

(/47)

Name: _____

Canadian Indigenous Veterans

The contributions of Indigenous veterans in Canada have often been overlooked, despite their significant role in shaping the nation's military history. Many Indigenous people volunteered for service in both World Wars, the Korean War, and other military conflicts. These veterans faced challenges both during and after their service due to systemic discrimination and cultural differences. Understanding their experiences helps us to recognize their sacrifices and the unique barriers they faced.



Section A (/25 marks):

Using **Article 1** (Tommy Prince), fill in the blanks with the correct words.

1. Tommy Prince was born in _____, Manitoba in October 1915.
He was a survivor of the _____ system.
2. Tommy Prince fought in both the _____ War and the _____ War. He was awarded a total number of _____ medals for his service.
3. During his time on the Brokenhead reserve, Prince was taught how to become a skilled _____ and _____ by his father.
4. Another name for Prince's specialized assault team, called the 1st Special Service Force (1st SSF), was _____. This was the name known to the enemy.
5. While stationed at an abandoned farmhouse, Prince set up an _____ and used a communication line to report on German movements for _____ days.
6. Disguised as a _____, Tommy pretended to work the land around the farmhouse while secretly fixing the severed wire of the communication line. This led to the destruction of _____ German tanks.
7. Even after military service, as a result of _____, Prince was not allowed to _____ in federal elections, and was refused the same benefits as other Canadian veterans.
8. Facing unemployment and discrimination, he re-enlisted in the military and served with the _____
_____ (_____).

9. After returning home, Prince dedicated himself to attaining increased _____ and _____ opportunities for Indigenous peoples.

Section B (/5 marks):

Using **Article 2** (Indigenous Veterans), answer each of the following questions by circling the **best** answer from the choices.

1. Approximately, how many **Indigenous people from Canada** served in the First World War?
 - a. More than 4,000
 - b. Less than 4,000
 - c. 40,000
 - d. 350
2. Which of the following statements about Henry Louis Norwest is **not true**?
 - a. He is Métis
 - b. He was born in Calgary, Alberta
 - c. He held a divisional sniping record of 115 fatal shots
 - d. He was awarded the Military Medal and bar for his courage under fire
3. Which unique role did Charles “Checker” Tomkins serve during **WWII**?
 - a. Pilot
 - b. Sniper
 - c. Code Talker
 - d. Prime Minister
4. Which of the following did Indigenous Canadian Veterans experience after returning home from **WWI**?
 - a. Their reserve land was expropriated (stolen) and permanently given away
 - b. Continued forced assimilation through residential, industrial and day schools
 - c. Most were unable to receive their pensions, grants and benefits
 - d. All of the above
5. Which of the following is a way that Canada has **commemorated the contributions** of Indigenous Veterans?
 - a. Giving them their land back
 - b. Creating a national holiday on July 1
 - c. Through the naming of Navy ships and the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument
 - d. By offering guaranteed scholarships and benefits to Indigenous youth who serve in the military

Section C (/8 marks):

Using **Article 3** (Indigenous War Heroes), match each Indigenous Veteran with their accomplishments. **Write the correct number next to their name.**

<u>Indigenous Veteran</u>	<u>Accomplishment</u>
A) Tom Charles Longboat _____	1) One of the first Canadians to receive the Military Medal. Also carried messages during battles at Ypres, Festubert and Givenchy.
B) Henry Louis Norwest _____	2) Displayed magnificent courage and fighting spirit. Described as an “outstanding example to all ranks of the Regiment.”
C) George McLean _____	3) A sniper during the capture of the Pimple at Vimy Ridge.
D) Charles Henry Byce _____	4) Surprised a group of enemy engineers who were preparing to blow up a road mine.
E) Alexander Smith _____	5) Famous long-distance runner. Also served as a dispatch carrier and ran important messages between units.
F) Oliver Milton Martin _____	6) Single-handedly captured 19 prisoners, and later prevented 5 prisoners from reaching a machine gun, by himself.
G) Charles Smith _____	7) Earned the highest rank ever held by an Indigenous Canadian - Brigadier.
H) Francis Pegahmagabow _____	8) Proceeded with a party of bombers and captured an enemy trench and 50 prisoners.

