

Tales of Animals in War



A train trip to remember

“All aboard! Woof! Hey everyone! It’s me, Gandy the dog. Did you know that Canadians have a long tradition of caring for others, whether here in Canada or around the world? It is true. We take an active role in helping bring peace to places in conflict.”

“It makes my feathers ruffle with pride that soldiers from our rich Canadian mosaic proudly traded in their civilian shoes for combat boots to serve our country,” squawked Squeaker the pigeon.

“Did you know that train travel is another Canadian tradition? Before the days of airplanes and cars, railway tracks brought us together as a nation. In fact, trains were often used to transport Canadian soldiers across our vast land to the East Coast. There they would board troop ships to head overseas during times of war,” growled Win the bear.

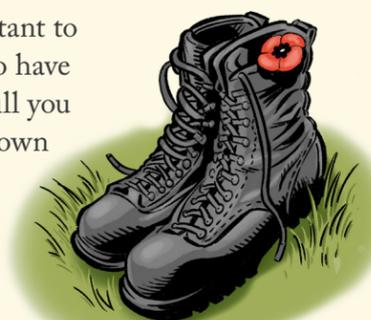
“In fact, there were special ceremonies this spring at train stations across Canada in honour of the 75th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy during the Second World War. The first event was held in Vancouver (my hometown) at the same station where many soldiers departed years ago. A pair of combat boots were placed onto the train to symbolize the long journey made by so many brave Canadians in uniform,” trumpeted Ellie the elephant.

“My Remembrance Clubhouse friends and I thought it would be fun to embark on a remembrance train journey of our own,” purred Simone the cat.

“We departed by train from the scenic West Coast. We chugged east, through the Rocky Mountains and into the wheat fields of the Prairies. Next up was the rugged Canadian Shield and a stop in the big city of Toronto. We visited the CN Tower... it made Ellie look so

tiny! We travelled across *La Belle Province* and down into the Maritimes to our final destination, the port city of Halifax, Nova Scotia. In times of war, Halifax was a hub for soldiers who were coming and going on transatlantic ships,” neighed Bonfire Jr. the horse.

“We learned so much on this trip,” barked Gandy. “Along the way, we remembered those who served and we saw some great memorials. Canada really does have a rich military heritage! It made us proud to live in a peaceful country that helps others in need. It was an awesome voyage, leaving our paw prints from coast to coast, with a special highlight for each of us. It is important to honour those who have served. Where will you go in your hometown to remember them?”



Wait for Me, Daddy!

We had a terrific train trip across Canada learning about remembrance. A special highlight for me was visiting a beautiful bronze memorial that was inspired by a famous photograph.



'Wait for Me, Daddy' photo and memorial.
Photos: Library and Archives Canada
and City of New Westminster

The photo was taken on October 1, 1940. Hundreds of soldiers were marching through the streets of New Westminster, British Columbia, heading off to war when five-year-old Warren "Whitey" Bernard broke free from his mom's hand and ran toward his dad, Private Jack Bernard. A reporter recorded the moment and the picture was published on the front page of the *Vancouver Daily Province* the next day. It soon appeared in newspapers across the country.

The photo, which came to be known as "Wait for Me, Daddy," captured so much about the emotions involved in families being separated and the uncertainties of war. Little Whitey did not know when he would see his father again. Private Bernard did go overseas and came ashore at Juno Beach on D-Day. Thankfully, he survived and

was able to return home to his family. Sadly, many other soldiers did not.

Today, this amazing image has taken on the form of a bronze memorial, located on the corner where the picture was taken. What a great way to remember the sacrifices Canadian men and women in uniform—and their families—have made in times of war. I liked this memorial so much that I hugged the figure of the boy with my trunk!



A special connection

The highlight of our train trip across Canada for me was the small town of White River, Ontario. During the First



World War, it was not only men and women in uniform who travelled by train across Canada to serve overseas... there were many animals onboard, too! White River was a popular pit stop along the way to exercise our four-legged friends, especially the horses that needed to be in shape to serve on rough battlefields.

In August 1914, Lieutenant Harry Colebourn, a veterinarian from Winnipeg, was travelling with his regiment to Camp Valcartier in Quebec when the train stopped in White River. My great-grandmother Winnie, a young bear cub at the time, had just lost her mother near the town and was in need of a friend to look after her. When Harry stepped out at the station, he saw Winnie and the two

became fast friends. He adopted the cute cub on the spot and brought her on board the train as his regiment's mascot.

