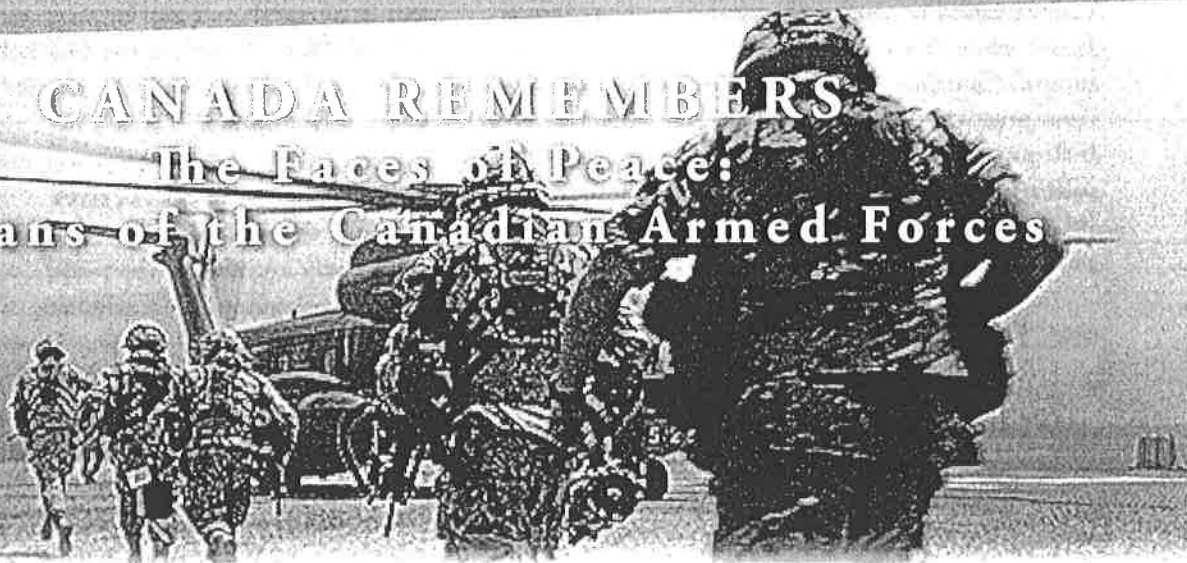




CANADA REMEMBERS

The Faces of Peace: Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces



INTRODUCTION

The mission of Canadian Armed Forces members is to defend our country, its interests and its values, while contributing to international peace and security. They serve in many capacities at home and throughout the world carrying on Canada's proud military tradition. Over the years, many Canadian Armed Forces Veterans have served overseas in a variety of United Nations (UN), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and other multinational task forces.

International peace missions often have positive effects but the strife, conflict and death that can surround these efforts is not always easy to handle. Being separated from friends and family for months at a time, the possibility of witnessing extreme violence and cruelty, of having to use force or have force used against you, and the realization that you could be killed or wounded while carrying out your duties are some of the experiences that many Canadian Armed Forces Veterans know well.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

During the first half of the 20th century, some 1.7 million Canadians were called upon to defend peace and freedom around the world during the First World War, the Second World War and the Korean War. Following these terrible conflicts, in which more than 110,000 Canadians died, Canada and other countries felt that it was better to try to prevent wars when possible than fight them. Our country played a leading role in the peacekeeping movement from the outset. In fact, a

Canadian, Lester B. Pearson, won the 1957 Nobel Peace Prize for his pioneering vision in helping establish a UN force to prevent the Suez Crisis of the 1950s from escalating into a global confrontation.

Since then, Canada's commitment to international peace efforts and other overseas military actions has continued. Some of the places Canadians have served include Egypt, Cyprus, Syria, the Persian Gulf, the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Haiti, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Eritrea, East Timor, and Afghanistan.

PEACE MISSION CHALLENGES

Peacekeeping is based on the idea that having a force of impartial troops present in a regional conflict can help reduce tensions and improve the chance of peaceful settlement to a violent conflict. But filling this role is demanding work. Put yourself in the boots of a person leaving on an international peace mission. You could be called upon to monitor cease-fires, patrol buffer zones, act as an intermediary between clashing groups, clear land mines, investigate war crimes, protect refugees and provide humanitarian assistance.

The role of the Canadian Armed Forces now involves all aspects of peace support, including peace-making and peace-building. The skills and training needed for peace support includes combat skills as well as contact skills. Their lives and the lives of others often depend on their skill in both areas and their ability to use both at the right time.

Canadian Armed Forces members running towards a helicopter.
Photo: Department of National Defence

Each situation encountered by the Canadian Armed Forces when they enter into a new peace mission is unique. Canadian Armed Forces members returning from peace missions often remark that "there was very little peace to keep," a reference to the fact that our military is often asked to intervene in situations of full-fledged war where the environment is not at all peaceful.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- The number of Canadians who have served has varied greatly over the years, according to the needs of our country and the world. Over one million Canadians served during the Second World War. Our present-day military numbers are approximately 68,000 regular force members and 27,000 reservists.
- More than 125,000 Canadian Armed Forces members have served in dozens of international peace missions to more than 35 countries over the past six decades. Approximately 130 Canadians have died in these efforts and many more have suffered physical and mental injury.
- The Canadian Armed Forces perform many other important functions. Search-and-rescue operations, patrolling our air space and territorial waters, supporting

anti-drug operations and helping out in the aftermath of natural disasters, such as the Manitoba Flood of 1997 or the Great Ice Storm of 1998, are just a sample of some of these vital duties.

HEROES AND BRAVERY

In 1988, the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize was collectively awarded to the world's peacekeepers, including thousands of Canadians, who served in UN missions during that year. This honour inspired Canada to create the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal. Tens of thousands of serving Canadian Armed Forces members and Veterans proudly wear this medal.

International peace missions have a large element of reaching out. While there is always a political element to peace missions, the on-the-ground efforts are often characterized by human emotion and compassion. For example, during the UN peace efforts in Somalia in the early 1990s, Naval Lieutenant Heather MacKinnon operated a medical clinic, worked in hospitals and orphanages and provided humanitarian assistance to the victims of war and famine in the embattled city of Mogadishu. It was a tense and dangerous time, and the risks of working there were very real. Lt. MacKinnon helped many people in this time of great upheaval and laid the groundwork for further relief efforts in the battered country.

Photo: Department of National Defence



SACRIFICE

Many Canadians have served on several international missions in the course of their careers, repeatedly fulfilling their duties against the constant background of danger. One example of this special effort comes from Master Corporal Mark Isfeld. He was a combat engineer who served in three peace missions before losing his life in a land mine explosion in Croatia in 1994. This Canadian soldier was known for giving children in war-torn regions handmade dolls that his mother and others in Canada had made. He passed out these dolls to try to bring a little happiness and hope to the children. After his tragic death, the story began to spread of how he touched children's lives with those handmade dolls from Canada. Thousands of these dolls then began to flood in from people all across Canada who decided to make dolls for other Canadian soldiers to give away overseas and keep M.Cpl. Isfeld's tradition alive. The dolls have since become known as Izzy dolls.

Canadian Armed Forces Veterans have made many personal and global achievements, and have made personal sacrifices to defend Canada's interests and its values, while contributing to international peace and security. These men and women take their honoured place in our country's military history beside their fellow Veterans and fallen comrades of Canada's earlier war efforts. Their commitment has earned Canada a worldwide reputation as a country that supports and protects peace.

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.

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INTRODUCTION

More than a thousand Canadians served in Cambodia to help stabilize and rebuild the country during four peace support missions spread over the years 1954 to 2000.

CAMBODIA

Cambodia is a tropical country in Southeast Asia. It has an area of approximately 180,000 km² (about three times the size of Nova Scotia) and a population of more than 14 million people. It is a hot and humid country, but also very poor. Bordering Vietnam, Laos and Thailand, Cambodia was formerly a part of French Indochina, a colony of France that was founded in the 1800s but was dissolved in the years following the Second World War.