Section D (/9 marks):

Please answer the following questions in **2-3 paragraphs**. Use the rubric below to help guide your response.

Criteria	3 marks	2 marks	1 mark	0 marks
(1) Historical Treatment of Indigenous Veterans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Clearly explains how Indigenous Peoples were treated during and after military service. -Includes specific examples from the articles or outside sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Briefly describes the treatment of Indigenous soldiers/veterans without going in detail. -Response only covers during OR after service — not both. -Only vague or general examples are included. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provides a vague response on how Indigenous soldiers/veterans were treated. -Includes no examples of the treatment. 	Question was not answered or was answered with completely inaccurate or irrelevant information.
(2) Government Actions Taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identifies and explains specific government efforts to address the treatment of Indigenous soldiers/veterans. -Gives insight on how these actions connect to reconciliation. Alternatively, insight is provided on their shortcomings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identifies and explains specific government efforts to address the treatment of Indigenous soldiers/veterans. -Does not give insight on their connection to reconciliation or their shortcomings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Gives a general mention of actions the government has taken with no specific examples referenced — regardless of whether insights are provided or not. 	Question was not answered or was answered with completely inaccurate or irrelevant information.
(3) Future Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Offers realistic suggestions for further actions. -A rationale for each suggestion is provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Offers realistic suggestions. -Rationales are provided for only some of the suggestions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Offers suggestions that could be realistic, but does not provide a rationale for any of them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Did not provide any suggestions for further actions OR the suggestions did not appear to be realistic. -If suggestions were given, no rationale was provided.

Response Questions:

(1) How were Indigenous Peoples treated **both during and after** their military service in Canada, and (2) how has the government worked to address this treatment? (3)

What **further actions** could be taken to better support Indigenous veterans and recognize their contributions?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

ARTICLE 1: TOMMY PRINCE

Originally by Laura Neilson Bonikowsky (adapted for this assignment)

Thomas George Prince, war hero, Indigenous advocate (born 25 October 1915 in Petersfield, MB; died 25 November 1977 in Winnipeg, MB). Tommy Prince of the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation is one of the most-decorated Indigenous war veterans in Canada, having been awarded a total of 11 medals for his service in the Second World War and the Korean War. When he died, he was honoured at his funeral by his First Nation, the province of Manitoba, Canada and the governments of France, Italy and the United States.



Tommy Prince

Tommy Prince is one of the most-decorated Indigenous war veterans in Canada.



Tommy and Morris Prince

Sergeant Tommy Prince (R), M.M., 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, with his brother, Private Morris Prince, at an investiture at Buckingham Palace. February 12th, 1945.

Early Life

Tommy Prince was born in a canvas tent in Petersfield, Manitoba, in October 1915, one of 11 children born to Henry and Arabella Prince of the Brokenhead band of Ojibwe. He was a descendent of Peguis, the Salteaux chief. When he was five, his family moved to the Brokenhead reserve (now known as Brokenhead Ojibway Nation) in Scanterbury. Prince was a survivor of the residential school system.

Prince learned to be a superb marksman and an excellent tracker on the reserve. His father, a hunter and a trapper, taught him. Prince applied to join the Canadian military several times but was rejected. Indigenous people faced widespread discrimination and that likely played a role in his rejection. He was finally accepted in the early years of the Second World War.

Devil's Brigade

Prince enlisted in the Canadian Army on 3 June 1940 and was assigned to the 1st Field Park Company of the Royal Canadian Engineers. By 1942 Prince was a sergeant with the Canadian Parachute Battalion. Posted to the 1st Canadian Special Service Battalion, he was among a select group of Canadian soldiers sent to train with an American unit to form a specialized assault team. They became the 1st Special Service Force (1st SSF), known to the enemy as the "Devil's Brigade." The name was adopted by Hollywood as the title of a 1968 portrayal of the elite unit. Prince was portrayed as "Chief."

