



Tales of Animals in War



On a bright Saturday morning, the animal friends are gathered at the Remembrance Clubhouse. Everyone is anxious to share the stories of what they did during their summer vacations! They are so excited, they all talk at the same time.

Gandy the dog is very happy to see his friends so enthusiastic, but no one can hear anything above the chatter! He asks them if they would talk one at a time.

“Simone,” says Gandy, “what did you do this summer?”

“I went to France,” answers Simone the cat. “I learned so much about what Canadians did there during the Second World War.”

Ellie the elephant adds, “I went to Europe too. I visited Belgium. Wait until you hear what I discovered there!” Squeaker the pigeon chirps up. “I travelled very far from home, too. I visited a friend serving in Afghanistan, a country which is presently at war.”

Bonfire Jr. the horse introduces his cousin from Italy, Valerio the mule. The others are so excited, they hadn't noticed him in the Clubhouse! Everyone says hello and welcomes him. “Valerio came to visit this summer and shared stories about his grandfather.”

Win the bear adds, “I also stayed home and went fishing with my friend John, a Korean War Veteran. I was so interested in his stories, I just had to learn more!”

Gandy is the last to speak. “I took part in a candlelight ceremony at Beaumont-Hamel, in France. It made me sad and proud at the same time. We should do something like that, my friends! We should organize our own remembrance ceremony!”

The Remembrance Clubhouse friends are thrilled about the idea and agree to use what they have learned during their summer vacations to plan a remembrance ceremony of their own. Read the following pages to discover what they did.



SIMONE AT JUNO BEACH

During her summer vacation, Simone went to France. She was very impressed with the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Simone learned a lot about the Second World War. She visited many museums. The one she liked the most was the Juno Beach Centre, in Normandy.

Canada built this museum to tell the story of what Canadians did to help the French people during the Second World War.

Simone is so proud that they will organize their own remembrance ceremony. She knows what she will bring to the ceremony: a wreath. Wreaths honour everyone who protected peace and freedom worldwide. She will lay the wreath and think about what Canadians did in France.



- 1 = Red
- 2 = Green
- 3 = Yellow
- 4 = Blue
- 5 = Black

HELP SIMONE COLOUR IN THE WREATH.



Juno Beach Centre Photo: VAC



BONFIRE JR. MEETS HIS COUSIN

“Clubhouse friends,” Bonfire Jr. says proudly, “this is my cousin Valerio from Italy. His name means ‘brave’ in Italian. He can help us with our remembrance ceremony.”

“Buongiorno, hello everyone,” says Valerio. “My grandfather from Italy helped the Canadian soldiers during the Italian Campaign in the Second World War. I would be



Private P.T. Leachman with the donkey mascot of the Saskatoon Light Infantry, in Sicily, 1943. Photo: DND ARMY 23177

honoured to take part in your ceremony.”

Valerio explains how his grandfather pulled wagons and carried

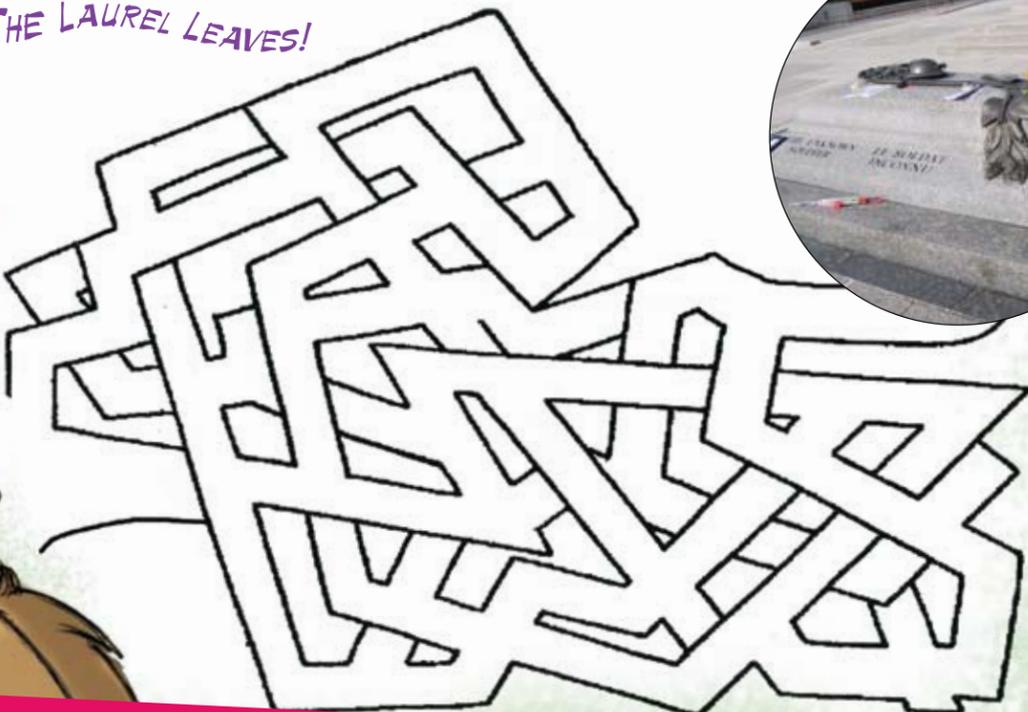
soldiers up into the mountains in Italy. The roads were often steep and narrow. It was difficult to get trucks and tanks up the mountains. “Mules were very important.”