Cambodia became an independent country after the end of colonial rule, but the ensuing power struggle, the Vietnam War (which spilled over into Cambodia at times) and a military coup resulted in constant internal strife. The Khmer Rouge faction gained power in 1975 (renaming the country Kampuchea) and its Communist regime saw the deaths of an estimated two million Cambodians to famine, sickness, forced labour and execution. After four years of terror, the government was overthrown following an invasion by neighbouring Vietnam which then occupied much of the country. Resistance groups fought for control and the violence continued. When Vietnam announced it would finally withdraw from the country in the late 1980s, a new chapter in Cambodia's history began—one which

Canada and the international community would help bring about.

CANADA AND THE WORLD RESPONDS

Our country's first efforts in Cambodia began in 1954 when approximately 30 Canadians went there as part of the International Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC). This military mission had been set up by the international community to help French Indochina make the rocky transition to becoming the countries of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. The Canadians serving in Cambodia helped maintain order and supervised the withdrawal of French colonial forces, as well as those from neighbouring countries. International personnel also watched for border violations in the volatile region, and monitored the first elections in the new country. The ICSC mission was soon reduced in size and, after a few years, only a token number of Canadians would serve there until the mission finally ended in 1969.

Canadian Armed Forces members would again travel to Cambodia in late 1991 as part of the international efforts to help the war-torn country following the horrors of the Khmer Rouge regime and the ensuing Vietnamese occupation and civil war. The United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) was tasked with helping implement a peace agreement that had finally been reached and pave the way for a larger UN mission to come. Canadians were part of this initial mission, helping monitor the delicate cease-fire and

United Nations trucks leaving Canadian Armed Forces base in Cambodia in 1992. Photo: Department of National Defence

working in landmine awareness and removal. Indeed, Canadian military engineers would go on to play an important role in the landmine clearance efforts in a country that, after decades of conflict, was riddled with millions of them.

In early 1992, the massive United Nations Transitional Authority Cambodia (UNTAC) mission began. Its more than 20,000 peacekeepers monitored the cease-fire, disarmed the warring sides and oversaw the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Cambodian refugees in time for a national election. A total of about 700 Canadian Armed Forces members served with UNTAC between February 1992 and September 1993. While they made up only a small portion of the UN force, the extensive peacekeeping knowledge shared by the experienced Canadians was a great asset. The approximately 240 Canadian Armed Forces members who served there at any given time performed several roles. A primary task was the challenging job of transporting supplies and the thousands of UN personnel around a country that still saw guerrilla activity and wide-spread banditry in some regions. The No. 92 Transport Company delivered food, fuel, natural gas, election supplies and other goods required by the UN. The Canadians offered other logistical support as well, such as finding accommodations for the huge UN force from many different countries speaking many different languages. Thirty Canadian sailors also served with UN naval detachments patrolling the Gulf of Thailand and Mekong River monitoring refugee movements and watching for cease-fire violations, smugglers and bandits. As well, approximately 40 Canadian officers served with the UN command in the country.

The UNTAC mission was over by the end of 1993, however some Canadian Armed Forces members would soon return to the country to work with the Cambodia Mine Action Centre. Between 1994 and 2000, more than 60 Canadian Armed Forces members served to find and remove deadly land mines—a UN task that continues there to this day.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- UNTAC was one of the largest peace support operations ever undertaken by the UN with more than 20,000 military and police personnel drawn from more than 40 countries.

- Many of the Canadians serving with UNTAC were bilingual—a great asset as English and French were spoken in many of the countries contributing UN troops; French was also still spoken by some Cambodians as a result of decades of colonial rule.

- Cambodia has one of the heaviest concentrations of land mines in the world. An estimated four to six million land mines have killed some 15,000 people and injured 120,000 more.

HEROES AND BRAVERY

Canadian Armed Forces members endure many hardships while performing peace support duties. While Canadian Armed Forces members did not experience any major incidents of violence in Cambodia, guerrilla forces and bandits did threaten and attack UN forces there at times. Witnessing the poverty, violence and destruction in Cambodia was hard, while the extreme temperatures and humidity, poisonous snakes and spiders, banditry, contaminated drinking water, dysentery and malaria were also very challenging. Doing one's job under such conditions during a rotation lasting six months or more required great endurance and courage. But Canadians who participate in these efforts



often go beyond the call of duty to help those in need. In Cambodia, they also volunteered their resources and skills to work with the local people, such as reaching out to young people by distributing toys and working in the "Canada House" Children's Centre.

SACRIFICE

Canadian Armed Forces members know well the sacrifices that go along with the rewards of participating in international peace support efforts. Hostile fire and land mines are perhaps the most obvious dangers in a conflict zone, but they are not the only ones. Vehicle accidents, mysterious illnesses, and psychological effects resulting from the arduous conditions they are exposed to take a serious toll as well – a toll that can last a lifetime. One Canadian Armed Forces member died in Cambodia. About 130 Canadian peacekeepers have died in peace support operations over the years.

CANADA REMEMBERS PROGRAM

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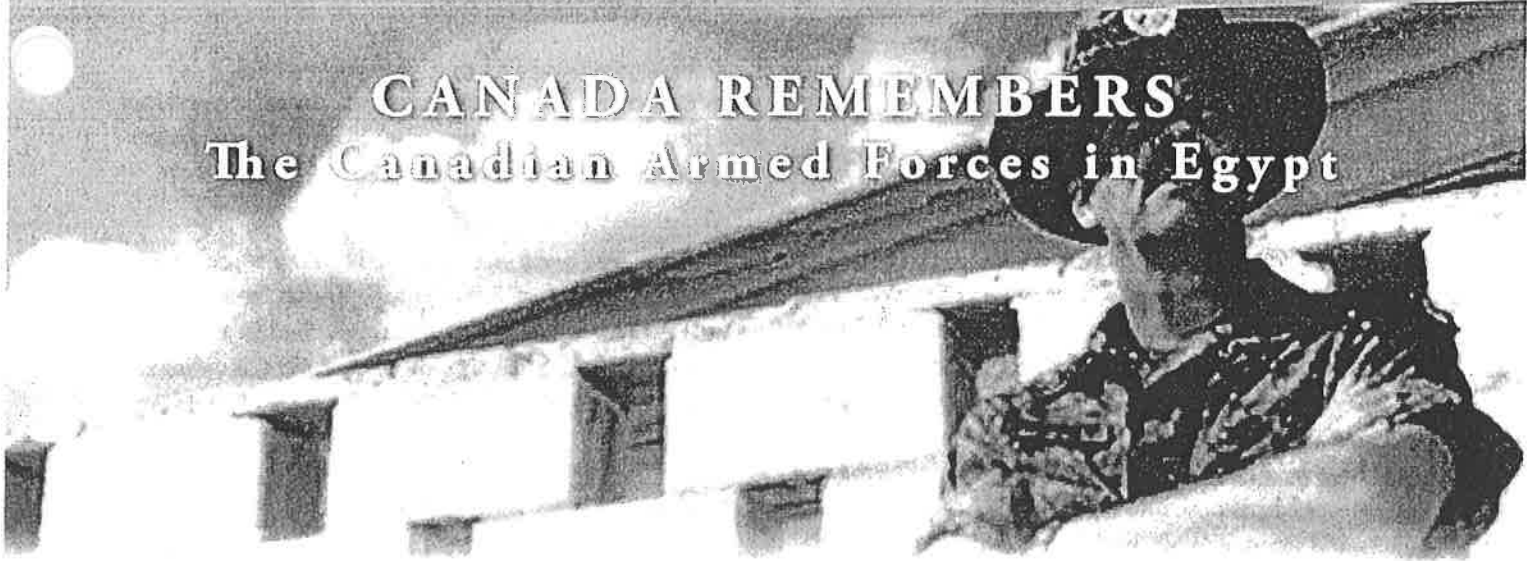
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CANADA REMEMBERS

The Canadian Armed Forces in Egypt



INTRODUCTION

When most Canadians think of Egypt, the beauty of the Nile River and the great pyramids might be some of the first things that come to mind. However, for thousands of Canadian Armed Forces members who served there over the last 50 years, a different image could come to mind – one of conflict between two clashing countries with nothing separating them except the peace efforts of Canada and other concerned countries.