After the war, Winnie would become the inspiration for the famous children's book, *Winnie-the-Pooh*. To remember the historic meeting at White River that started it all, the town holds a Winnie-the-Pooh festival each August, with the statue of that iconic character as a main attraction. Seeing this cool monument for the first time sent shivers through my fur!



Winnie-the-Pooh statue.
Photo: Township of White River

Saddle up for remembrance

Travelling across Canada by train helped me realize how big and beautiful our country is. Oceans, mountains, prairies, forests, lakes, cities... the list of things we saw goes on! We Remembrance Clubhouse



Paul Nichols and friends in Victoria.
Photo courtesy of Paul and Terry Nichols

animals are thankful to live in such a pretty and peaceful place. Our journey from coast to coast reminded me of Paul Nichols and his mare, Zoe, who rode together all the way from British Columbia to Newfoundland and Labrador.

Paul is a Veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces. He served with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in the Balkans in the 1990s and saw how difficult it can be to live in a war-torn country. When he came back to Canada, his mind was troubled by what he had seen and he needed time to heal. Riding horses was one way that helped him feel better.

One day, Paul decided that he would share his message that not all Veterans are senior citizens. In fact, many Veterans are younger men and women. After careful planning and accompanied by friends, Paul left Victoria, British Columbia, in April 2015. During his 211-day journey, Paul met countless Canadians of all ages and helped raise awareness in their local communities of their many neighbours who are Veterans.

Clip-clop, clip-clop. I can almost hear the sound of Zoe's horseshoes hitting the trail when I close my eyes!



Bontfire Jr.

Soaring with the Snowbirds

I sure enjoyed our cool train trip across Canada. There is just so much to see in this vast country of ours. One of my favourite memories took place in Saskatchewan. We were near the prairie city of Moose Jaw when I looked out the window and saw some



The Snowbirds flying in formation over Niagara Falls.
Photo: Department of National Defence

military jets soaring overhead, making amazing loops in the sky. My beak dropped open in awe as I watched the skillful flying. It was the Snowbirds—the Royal Canadian Air Force aerobatic team—practicing their routine. Have you ever seen them at an air show? I wish I could fly like that!

The Snowbirds' home is in Moose Jaw. Did you know that their base was used for the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan during the Second World War? There were flight schools across the country that hosted young air force recruits from Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and other countries. Canada's wide-open spaces and long distance from the front lines made it a



great place for them to learn how to be pilots, navigators, flight engineers, radio operators, bomb aimers, air gunners, observers and mechanics. Sadly, many airmen would lose their lives during training accidents and in wartime operations. Their bravery in the air helped the Allies to victory in the conflict, and this proud flyer will never forget their courage and sacrifice.

Lost but not forgotten

Meow! Many say that cats do not like water. That can be true, but when it comes to H₂O, I know quite a bit. My ancestor, Simon, was a famous feline mascot on a Royal Navy ship, so I might even have salt water in my veins!

During our train ride across Canada, we stopped in my hometown of Montreal. The Remembrance Clubhouse animals followed me to the Old Port where we visited the Clock Tower, a memorial dedicated to sailors lost at sea during wartime. I told my friends that I was there in May for a solemn remembrance ceremony. Every



Battle of the Atlantic ceremony in Montreal in 2018.
Photo: Jacques N. Godbout/45eNord.ca

year, people gather in places across Canada to commemorate the Battle of the Atlantic, the longest struggle of the Second World War. The whole ceremony was touching, but I got shivers every time they rang the ship's bell. It sounded out 31 times in total, one loud ding for each Royal Canadian Navy ship that was lost between 1939 and 1945.

Nobody was safe at sea during the war. Even getting to the battlefields was dangerous. On July 4-5, 1943, three Allied ships in a convoy sailing from England to Sicily, Italy, were torpedoed by German submarines. Sadly, more than 50 Canadians lost their lives in the attack. Whenever I hear a bell, I still think about this tragedy at sea.