“How funny!” Bonfire Jr. says. “Valerio brought laurel leaves from his country that we could use in our ceremony.” “Si!” adds Valerio proudly, “In Italy, laurel leaves are used to honour

important people. They also symbolize peace. Bonfire showed me a picture of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in your capital city, Ottawa. I saw laurel leaves on the Tomb so I know that you use them in Canada as well.”

Everyone thanks Valerio for his great gift! *Grazie, Valerio!*

HELP BONFIRE JR. FIND THE LAUREL LEAVES!



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa Photo: VAC

ELLIE VISITS BELGIUM

Ellie is very happy. She is home from Europe and excited to share her stories with her friends.

Ellie visited Belgium, where she learned a lot about Canada in the First World War. She toured the historic city of Ypres. Ellie really liked the old buildings. She also bought famous Belgian chocolates for her friends.



City of Ypres, Belgium Photo: VAC

Ellie went to a remembrance ceremony at Menin Gate, a beautiful memorial that honours soldiers who died in Belgium during the First World War. Many soldiers were Canadians.



Every evening, at 8 o'clock, people attend a ceremony to remember the thousands who died during the war. As part of the ceremony, buglers play *The Last Post*. That was Ellie's favourite moment



because her trunk sounds much like a bugle.

Ellie is excited they are going to have their own remembrance ceremony, as she will play *The Last Post*. Ellie is going to practice very hard to make sure she does a good job. Maybe one day, she could play at Menin Gate!



Menin Gate, in Ypres Photo: VAC



GANDY HAS A BRILLIANT IDEA

While Ellie is finishing her story, Gandy moves to a quiet corner of the Clubhouse. His friends go over and gather around him.

"Why do you look so sad, Gandy?" asks Simone.

"Well," says Gandy, "hearing your stories made me think about my trip. At the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial, in France, I took part in a candlelight ceremony. It was beautiful, but very sad."

Gandy takes a deep breath and talks about the Battle of the Somme, during the First World War. Many soldiers from Newfoundland were killed on July 1st, 1916. "To

remember those soldiers," Gandy says, "a memorial was built on the battlefield. A statue of a caribou, a symbol of my province, stands at the top."

Everyone is quiet.

"You know, Gandy," says Bonfire Jr., "that's why we're here! To remember and to honour those who have lost their lives in war. You've just told us a story of Newfoundland soldiers and my cousin Valerio told us the story of his grandfather helping Canadian soldiers in Italy. These stories help us remember those who have fought for peace."

"I've got an idea!" says Gandy. "As part of our remembrance ceremony, we could each light a candle, in memory of all those soldiers!"

What a brilliant idea!



Students taking part in a Candlelight Ceremony. Photo: VAC



Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial Photo: VAC

TRUE OR FALSE

How well do you understand the stories of Ellie and Gandy? The sentences to the right are either True or False. Collect all the letters you've circled from the "True" column and use them to solve the question below.



Question: Country where John McCrae wrote his poem *In Flanders Fields* in 1915.