Canadian Armed Forces members took part in the United Nations (UN) peace missions in the Gaza strip and the Sinai peninsula of Egypt between 1956 and 1967, and again from 1973 to 1979. Since 1986, Canadians have also participated in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) peace mission in Egypt.

These missions have touched the lives of many Canadian families and communities as tens of thousands of Canadians have left for Egypt over the years to return with a new sense of military conflict and strife and a deeper appreciation for how complicated the concept of peace can be.

EGYPT

Egypt is a desert nation in the Middle East, strategically located to form the only link between the two huge continents of Africa and Asia. Egypt is home to the Suez Canal, a very important waterway which allows ship traffic between the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.

While Egypt gained full independence in the years following the Second World War, the Suez Canal remained under the control of British and French interests. In 1956, after years of increasing tensions between Egypt and these European powers, Egypt seized control of the waterway. France, the United Kingdom and Israel were dismayed by this act and decided to act together to forcibly change the situation. Later that year, Israel invaded Egypt and pushed on toward the Suez Canal. The British and French then landed troops of their own along the Canal Zone to secure it.

CANADA AND THE WORLD RESPONDS

Due to this complicated situation and intense unrest, the United Nations immediately met to try to resolve the issue and called for a cease-fire and withdrawal of foreign forces from Egypt. In discussions, Canada's then-Minister of External Affairs, Lester B. Pearson, called for the creation of a multinational armed force to go into Egypt to help restore peace and prevent a major international confrontation. The UN members agreed to this plan, which would be monitored and enforced by a UN force under the command of another Canadian, Lieutenant-General E.L.M. "Tommy" Burns. The countries involved in the conflict accepted these terms and the modern era of international peacekeeping was born. It is a source of Canadian pride that Lester B. Pearson (who would go on to become Prime Minister of Canada), was awarded the 1957 Nobel Peace Prize for his work toward establishing this first major UN peacekeeping mission.

Canada participated in this early UN peacekeeping deployment. As dozens of missions followed over the years, the concept of peacekeeping evolved to a peace support force that manages military conflict and civil unrest in a sophisticated, complex, and often dangerous process.

In this first effort, some practical issues had to be resolved for the Canadians' efforts to be effective. They needed a way to distinguish themselves from the British who had been involved in the fighting, and whose uniforms and weapons looked very similar to those used by Canada. It was decided that the UN troops would wear blue headgear to be easily identifiable as being there for a peaceful purpose and not as combatants. The blue berets and helmets worn by UN peacekeepers have become one of the most well known symbols of today's international peace support movement.

The UN initiative was initially a success, with Britain and France withdrawing their troops by the end of the year and Israel withdrawing by March 1957. UN observers remained in the border area between Israel and Egypt to monitor the situation until tensions heightened again in 1967 in the lead-up to the Six-Day War and demands by Egypt for a departure of the peace forces stationed on their soil.

Following the Yom Kippur War of 1973, where Egypt and Syria attacked Israeli forces, the UN was again called in to maintain peace in the region which they did until the Camp David Accords. This created the framework for a lasting peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, and the UN mission came to an end in 1979.

In 1986, the Canadian Armed Forces would return to Egypt as part of the non-UN-administered MFO peace presence that had been put in place in 1982 to support the terms of this peace treaty.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- In all its missions to Egypt, Canada's main contribution was logistical in nature, providing services like transportation, communication, supply and health support for the UN forces.
- At times, the total size of the UN peace forces in Egypt was upward of 7,000 troops drawn from 20 countries. More than 150 UN troops died in their peace efforts for Egypt, including more than 50 Canadians. This was the largest loss of life in any single Canadian peace effort.

HEROES AND BRAVERY

For our Canadian Armed Forces members, there is more to peace efforts than the traditional skills of the military. For example, once active fighting in Egypt came to an end, the peacekeepers came in and the Israelis and Egyptians had to co-exist under terms of the cease-fire. Much of the job of the local commanders of the UN mission (which included Canadian officers like Bill Porter and Ken Nette) following the end of the Yom Kippur War in 1973 was diplomatic in nature. They had to broker countless small but delicate negotiations involving matters like prisoner exchanges and recovery of war dead.

Heroes who showed bravery and skill during missions like these can be found in almost every community across Canada. But when they return to their home communities, their experiences are often not well understood. That's because many members of the Canadian Armed Forces find it hard to talk about the military and civil conflict and strife they have lived through, or reveal how hard it is to leave behind loved ones for months at a time.



But peace efforts can have positive impacts on those who participate in them. For example, Canadians on many of these missions are exposed to many different cultures, including the one that exists in the place they are stationed and that of their fellow troops from all over the world. Canadians in the MFO mission take the opportunity to learn about the cultural identity and history of the Middle East, a knowledge that can only help them better understand our own culturally-diverse country of Canada.

SACRIFICE

On the edge of the town of Gaza lies a well-tended cemetery filled with the graves of Allied troops who died while serving in the Middle East during the First World War. One small corner of this cemetery, reached through gates adorned with gilded maple leaves, is home to the graves of 22 Canadians who died in the course of the peace efforts to Egypt in the 1950s and '60s.

The Canadians who are buried there died as a result of perils like ambush, land mine explosions and vehicle accidents. These represent only some of the dangers that must be faced during peace efforts. Even today, the grim legacy of war lives on in Egypt, where the peril of land mines is an ongoing danger for its citizens and for the troops maintaining the peace.

The Canadian Armed Forces members who lay buried next to those who served their countries and the world in the First World War, their sacrifices equal in death, are remembered by Canadians around the world. About 130 Canadians have died in the course of peace support operations overseas over the years, paying the ultimate price in their efforts to help the people in these strife-torn places. Many more have been injured in these efforts.