Prince distinguished himself with the 1st SSF in Italy and France, using the skills he'd learned growing up on the reserve. He displayed his covert abilities in a celebrated action near the front line in Anzio, Italy. In February 1944, he volunteered to run a communication line 1,400 metres out to an abandoned farmhouse that sat just 200 metres from a German artillery position. He set up an observation post in the farmhouse and for three days reported on German movements via a communication wire.

When the wire was severed during shelling, he disguised himself as a peasant farmer and pretended to work the land around the farmhouse. He stooped to tie his shoes and fixed the wire while German soldiers watched, oblivious to his true identity. At one point, he shook his fist at the Germans, and then at the Allies, pretending to be disgusted with both. His actions resulted in the destruction of four German tanks that had been firing on Allied troops.

In France in the summer of 1944, Prince endured a gruelling trek across rugged terrain to locate an

enemy camp. He travelled without food or water for 72 hours. He returned to the Allied position and less brigade to the German encampment, resulting in the capture of more than 1,000 German soldiers.

Honoured by King George VI

When the fighting ended in France, Prince was summoned to Buckingham Palace, where King George VI decorated him with the Military Medal (MM) and, on behalf of the American president, the Silver Star with ribbon. He would also receive the 1939-1945 Star, the Italy Star, the France and Germany Star, the Defence Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp and the War Medal.

Prince was one of 59 Canadians who were awarded the Silver Star during the Second World War, only three of whom also possessed the Military Medal. Tommy Prince was honourably discharged on 15 June 1945 and returned to Canada.

Back in Canada

At home, Prince faced racism from the Canadian government. As an Indigenous man, he was not allowed to vote in federal elections — in spite of his wartime service — and was refused the same benefits as other Canadian veterans.

He started a business, which briefly prospered. He left it in the hands of friends so he could serve as a spokesman for the Manitoba Indian Association, where he lobbied the federal government to change the Indian Act. Following his campaigning, he came home to discover that the business he'd entrusted to friends had failed in his absence.

Facing unemployment and discrimination, he re-enlisted in the military and served with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI).

Service in Korea

Prince resumed his former rank and began training new recruits for the Korean War. He was then part of the first Canadian unit to land in Korea, where he served with a PPCLI rifle platoon. In Korea, Prince led many “snatch patrols,” where a small group of soldiers would travel into enemy territory and launch sneak attacks before retreating. One overnight raid led to the capture of two enemy machine guns.

Suffering from bad knees, Prince returned to Canada for treatment in 1951. But he went back to Korea for a second tour in 1952. He was injured again and spent weeks in hospital, where he was still recovering when the Korea Armistice came into force in 1953, ending the fighting.

He returned to Canada and remained in the army, serving at Winnipeg’s personnel depot, until September 1954, when he was honourably discharged.

For his two tours of duty in Korea, Prince was awarded the Canadian Korea Medal and the United Nations Service Medal (Korea). Posthumously, he also became entitled to the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Korea, created in 1991.

Hard Times

Prince had a strong sense of civic duty and a fierce pride in his people. He dedicated himself to attaining increased educational and economic opportunities for Indigenous peoples. “All my life I had wanted to do something to help my people recover their good name. I wanted to show they were as good as any white man,” he said. He was married and had five children. In 1955, he saw a man drowning at the Alexander Docks in Winnipeg and leapt in to save him.

