information to contribute to this resource, please send to:

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