CANADA REMEMBERS PROGRAM

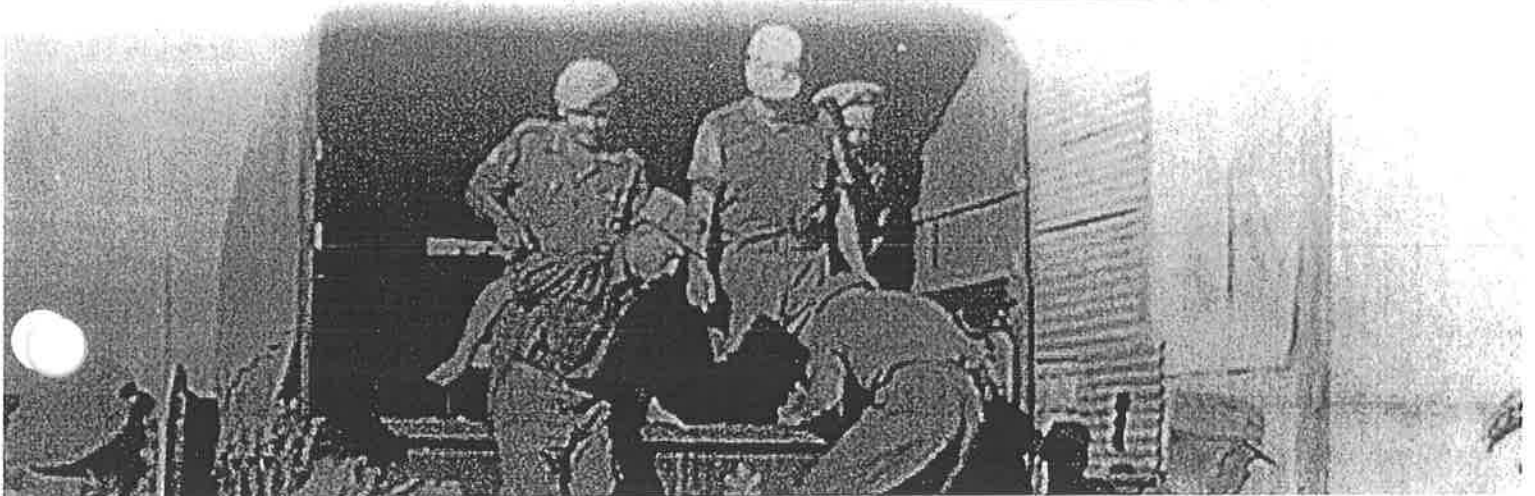
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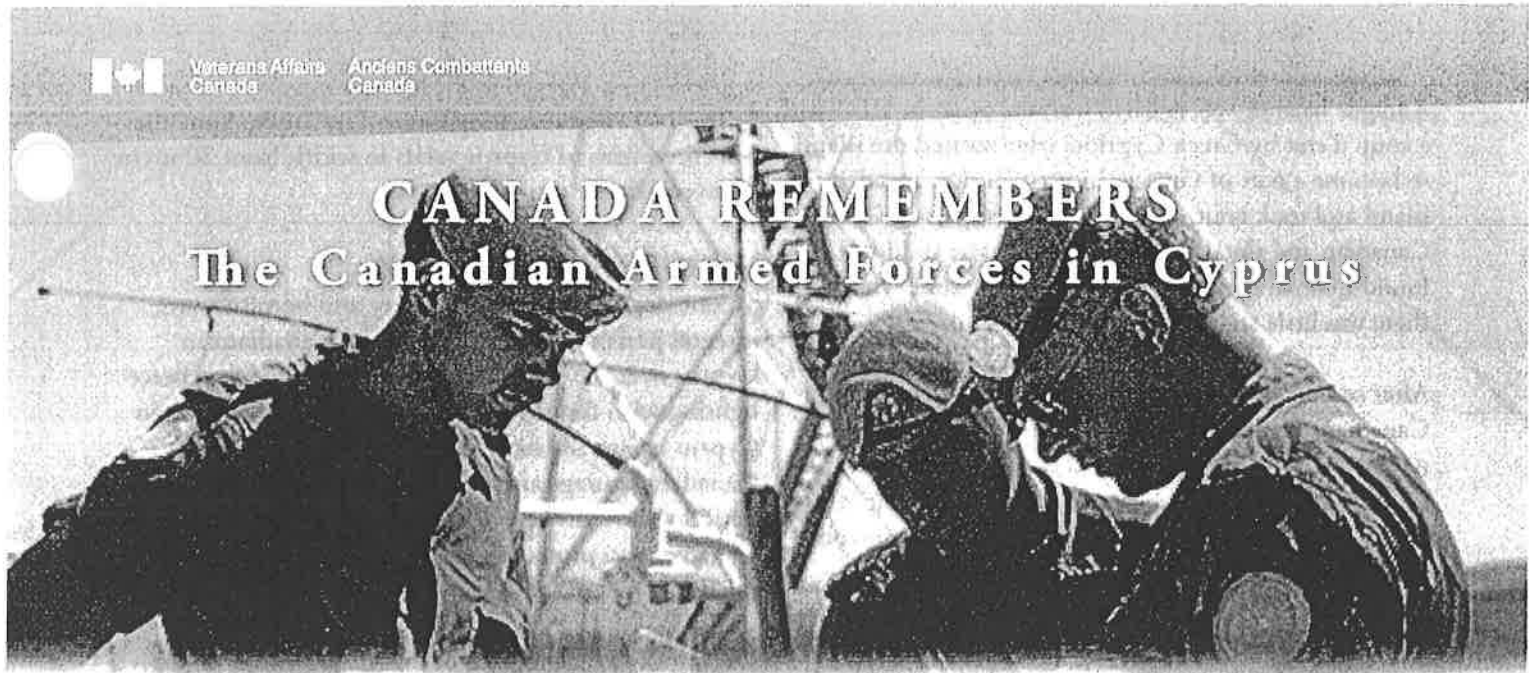
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CANADA REMEMBERS

The Canadian Armed Forces in Cyprus

THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES IN CYPRUS

The peacekeeping operation in Cyprus, from 1964 to today, is one of Canada's longest and best-known overseas military commitments. A large Canadian contingent served on the island from 1964 to 1993, and a small Canadian Armed Forces presence remains there today as United Nations (UN) peace efforts continue.

In total, more than 25,000 Canadian Armed Forces members have served in Cyprus over the decades. Many of them served in Cyprus more than once, participating in several rotations.

The length of the mission and the large number of Canadians who have served in Cyprus over the years makes it a well-known effort to many of us. Like Veterans of the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War, the men and women who willingly left their homes and travelled halfway around the world to serve in a tense and violent place like Cyprus are Canadians who achieved and sacrificed much to protect peace and freedom.

CYPRUS

Cyprus is a small Mediterranean island of just over 9,000 square kilometres, making it a little smaller than Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. It has a population of almost 800,000 people. Cyprus has a very tumultuous

history, including the period leading up to and after 1960, when the island gained independence. Much of the unrest is rooted in ethnic tensions.

Cyprus has been largely Greek in culture, language and population for more than 3,000 years and many Greek Cypriots have long favoured politically joining the nation of Greece. However, there is also a sizeable minority population of Turkish people who are uneasy about this possibility, as well as the country of Turkey itself, which is concerned about the situation in Cyprus because of its nearness to the Turkish coast. During the time around the island's independence, frictions between the ethnic groups in Cyprus grew, leading to the spread of strife and violence across the island in 1963.

THE WORLD RESPONDS

Because of this unrest, Cyprus asked the UN to establish a peacekeeping force in 1964. Once it arrived, the situation was unlike anything that UN peacekeepers had previously experienced. The quarrelling populations of Turks and Greeks were very intermingled on the island and the UN troops were faced with maintaining the peace in a situation where many small groups of Turks lived among the larger Greek population. Canadian soldiers needed both their traditional skills of soldiering and the skills of managing disagreements and conflicts between civilians. It has been remarked of difficult situations like these that "Peacekeeping is not a soldier's job, but only a soldier can do it."

A fragile balance was reached but was upset in 1974 with a coup d'etat by Greek Cypriots who wanted the island to become a part of Greece. In turn, Turkey invaded the island and took control of the northern part of Cyprus. Canadian and the other UN peacekeepers suddenly found themselves in the middle of a war zone where there was little stability and much violence.

After several weeks of active fighting in which three Canadians died and 17 were injured, a cease-fire was negotiated. The UN established the famous "Green Line," a cease-fire line and buffer zone stretching across Cyprus, separating the portions of the island controlled by the Greeks and the Turks.

UN peacekeeping forces patrolled this uneasy buffer zone which, in places, was only several metres wide. At times, gunfire regularly occurred along the Green Line. It was not safe to move so much as a sandbag along the buffer zone because it might create an incident. Canadian peacekeepers had to live with the fact that they were between two very agitated groups and that they were tasked with keeping a lid on simmering tensions. Crowd control and dealing with unruly mobs upset over some violation, whether real or imagined, were ongoing issues that the Canadians were constantly called on to diffuse.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- The earlier Canadian Armed Forces contingent in Cyprus varied in size from fewer than 500 to more than 1,100 personnel. In recent years one Canadian officer has been part of the international peacekeeping force there.
- More than 160 UN personnel from different countries have died in the course of the peace efforts in Cyprus.

- The 180 kilometre-long Green Line buffer zone that runs the width of Cyprus varies in width from 20 metres to seven kilometres.

HEROES AND BRAVERY

To one degree or another, bravery and heroism were integral parts of the efforts of all the Canadians in Cyprus over the years. The invasion of 1974 saw fierce fighting with thousands of Turkish soldiers landing in Cyprus in just the first 24 hours. Many episodes of Canadian courage and valour emerged from this period which saw one of the first uses of direct force by Canadians to protect themselves in a peacekeeping mission.

During the invasion, one of the main Turkish objectives was the airport in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus. The UN commander was able to negotiate a local cease-fire and withdrawal of Greek and Turkish forces from the airport area, which the Canadian UN troops then occupied. However, the Turks still threatened to attack the airport. The defending Canadians had only a few anti-tank weapons and heavy machine guns, but the strategic Canadians moved around the airport, under cover of night, to create the illusion that the airport was heavily defended. The ruse worked and the Canadians held the location.