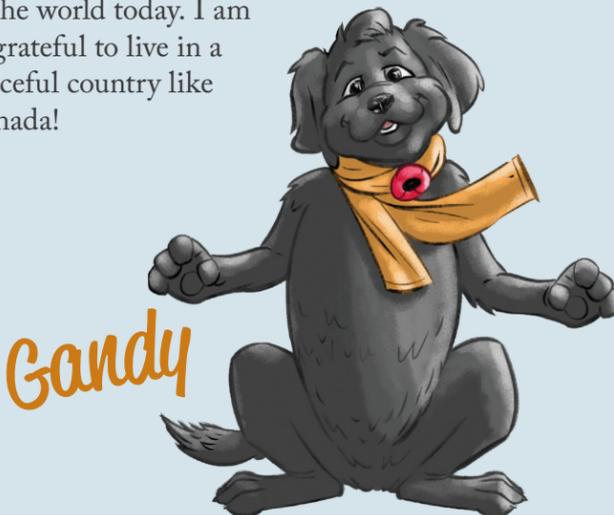


Gandy remembers Afghanistan

Arh-wooooooo! All this travel across our great nation made me a bit lonesome for my home province of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Remembrance Clubhouse friends agreed we should also visit "The Rock." We took the ferry to Channel-Port aux Basques and learned that this fishing port used to be at one end of the Newfoundland Railway. During the First and Second World Wars, the train played an important role in transporting troops and military supplies all the way to the capital city of St. John's.

The train no longer runs on the island of Newfoundland so we travelled by bus to Corner Brook to see a cool monument I had heard about. A life-size bronze statue of a Royal Newfoundland Regiment soldier on patrol in Afghanistan was unveiled in front of the town hall in 2012. As I looked

down at the soldier's feet and saw the sculpted forget-me-not flowers, I felt sad. I thought of the some 158 Canadians who died during our country's mission there between 2001 and 2014. It also made me think of the brave service men and women who continue to put their lives on the line in different parts of the world today. I am so grateful to live in a peaceful country like Canada!



The Afghanistan Soldier memorial in Corner Brook.
Photo: Veterans Affairs Canada

Newspaper Activities



Word search

The following words are placed horizontally, vertically and diagonally, both forwards and backwards in the puzzle. When you have spotted a word, simply circle it.

E M O T I O N S G W T I
 O R N A E C O D R R J G
 S N E A C R U R A H N L
 Y E U G N L E I Z D A P
 N J C J I G N B Y I R R
 S O K I A M I W R D E A
 W Q I R F X E O G A T I
 X J U T H I M N Q N E R
 O O K S A E R S T G V I
 C E U L M T M C H E H E
 B R O N Z E S J A R Q S
 E M R O F I N U F S R D

BRONZE EMOTIONS OCEAN SACRIFICES TRAIN
 COURAGE JUNO PRAIRIES SNOWBIRDS UNIFORM
 DANGER MEMORIAL REGIMENT STATION VETERAN

Where in Canada?

Many places in Canada have been mentioned in the stories. Can you say in which province? Can you then label the pins with the right numbers on the map?

Community	Number	Province
Channel-Port aux Basques	1	_____
Corner Brook	2	_____
Montreal	3	_____
Moose Jaw	4	_____
New Westminster	5	_____
Valcartier	6	_____
Victoria	7	_____
White River	8	_____
Winnipeg	9	_____

Left, right, up, down or diagonal!

Spell out the title of the iconic photo of Private Jack Bernard and his son Warren. Start with the circled letter and connect the rest of the letters without lifting your pencil from the page.

W	A	M	R	Y
	I	O	E	D
T	F	D	A	D

Solution:

MISSING LETTERS

One letter is missing from each of the Remembrance Clubhouse members' names. Find the missing letters, then unscramble them to reveal the word.

ELLI_ B_NFIRE Jr. SI_ONE
 W_N SQUEAKE_ G_NDY

M _ _ _ _ _ L

(A thing that helps us remember.)

Logic puzzle

The Remembrance Clubhouse members are boarding a train to attend ceremonies across Canada. They all carry a remembrance object and have different coloured suitcases. Using the clues provided, figure out which member brings what object and the colour of the suitcase.

CLUES

In his white suitcase, Gandy does not carry the poem, the photo, or the song.

Ellie carries the flag, but not in a blue, black, or red suitcase.

The wreath is in a blue suitcase, and is carried by Win.

Squeaker put the song in his suitcase that's not green, yellow, or black.

Simone brings a poem in a green suitcase.

SUITCASE COLOUR	REMEMBRANCE OBJECT					
	Flag	Poppy	Poem	Photo	Song	Wreath
Blue						
Green						
Red						
Yellow						
White						
Black						

Bonfire Jr. carries a _____ in a _____ suitcase.