- Ellie travelled to Africa.
- Ellie learned about Canada in the First World War.
- Gandy was excited when Ellie finished her story.
- Gandy went to Beaumont-Hamel.
- Ellie saw the city of Ypres.
- Ellie was at Menin Gate.
- Gandy took part in a peace crane activity.
- Gandy saw the statue of a caribou.
- Ellie bought a book about the Unknown Soldier.
- Ellie will practice very hard to play *The Last Post*.
- Gandy suggested each should light a candle.
- Gandy wrote a Postcard for Peace.

TRUE FALSE

Q	S
B	T
T	A
E	H
L	G
G	I
U	P
I	Y
T	A
U	S
M	O
R	S

WIN LEARNS ABOUT KOREA

During her summer vacation, Win spent some time with her friend John. He is a Veteran of the Korean War, which happened on the other side of the world. Win wanted to learn more about Korea and the places where John and his other Canadian friends had fought. John told her that Korea is a fascinating country. There are many hills and mountains, and people speak a very different language.

“John told me how much he missed home when he was in Korea for 18 months,” Win says. “He explained how hard it was to fight in a war, to see some of his friends get hurt or to even lose their lives. As you can imagine, John became very emotional while telling me this story.”

“I decided to do something for John,” says Win. “I remembered him talking about a special monument in Korea. I went on the

Veterans Affairs Canada Web site, and found a picture of it. The Monument to Canadian Fallen is dedicated to those who served in Korea from 1950 to 1953. I printed a copy and gave it to John. He really liked it!”

Win shows her friends many pictures, maps and other information on the Korean War that she found on the Web. Everyone is very interested.

“Hey, why don’t we put a picture of the monument on a wall of our Clubhouse?” Win asks. “And since monuments really help us remember, let’s hold our ceremony at the cenotaph down the street!”



Monument to Canadian Fallen Photo: VAC

SQUEAKER IN AFGHANISTAN

It is finally Squeaker’s turn to speak. “I just returned from a country called Afghanistan. Unlike the places where most of you went this summer, Afghanistan is still at war. I visited the men and women from my hometown who are serving there.”

“I always liked to watch the soldiers march to the cenotaph on Remembrance Day. After last year’s ceremony, a nice soldier named Pauline shared her sandwich with me. She told me her unit would soon be leaving for Afghanistan. I think they are very brave!”

“I wanted to do something nice for them. To remind them of home, I collected some Postcards for Peace from the students at the elementary school. It was a long trip, but I carried them myself to Afghanistan. I had to fly over high mountains and wide rocky deserts, but finally I saw it! There, in the distance, was a big red and white flag with a maple leaf.”

“At last, I had reached the Canadian camp and there was Pauline and her unit! I gave her the Postcards for Peace and she loved them. She couldn’t wait to share them with the rest of her unit. She told me that Canadians like her are in Afghanistan trying to bring peace

and freedom to the people there. This is what Canadian military members have often done when people in other countries need help... they go into danger to help others.”

The Clubhouse animals are wide-eyed, listening to Squeaker’s story. Reaching into his vest pocket, he removes something very special Pauline had given him to take back to Canada. It is a letter for her family and friends that Pauline asked Squeaker to bring to them.

Squeaker says, “Would anyone mind if we invited Pauline’s family and friends to our remembrance ceremony and give them the letter in person?”

The Remembrance Clubhouse friends nod their heads eagerly.

“Let’s start planning the ceremony!”



Canadian soldier in Afghanistan reading a letter from home.

Photo: Department of National Defence -AR2008-Z119-04

LOGIC PUZZLE

Four characters from the Remembrance Clubhouse are heading to the town cenotaph to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony. The four characters each carry a remembrance-related object in a different bag.

Fill in the chart using the clues to discover what animal carries which remembrance object in which bag.

Clues

1. In her green bag, Win does not carry the tulip.
2. The animal with the Canada pin is the only one with wings.
3. The tulip carried by Bonfire Jr. is not in a black or a white bag.
4. Simone carries her remembrance object in a white bag.
5. The object displaying a flag is in the black bag.
6. The poppy is in a green bag.



	Remembrance object				Bag colour			
	Canada Pin	Poppy	Peace crane	Tulip	Red	Black	Green	White
Bonfire Jr.								
Win								
Simone								
Squeaker								