During the heavy fighting of the 1974 conflict, a number of bravery medals were awarded to Canadian soldiers. One example occurred when a group of Canadians in Cyprus came under fire. Several soldiers were hit, including the officer leading the patrol. Private Joseph Plouffe went at once to try to give the injured officer first aid but was wounded, as well. These two injured Canadians were in a very vulnerable position and



threatened by machine gun fire. Corporal Joseph Whelan and Privates Joseph Belley and Joseph Pelletier braved the shooting to rescue their comrades.

SACRIFICE

Canadians can be rightfully proud of our reputation around the world for being a force for peace, but this resolve comes at a steep cost: about 130 Canadian personnel have died in the course of our country's peace efforts.

In Cyprus, 28 Canadian peacekeepers gave their lives, paying the ultimate price in our country's efforts to help the people of that nation. The loss of Canadian lives in Cyprus demonstrates in the most profound way the dedication our military personnel have to their mission and to their country.

The injuries and harsh experiences that Veterans live through while on these international peace missions can impact them for the rest of their lives.

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CANADA REMEMBERS

The Canadian Armed Forces and the Gulf War



INTRODUCTION

The Gulf War of the early 1990s was a struggle that is well known to many. More than 4,000 Canadian Armed Forces members served in the Persian Gulf region in 1990-1991 as part of the international coalition of countries that came together to drive the invading forces of Iraq out of Kuwait. In the aftermath of the conflict, Canadians would continue to serve with peacekeeping and embargo-enforcement efforts in the region for several years.

THE PERSIAN GULF

Iraq and Kuwait are Arab countries located next to each other in the heart of the oil-rich Middle East, a region of the world steeped in history. In fact, many historians would say that human civilization itself was born in the "Fertile Crescent" – the land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in modern-day Iraq.

In the 20th century, both Iraq and Kuwait achieved independence. The relationship between the two countries, however, has not been smooth. Iraq had long felt that Kuwait was really a part of Iraq and that Kuwaiti oil rigs were illegally tapping into Iraqi oil fields. In the late 1980s, tensions grew and relations became much worse. On August 2, 1990, the situation came to a head when Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait, quickly taking control of its much smaller neighbour.

THE WORLD RESPONDS

Many in the international community condemned Iraq's bold act of aggression and Canada soon joined a 35-country, American-led multinational coalition to restore freedom to Kuwait. Functioning under the mandate of a United Nations (UN) resolution that approved the use of force, Operation *Desert Shield* saw the build-up of Coalition forces in the Gulf region. The Canadian Armed Forces participation in the military efforts there would be codenamed Operation *Friction*.

Canada's first military contributions came at sea in August 1990, when three of our warships sailed to the Persian Gulf to be part of a Coalition fleet that would secure the waters off Iraq and occupied Kuwait. Canadian CF-18 warplanes were sent to the Middle East in October 1990 to help take control of the skies above the Gulf. A joint headquarters for the Canadian Armed Forces in the region was also established in Manamah, Bahrain in November 1990. Canadian medical, communications, logistical and security units would also bravely play support roles in the Gulf War.

On January 16-17, 1991, Operation *Desert Storm* began as Coalition forces launched a devastating air campaign after a final deadline for Iraq's withdrawal was ignored. This was followed by an armoured and infantry ground offensive that commenced on February 24 which rapidly pushed the Iraqis out of Kuwait. This fulfilled their mandate to liberate Kuwait, and Coalition forces ceased the offensive on February 28 and offered a

Canadian CF-18 in Qatar readying for take-off in April 1991. Photo: Department of National Defence ISC91-5253

cease-fire which Iraq accepted on March 3. The end of the war left Iraq defeated but the country's leader, Saddam Hussein, retained power. He would remain in control of Iraq for more than 12 years until the second Gulf War of 2003 finally swept him from power.

After the Gulf War ended, Canadian troops remained in the region as part of the UN peacekeeping mission along the Iraq-Kuwait border, monitoring the demilitarized zone between the two countries, investigating cease-fire violations and clearing land mines. Canada also had a role in the years that followed in the special commission to seek out Iraq's biological, chemical and nuclear weapons production facilities. On the water, Canadian warships helped to enforce the economic sanctions that had been imposed on Iraq after the conflict.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- The fact that Iraq possessed chemical and biological weapons, as well as large missiles that could be used to attack neighbouring countries, made the entire region very tense in 1990-1991.
- The peak number of Canadian Armed Forces members in the Persian Gulf region at one time was some 2,700 personnel.
- The Canadian Naval Task Group—consisting of the destroyers HMCS *Terra Nova* and HMCS *Athabaskan*, and the supply ship HMCS *Protecteur*—helped support the Coalition fleet efforts in the region. Five Sea King helicopters with No. 443 Squadron were also part of this force.

- CF-18 jet squadrons with approximately 500 personnel operated out of the 'Canada Dry' bases in the Persian Gulf nation of Qatar, performing combat air control, escort and reconnaissance missions. For the first time since the Korean War, Canadian air-to-surface attacks took place during the conflict.
- The Canadian Air Command's Transport Group carried personnel and cargo in the region. One of the Canadian planes was used in aerial refueling duties for Coalition air forces.
- A Canadian field hospital with 530 personnel was established in Al-Qaysumah, Saudi Arabia in February 1991. This hospital cared for both Coalition and Iraqi wounded.
- Soldiers from units like the Royal Canadian Regiment and the *Royal 22^e Régiment* performed security duties at Canadian installations in the Middle East in 1990-1991.

HEROES AND BRAVERY

On a hot afternoon in Kuwait City, an overheated Coalition convoy truck caught fire suddenly, setting off a series of explosions that injured many American soldiers. Captain Fred Kaustinen, acting commander of Canada's 1st Combat Engineer Regiment, and 50 of his troops took immediate action, providing emergency treatment and evacuation for the wounded.

The Gulf War marked the first time that female Canadian Armed Forces members performed combat duties. It was especially challenging for these trail-blazing women because they were serving in conservative Middle



Eastern countries where traditional gender roles are very different than in Canada.

HMCS *Athabaskan* took part in a tense mission in February 1991 when the ship went to the aid of the USS *Princeton*, which had been seriously damaged by Iraqi mines off the coast of Kuwait. Keeping a vigilant watch while crossing hundreds of kilometres of dangerous waters and navigating through enemy minefields, *Athabaskan* escorted a Coalition fleet tugboat that would safely extract the American warship.

SACRIFICE

Theatres of war, like the Persian Gulf in the early 1990s, are dangerous places. There are many risks that go beyond the obvious ones of enemy attack or landmines. Friendly fire incidents, vehicle accidents and the psychological impact of serving in such stressful conditions can take a heavy and life-long toll. Debilitating medical conditions have struck some Veterans of the Gulf War, including symptoms like chronic fatigue, respiratory complaints and muscular pain.

Fortunately, no Canadian Armed Forces members died in the course of the Gulf War. A total of more than 1,800 Canadians have died in military service in the post-war years, however. Their names are inscribed within the beautiful *In the Service of Canada Book of Remembrance* that is displayed in the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

CANADA REMEMBERS PROGRAM

The Canada Remembers Program of Veterans Affairs Canada encourages all Canadians to learn about the sacrifices and achievements made by Canada's Veterans during times of war, military conflict and peace, and to become involved in remembrance activities that will help to preserve their legacy for future generations of Canadians.