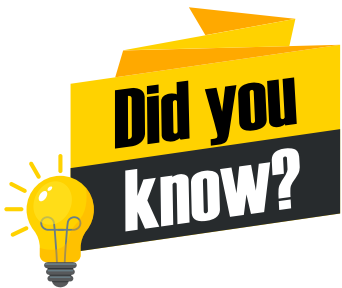
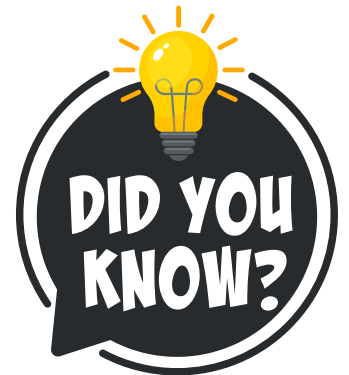
Prince fell on hard times and spent his last years living in a Salvation Army shelter. He died at the Deer Lodge Hospital in Winnipeg on 25 November 1977. He was 62. Prince was buried in Brookside Cemetery, a military gravesite in Winnipeg. A delegation of the Princess Patricia’s served as his pallbearers. Men from his First Nation chanted the “Death of a Warrior” song as he was lowered

into the grave. More than 500 people attended his funeral, including Manitoba's lieutenant governor and the consuls from France, Italy and the US.

Legacy and Significance

Tommy Prince is one of the most decorated Indigenous war veterans in Canada. Aside from his significant military contributions to this country, he is also remembered as an Indigenous advocate who fought for equality and Indigenous rights. Prince's nephew, Jim Bear, told CBC News in 2020 that he remembers his uncle as "a visionary" who was in favour of abolishing the Indian Act, something Bear points out "we're still trying to change."

In 2020, an online campaign launched in support of honouring Tommy Prince as the face of a new design of the five-dollar bill.



On 17 October 2022, Canada Post released a stamp honouring the life and legacy of Tommy Prince. The stamp features Prince in his Korean War uniform, with the Northern lights in the background.

ARTICLE 2: INDIGENOUS VETERANS

Originally by Government of Canada (adapted for this assignment)

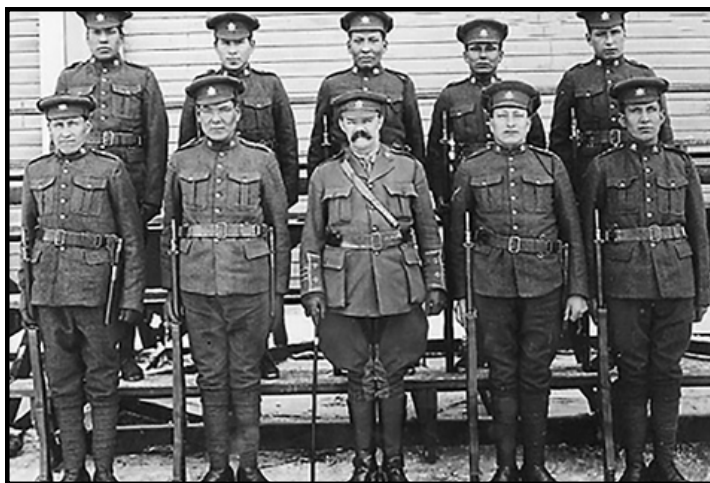
First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Canada have a long and proud tradition of military service to our country.

Introduction

While exact statistics are difficult to determine, the rate of Indigenous participation in Canada's military efforts over the years has been impressive. These determined volunteers were often forced 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 remote communities just to enlist. The challenges they faced often extended to their post-service life. Many Indigenous war Veterans would not receive equal treatment compared to other Canadian Veterans.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