To learn more about Canada's role in the Gulf War, please visit the Veterans Affairs Canada website at veterans.gc.ca or call 1-866-522-2122 toll free.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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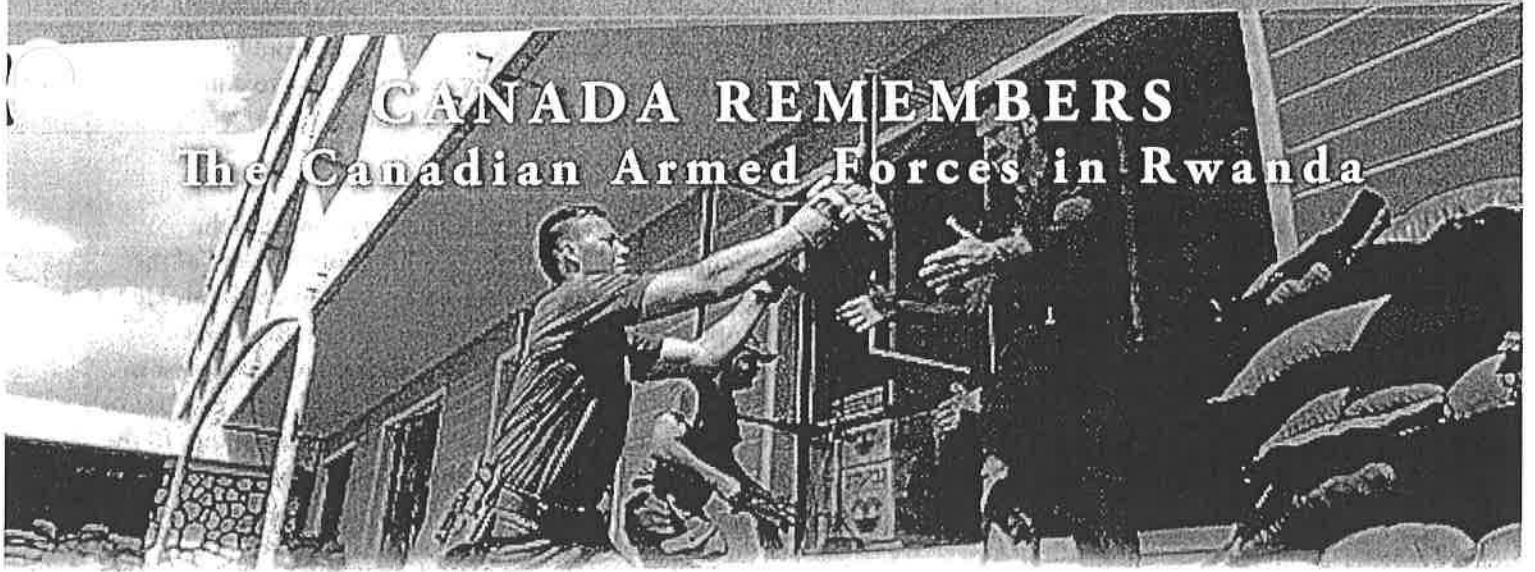


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CANADA REMEMBERS

The Canadian Armed Forces in Rwanda



INTRODUCTION

Being a member of the Canadian Armed Forces is not like any other job. The danger and threats that come along with the profession are difficult to understand for those who have not personally experienced them. A prime example of these special challenges was the situation faced by Canadians serving with United Nations (UN) peace missions to Rwanda from 1993 to 1996. At times, more than 400 Canadian soldiers would find themselves in the midst of some of the worst violence that could be imagined while taking part in international peace efforts to try to bring some stability to the embattled African nation.

RWANDA

Rwanda is a small, rural nation in central Africa. This densely-populated country has an area of about 26,000 square kilometres (making it about half the size of Nova Scotia) and a population of approximately eight million.

For centuries, two tribes have made up the vast majority of the country's population: the Hutus and the Tutsis. The Tutsis, despite being in the minority, dominated Rwanda's economy and politics for centuries. In 1960, the Hutu majority rose up and forced the Tutsi king and hundreds of thousands of Tutsis to flee the country in the ensuing upheaval.

Rwanda achieved independence in 1961 but the unrest continued. Some of the Tutsis who had fled the country formed rebel groups and repeatedly tried to make an

armed comeback in Rwanda. This led to decades of renewed ethnic violence and tensions. In the early 1990s, these tensions flared dramatically. Violence became widespread and the situation in the country moved toward full-scale civil war.

THE WORLD RESPONDS

In the face of this turmoil, Canada and other UN countries moved to try to end the bloodshed and restore order. The UN undertook peace missions to Rwanda from 1993 to 1996, the largest being the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) in which Canada played a leading role. At different times during the mission, two Canadians would serve as the Commander of the UN mission. They were Major-General Roméo Dallaire and Major-General Guy Tousignant.

Even with the UN mission to Rwanda in place, the bad situation in the country turned into a nightmare in April 1994. The Hutus began to massacre hundreds of thousands of Tutsis and moderate Hutus. The UN soldiers did what they could in this chaotic environment of widespread killing and mayhem, but they were too few in number and hamstrung by their limited mandate. In the end, they could not prevent the worst of the horrific violence. The Canadian and other UN forces did remain in the country for a time to try to help the country with some humanitarian efforts, mine clearing and refugee resettlement before leaving the devastated country in 1996.

DND Photo Img0012/Rwanda

Today, Rwanda still suffers from instability and outbreaks of violence as it struggles to overcome the legacies of its violent past. The civil war, genocide, and massive refugee upheavals still impact the country more than a decade later.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- The estimated number of people who died in the genocide in Rwanda ranges between 500,000 and one million people. Millions more were left homeless and displaced in the upheaval.

- In the time since the genocide, the world has come to realize the depth of the horrendous events in the country. In recognition of the 10th anniversary of the onset of the Rwandan genocide, April 7, 2004, was declared an International Day of Reflection.

HEROES AND BRAVERY

Major Brent Beardsley, the Military Assistant to the Force Commander of the UN mission in Rwanda, was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross for facing armed and hostile civilian mobs and rebel soldiers to rescue people who were being threatened by the crowds. He

entered violent crowds to save a family from being swarmed, to rescue a doctor and nurse from being assaulted, to get a severely-wounded man to a hospital and to escort the UN Force Commander to headquarters.

Major-General Roméo Dallaire was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross for his efforts as head of the UN peacekeeping mission in Rwanda in 1993-94. He worked bravely and tirelessly in conditions of great danger to negotiate cease-fires and reduce the unrest in the country. He tried to get greater help from the UN to try to prevent the genocide he feared was coming. In the torrent of murder that occurred, he was able to evacuate many foreigners from the country and save the lives of thousands of Rwandans through his actions.

Major-General Guy Tousignant earned the Meritorious Service Cross for his actions as Force Commander of the UN mission in Rwanda in 1994-95. He demonstrated leadership, courage and professionalism in delicate negotiations involving rival factions during a period of great unrest. Tousignant's work with official Rwandan government representatives facilitated the safe return of thousands of refugees.

DND Photo Img0052/Rwanda



SACRIFICE

When Canadian Armed Forces members enter into a peace mission, they are going into a dangerous situation where the risk of harm is very real. About 130 Canadian personnel have died in the course of peace missions in foreign lands, including one who gave his life in Rwanda.

When people think of peacekeeping, they may not realize just how little peace there often is to keep. In Rwanda, Canadian Armed Forces members found themselves in the middle of a chaotic conflict zone where danger and bloodshed were everywhere.

Hostile fire, violent crowds and vehicle accidents all posed a risk to the Canadians in Rwanda, but there were other dangers too. The wounds of peacekeeping are not always the obvious physical ones of a war zone. Witnessing human brutality of the most horrific kind has a deep and lasting impact on those who see it. This has been one of the harshest legacies of Canada's peace support mission in Rwanda. Some of the Veterans who served there have since suffered from a serious emotional disorder called post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Canadian Armed Forces Veterans proudly carried on the tradition set many years ago by the Veterans of Canada's efforts in the First World War, Second World War and Korean War. Our country has participated in the majority of peace missions that the UN has undertaken over the years, making our nation an important part of the effort to keep the peace around the globe. Like the Veterans who fought in these conflicts, they have made significant achievements and heavy sacrifices in the protection of peace and freedom worldwide.

CANADA REMEMBERS PROGRAM

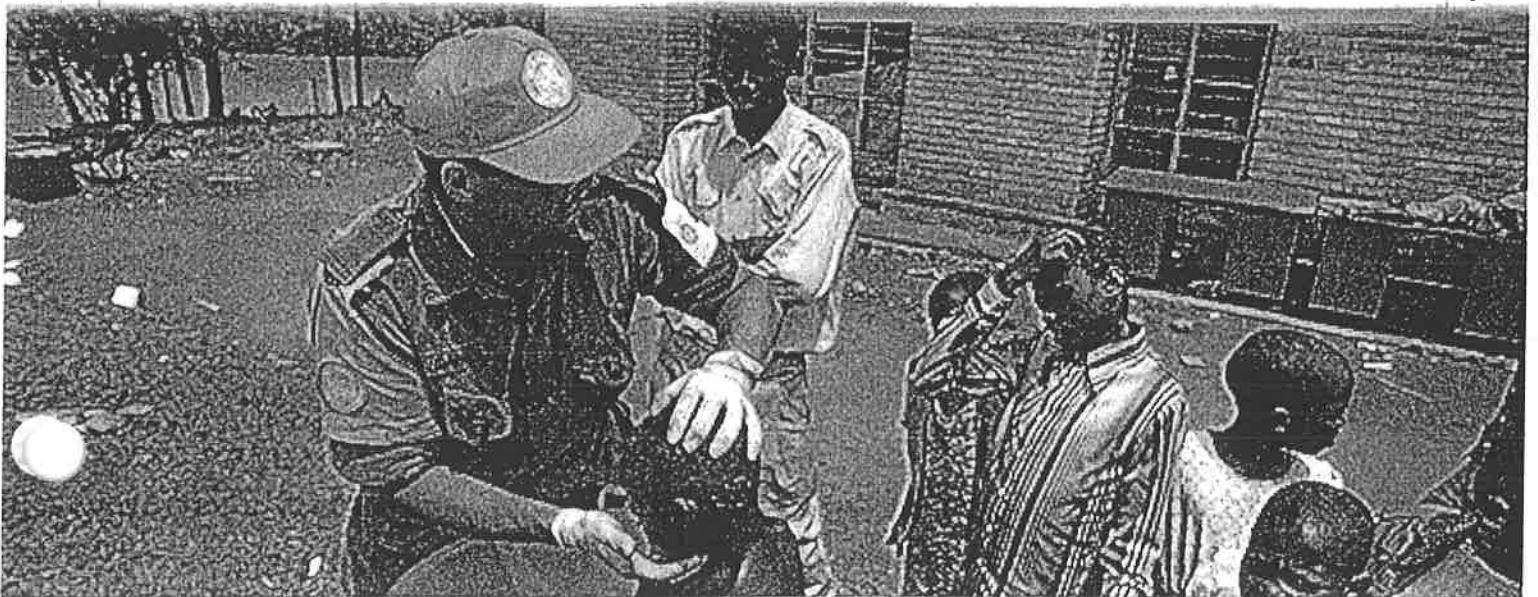
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Historical Sheet - The Canadian Armed Forces in the Balkans

Introduction

When Canadians think about Canadian Armed Forces personnel serving in overseas peace efforts, one of the first places they probably think about is the Balkan peninsula of southeast Europe.

Canadians have served in European Community, United Nations (UN) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) missions in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and Macedonia – new countries that have risen out of the ashes of the former country of Yugoslavia. Beginning in 1991, tens of thousands of Canadian Armed Forces members strived over the years to help make the region secure and nurture the fragile peace so recovery can continue after years of fierce fighting.



Balkans

The Balkan countries which have seen such turmoil are located in southeast Europe, north of Greece and across the Adriatic Sea from Italy. This is a land of beautiful mountains, fertile plains and an island-studded coastline that stretches along the Adriatic Sea.

For much of the 20th century, this area was a single Communist country known as Yugoslavia. However, long-standing ethnic, religious and political differences between the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Muslim populations who have lived there for centuries created an environment of distrust that made for an unstable situation.

Once the authoritarian rule in the country began to crumble, the different ethnic and religious factions erupted into violence. In the early 1990s, the various regions tried to split off and form their own countries, dividing along ethnic and religious lines. There were many cases of ethnic cleansing where entire villages or areas of minorities were persecuted, driven out or killed outright by armies.

The World Responds

As the world saw the violence descend on the region, the international community moved to respond. The first direct Canadian involvement would come in 1991-1992 when some Canadian Armed Forces officers participated in the European Community Monitoring Mission there.

Canada and other countries then deployed a large UN (United Nations) peacekeeping force (known as the United Nations Protection Force, or UNPROFOR) to try to curb the violence in the

region, particularly in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. This would be only the first of a series of UN (United Nations) (and later, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)) peace support efforts in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Kosovo in the former Yugoslavia.

The situations that Canadian Armed Forces members encountered during their efforts in the Balkans were unique. The skills needed for a peace mission are often quite different from the skills required to fight a conventional conflict. Peacekeepers must be trained for war and for peace. The Canadians who have served in the Balkans over the years have performed many roles. They monitored ever-shifting and fragile cease-fire lines and forced open lines of supply to besieged areas in order to bring in food and humanitarian supplies to the civilians trapped in the middle of the fighting. In the waters of the Adriatic Sea, our country deployed naval and air resources to assist the UN (United Nations) in its naval blockade of arms shipments to the region. Canadians also tried to protect areas of ethnic minorities (so-called "safe areas" which would tragically prove to be not very safe) which were under siege from the majority militias.

Canada and other peacekeeping nations faced huge challenges in the Balkans and there was only so much they could do to curb the worst of the violence brought on by the hatred and viciousness of the combatants there. Many horrible acts were perpetrated that the peacekeepers simply could not prevent.

Today, the active fighting is over. The last sizable Canadian Armed Forces presence left the region in 2004, but a European Union peace support force remains in the region to help keep the peace and support those who live in the region as they move toward a more peaceful future.

Facts and Figures

- The largest number of Canadians to serve in a UN (United Nations) mission in the region at any one time was 2,000. More than 40,000 troops from many countries took part in the largest UN (United Nations) contingent that served during the peace support missions.
- NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) contingents continue to play a peacekeeping in the region. At times, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) troop strengths have reached 60,000, including up to 1,500 Canadians.
- In the spring of 1999, Canadian pilots flew combat missions for the first time since the Korean War.
- In Macedonia in 1999-2000, Canada sent its largest single overseas deployment of troops since the Korean War. Canada also deployed heavy tanks in a conflict situation for the first time since the Korean War.

Heroes and Bravery

Often we think of the dangers of war and heroic acts of bravery as belonging to generations of the past. However, in the 1990s, Canadian Armed Forces members found themselves in a full-fledged war zone where peacekeeping troops had to engage in firefights to try to fulfill their missions.

- Major Joseph Servais and Captain Joseph Brosseau both were awarded Meritorious Service Medals for their work as monitors with the European Union Monitoring Mission in the region in the early 1990s. Servais was responsible for eight monitoring teams, often conducting the most dangerous missions himself. Brosseau led the mission in Sarajevo at the time, planning and leading the dangerous six-hour convoy to safely evacuate his group when ordered to leave.
- In September 1993, Canadian soldiers experienced their most intense firefight since the Korean War when members of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry were pounded with heavy machine gun fire, grenades, cannons and small arms fire in the Medak Pocket of Croatia.

- Captain Joseph Bélisle and Sergeant Mario Forest received Medals of Bravery while serving in Sarajevo for rescuing two seriously wounded women. While under sniper fire, Captain Bélisle returned fire to shield Sergeant Forest, who crawled to reach the two victims and remove them from danger. The two Canadians, still under fire, then helped the women into a military vehicle.
- Master-Corporal Jean Kenneth Jensen was awarded the Medal of Bravery for his actions in August 1992. The United Nations sector headquarters in Sarajevo was under artillery fire and, hearing calls for help, he ran to the scene and guided a wounded soldier to safety. Master-Corporal Jensen returned twice more to look for additional victims and directed a first aid team to the area.
- On two occasions, Canadian soldiers found themselves in hospitals full of patients that had been abandoned by staff due to increased fighting in the area. In one situation, troops found, protected and gave aid to a large number of mentally and physically challenged patients who needed a very high level of care.

Sacrifice

Canadians can be rightfully proud of their reputation around the world as a force for peace, but this comes at a price. About 130 Canadians have died in the course of Canada's peace support operations around the world. In the Balkans, 23 Canadians lost their lives in the various missions and many more were injured.



The wounds of peacekeeping are not always caused by hostile fire, land mines or accidents. They do not always leave physical scars. The mission in the former Yugoslavia was particularly difficult for those deployed there. The human atrocities perpetrated against the civilian population were horrific – witnessing human brutality on this scale has a deep impact on those who see it.