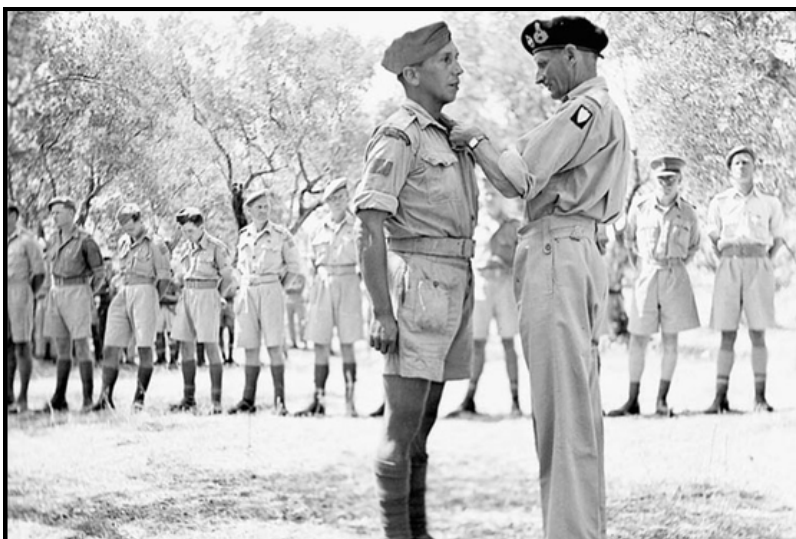
The First World War raged from 1914 to 1918 and more than 4,000 Indigenous people served in uniform during the conflict. It was a remarkable response and in some areas, one in three able-bodied men would volunteer. Indeed, some communities (such as the Head of the Lake Band in British Columbia) saw every 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.



Blood Tribe recruits, 191st Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, Fort Macleod, Alberta. (Photo and caption: Glenbow Archives, NA-2164-1)

Valuable skills

Many Indigenous men brought valuable skills with them when they joined the military. Patience, stealth and marksmanship 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 stealthily 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 divisional sniping record of 115 fatal shots and was awarded the Military Medal and bar for his courage under fire.



Huron Brant receiving his Military Medal in Italy. Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-130065.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Answering the call again

When the Second World War erupted in September 1939, many 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 3,000 First Nations, as well as an unknown number of Inuit and Métis 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.

Code talkers

While Indigenous soldiers again served as snipers and scouts, as they had during the First World War, they also took on interesting new roles during this conflict. One unique example was being a "code talker." Men like Charles "Checker" Tomkins 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.



Cameron Brant was one of the 88 Six Nations' war-dead whose names are recorded on a tablet donated to the Six Nations Reserve by the Prince of Wales. This portrait of Brant was sketched by Irma Coucill for the Indian Hall of Fame. (Woodland Cultural Centre)



Lieutenant David Greyeyes in September 1943.
(Photo: Department of National Defence)

Decorations for bravery

Indigenous service members would receive numerous decorations for bravery during the war.

Willard Bolduc, an Ojibwa airman from Ontario, earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his brave actions as an air gunner during bombing raids over occupied Europe. Huron 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, rifle ranges 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

Expanding duties

The Korean War erupted 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 five years earlier. This return to service in Korea would see some of these brave individuals expanding on their previous duties in new ways.

Tommy 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 "snatch 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 bitter 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.



Tommy Prince (right) with a brother at Buckingham Palace, where he was awarded two gallantry medals.
(C.J. Woods / Department of National Defence / Library and Archives Canada / PA-142289)

UNFAIR TREATMENT

Thousands of Indigenous people proudly served in uniform during the war years. Many Indigenous communities also helped in Canada's war effort. They knitted socks, made war materials and donated money. However, the Canadian government supervised their wartime work on reserves. During the First World War, Canada expropriated reserve land. Hundreds of thousands of acres of reserve land was taken to grow food, sometimes without the local band council's consent. After the

war, the Soldier Settlement Act of 1919 permanently gave away reserve land—often to non-Indigenous Veterans. These Veterans received grants giving them ownership of Indigenous land for farming. However, most First Nations Veterans who applied for the same grant were instead given a certificate to use reserve land. Land which already belonged to their community. The government also treated them unfairly in other ways.

Many Indigenous people hoped their wartime service and sacrifice in the First World War would improve their rights and standing in Canada. This did not happen. Residential schools, day schools and industrial schools were used to assimilate Indigenous children into Canadian culture before, during and after the First World War. Most First Nations Veterans were unable to receive their pensions, grants and benefits. This was due to their legal status as wards of Canada under the Indian Act.

Indigenous people who served in the Second World War experienced the same obstacles as their parents. After the war, they were also unable to receive the full benefits of the Veterans' Land Act. The remote location of many reserves made it even more difficult for Veterans to access government programs. These programs were only offered in towns and cities.

Indigenous Veterans had fought side-by-side with their non-Indigenous comrades. They did not, however, receive the same recognition for their service. This poor treatment made their transition to life back home even harder. It has had lasting physical and social effects for Indigenous Veterans and their communities.

POST-WAR SERVICE

Life in the military

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.

Canadian Rangers

Closer to home, Indigenous military personnel have filled a wide variety of roles, including serving with the Canadian Rangers. This group of army reservists 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 coastlines and assisting in local rescue operations.



A Canadian Ranger during a patrol in Nunavut in 2012.
Photo: Department of National Defence IS2012-1012-06

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 more than 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.

Honouring contributions

This rich heritage has been recognized in many ways. The names given to several Royal Canadian Navy warships over the years, like HMCS Iroquois, Cayuga and Huron, are just one indication of our

country's lasting respect for the contributions of Indigenous Veterans 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 Indigenous Veterans Day which is observed each year on November 8.



CF Snowbirds fly over the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument

ARTICLE 3: INDIGENOUS WAR HEROES - MORE THAN A FEW GOOD MEN

Originally by Indigenous Corporate Training INC. (modified and adapted for this assignment)



Pte. Tom Longboat buying a paper from a little French newspaper boy. June, 1917. Photo: Library and Archives Canada / 3194329

When we think of Indigenous war heroes, Tommy George Prince immediately and justifiably jumps to mind. But, there are many other Indigenous heroes who fought on the front lines of every major battle Canada has been involved in.

“Why did they enlist?” comes to mind when one reflects on the treatment Indigenous people received at the hands of the Canadian government, and the sacrifices required in order to enlist. In the “Honouring First Nations Veterans” video by catchlightvideo (on YouTube), at about the 3:44 minute mark, Elder Isabelle Mercier, RCNS; CWAC. Ret’ d, Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation, makes an interesting statement regarding this very question: “Many of our veterans stepped up to ensure our treaties were secure because if the other side won, the other signatory [on the Treaty] would no longer be able to commit to those Treaties; our Treaties would become non-existent.”

By listing these decorated heroes we by no way are overlooking the very important role many Indigenous women played in the war effort, both overseas and at home.

This is but a short list of the many whose chests proudly bore the medals they so justly deserved.

THE HEROES

- **Charles Henry Byce**

- From Chapleau, Ontario (his mother was a Cree from Moose Factory, Ontario and his father was a non-Indigenous WWI hero from Westmeath, Ontario)
- Received the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal in WWII
- Citation about him: *"The magnificent courage and fighting spirit displayed by this NCO (non-commissioned officer) when faced with almost insuperable odds are beyond all praise. His gallant stand, without adequate weapons and with a bare handful of men against hopeless odds will remain, for all time, an outstanding example to all ranks of the Regiment."*

- **William Cleary**

- From Innu, Pointe-Bleue, Quebec
- Awarded the Military Medal in WWI

- **Edwin Victor Cook**

- From Alert Bay, BC
- Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in WWI
- Citation about him: *"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was in advance of his company as a scout and single-handedly rushed an enemy machine gun and killed the crew, thereby saving many of the lives of his own company and permitting the advance to proceed unchecked. He showed splendid gallantry and determination."*

- **Sam Glade, Mi'kmaq**

- From Nova Scotia
- Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in WWI
- Citation about him: *"He showed great devotion to duty and an utter disregard of personal danger."*

- **David Greyeyes-Steele**

- From Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, Saskatchewan
- He served in WWII and was awarded the Greek War Cross (Third Class)
 - one of only 14 Canadians to receive this medal for heroism during the battle
- First Canadian Indigenous person to be appointed Regional Director of the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration
- Member of the Order of Canada
- Member of Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame

- **David Kejick**

- Ojibwe from Shoal Lake First Nation, ON
- Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal

- **Tom Charles Longboat**

- He is an Onondaga from Six Nations Grand River Reserve in Ontario
- served in WWI
- Very famous distance runner
 - was the first Indigenous person and the 3rd Canadian to win the Boston Marathon
- Did not receive any medals for bravery but he left his lucrative running career to enlist as a dispatch carrier and ran messages and orders between units
- He was wounded twice and [falsely] declared dead once or twice
- Has an award in his name (Tom Longboat Awards) that are awarded annually to a female and male Indigenous athlete who demonstrate excellence in sport
- Returned to competitive running after the war
- Member of the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame

- **George McLean**

- From Nk'map'iqs (Head of the Lake) Okanagan Indian Band, BC
- Served in the Boer War (South African War) & WWI
- Awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for his heroic actions at the Battle of Vimy Ridge
- Citation about him: *"Single-handed he captured 19 prisoners, and later, when attacked by five more prisoners who attempted to reach a machine gun, he was able—although wounded—to dispose of them unaided, thus saving a large number of casualties."*

- **Oliver Milton Martin**

- Mohawk from Six Nations Grand River Reserve in Ontario
- Served in WWI & WWII
- Earned the highest rank ever held by an Indigenous Canadian - Brigadier

- **Big Feather Dr. Gilbert Monture**

- Mohawk from Six Nations Reserve in Ontario
- Served in WWI & WWII
- Named Canadian Executive Officer of the Combined (Canadian-American-British) Production and Resources Board in 1944
- Was named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1946
- Named an Honorary chief of the Six Nations where they gave him the name "Big Feather"

- **Henry Louis Norwest**

- Métis from Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta
- One of the most famous snipers in WWI
- Was awarded the Military Medal in 1917 and was awarded a Bar to his medal after he died
- Achieved a sniping record of 115 fatal shots
- Citation about him: *"Showed great bravery, skill and initiative in sniping the enemy after the capture of the Pimple (a peak at Vimy Ridge). By his activity, he saved a great number of our men's lives."*

- **Francis Pegahmagabow**

- From Alert Bay, BC
- Ojibwe from Wasauksing First Nation, Ontario
- Was one of the first Canadians to receive the Military Medal which he was awarded for his service during WWI
 - Pegahmagabow earned two bars to his Military Medal, denoting further heroic acts.
 - Citation for first bar: *"At Passchendaele Nov. 6th/7th, 1917, this NCO [non-commissioned officer] did excellent work. Before and after the attack he kept in touch with the flanks, advising the units he had seen, this information proving the success of the attack and saving valuable time in consolidating. He also guided the relief to its proper place after it had become mixed up."*
 - Citation for second bar: *"During the operations of August 30, 1918, at Orix Trench, near Upton Wood, when his company were almost out of ammunition and in danger of being surrounded, this NCO went over the top under heavy MG [machine gun] and rifle fire and brought back sufficient ammunition to enable the post to carry on and assist in repulsing heavy enemy counter-attacks."*
 - He was also awarded a 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.
- Citation about him: *"For continuous service as a messenger from February 14th, 1915 to February 1916. He carried messages with great bravery and success during the whole of the actions at Ypres, Festubert and Givenchy. In all his work he has consistently shown a disregard for danger and his faithfulness to duty is highly commendable."*

- **Joseph Roussin**

- Mohawk from Kanehsatà:ke Band, Quebec
- Served in WWI
- Awarded the Military Medal

- **Alexander Jr & Charles Smith**

- From Six Nations, Ontario
- Both were awarded the Military Cross for gallantry

- **Alexander Smith**

- From Six Nations Grand River Reserve, Ontario
- Earned his Military Cross in France
 - During the action that earned him the Military Cross, Smith was buried alive. This led to him having “shell shock” (now called post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)).
- Served in WWI
- Citation about him: *“he proceeded with a party of bombers and captured an enemy trench and 50 prisoners, displaying the greatest courage throughout. He was twice buried by shells but stuck to his post.”*

- **Charles Denton Smith**

- Earned his Military Cross in France
- Served in WWI
- Citation about him: *“led his platoon forward with such rapidity that he surprised a party of [enemy] sappers preparing to blow up a road mine.”*