Learning about what the Veterans of these Canadian Armed Forces missions in the Balkan States have done and sacrificed in the course of their duties is important. By understanding their role, we honour their achievements. Knowing about Canada's values and history helps us understand the Canada we live in today.

Canada Remembers Program

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For Additional Information

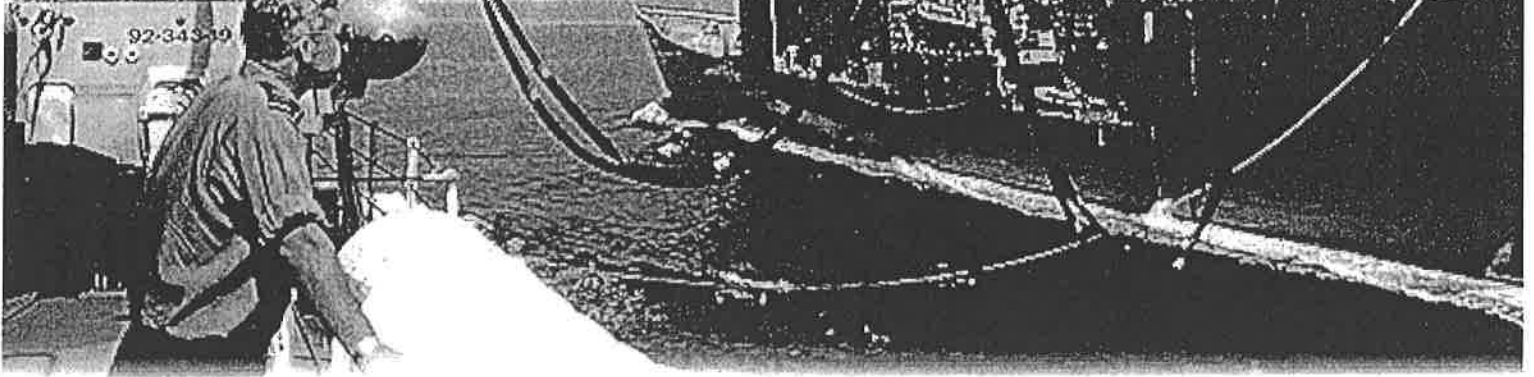
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[United Nations Peacekeeping \(http://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/maintain-](http://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/maintain-)



CANADA REMEMBERS

The Canadian Armed Forces in East Timor



INTRODUCTION

Members of the Canadian Armed Forces have served in many different parts of the world on international peace missions over the past six decades, but few of them have been as far away from home as the mission to the Southeast Asian land of East Timor, on the other side of the globe.

Canadian personnel were in East Timor from 1999 to 2001, first serving with a United Nations (UN)-sanctioned multinational peace-enforcement mission and then in a subsequent UN-administered effort to help restore peace and security in the troubled country.

EAST TIMOR

The small, tropical country of East Timor, (or Timor-Leste, as it has officially been known since 2002) is located on the island of Timor, several hundred kilometres north of Australia. It is an impoverished, mountainous land, having an area of about 15,000 square kilometres (making it about three times the size of Prince Edward Island) and a largely-rural population of approximately one million people.

East Timor experienced great turmoil in the 1970s when the territory began to move away from being a colony of Portugal. Controversy erupted over whether it should become an independent country or become a part of nearby Indonesia. In late 1974, the Indonesian military launched a secret operation to take over East Timor. In 1975, civil war erupted, thousands fled the territory for

the neighbouring Indonesian province and one of the main factions in the fighting declared independence for East Timor. Indonesia then invaded and took over the territory. Ignoring UN resolutions supporting the right of the East Timorese people to self-determination, it was made a province of Indonesia in 1976. In the years following the invasion, armed resistance against the Indonesians, forced resettlement, and famine led to the deaths of more than a hundred thousand people in East Timor.

Despite years of UN-brokered diplomatic efforts, East Timor would not be able to begin to reassert its independence until 1999, a year after Mohammad Suharto, the long-time dictator of Indonesia, resigned and the political situation in that country finally changed. A UN-supervised referendum was held for the people of East Timor to decide whether it should remain a part of Indonesia (but with special autonomy) or begin the process of becoming an independent country – and the citizens overwhelmingly voted for independence. However, this result unfortunately set off further strife in the territory that saw pro-Indonesian militias, at times supported by the Indonesian military, burn homes, kill civilians and create unrest that resulted in 500,000 to 700,000 people being displaced. Even members of the UN assistance mission there were being attacked.

THE WORLD RESPONDS

With international pressure growing for Indonesia to halt the violence, that nation accepted a UN offer of

assistance. A UN-authorized, Australian-led multinational force (which included Canada) went to East Timor in 1999 to restore peace and security, to protect and support the existing UN mission in carrying out its tasks, and to help humanitarian aid reach the citizens.

Canada's main contributions to the international peace missions in East Timor came at the beginning of these efforts in late 1999. Canada had committed to sending HMCS *Protecteur*, an infantry company, and transport planes to support the mission. The more than 600 Canadian Armed Forces members who went to the region at this time filled important roles such as providing security, constructing a camp, repairing local facilities, keeping the naval task force supplied, and other similar duties. The Canadian Armed Forces members were also able to help by reaching out to the people of the country with humanitarian aid and nation-building projects.

The 3rd Battalion, *Royal 22^e Régiment* (Vandoos) contributed 250 soldiers to the Canadian force. Their main role was to patrol a large territory from Ainaro in the east to Suai in the west. The soldiers also repaired a school and hospital, distributed basic sanitation needs, clothing and containers, and taught some English.

An important component of the Canadian efforts in the area was the work of the Canadian Airlift Task Force, made up of two Hercules aircraft and more than 100 personnel. Between September and November 1999, the Canadians transported approximately one million kilograms of cargo and more than 2,000 passengers between Australia and East Timor. As well, the Sea King helicopters based on the HMCS *Protecteur* flew many

supply missions from the ship to different places ashore. Following this sizeable contribution early in the mission, Canada's military participation in East Timor was then scaled back.

With the steady influence of international peacekeepers in the area, the political situation has improved. The new Indonesian government eventually recognized the independence of East Timor, withdrawing its troops and its political claim to the area. East Timor held democratic elections and finally became an independent country in 2002. However, UN forces remained until May 2005 to help maintain the country's security as it made the hard-won transition to full nationhood.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- At times, the total international UN contingent size was more than 10,000 men and women, including civilian policemen who came to serve in the country as well.
- In addition to the 650 Canadian Armed Forces personnel who went to East Timor for a six-month deployment, a contingent of more than 15 Canadian civilian police officers served in the country, helping to train and mentor the local police forces there.

HEROES AND BRAVERY

A Canadian engineering group repaired the electricity, plumbing and water supply of an East Timorese police academy, as well as renovated three main buildings in the academy compound so they could be used for classrooms, offices, and barracks for the police cadets.



Canadian sailors from the HMCS *Protecteur* supplied the multinational forces with fuel, food, spare parts and other materials. They also joined forces with RCMP officers serving with the peacekeeping effort in the country to help in the refurbishing of a police academy and a downtown police station.

SACRIFICE

Canada's long experience in peace missions puts our military in high demand when an emergency situation arises. Indeed, in many ways the Canadian Armed Forces members who participate in international peace and humanitarian support efforts like the one to East Timor act as Canada's ambassadors – the face of our country in places in turmoil. These men and women provide an array of expertise and, using both the skills of war and the skills of peace, are able to fulfill a wide variety of important tasks. However, serving on a peace mission is dangerous. The Canadian Armed Forces members who participated in helping bring about the end of conflict and easing the suffering of people in East Timor put their lives on the line. While about 25 international peacekeepers lost their lives during the UN efforts in East Timor, fortunately no Canadian Armed Forces members were among them. However, about 130 Canadians have died in the course of peace support operations overseas, paying the ultimate price in their efforts to help the people in these strife-torn places. Many more have been injured in these efforts.

CANADA REMEMBERS PROGRAM

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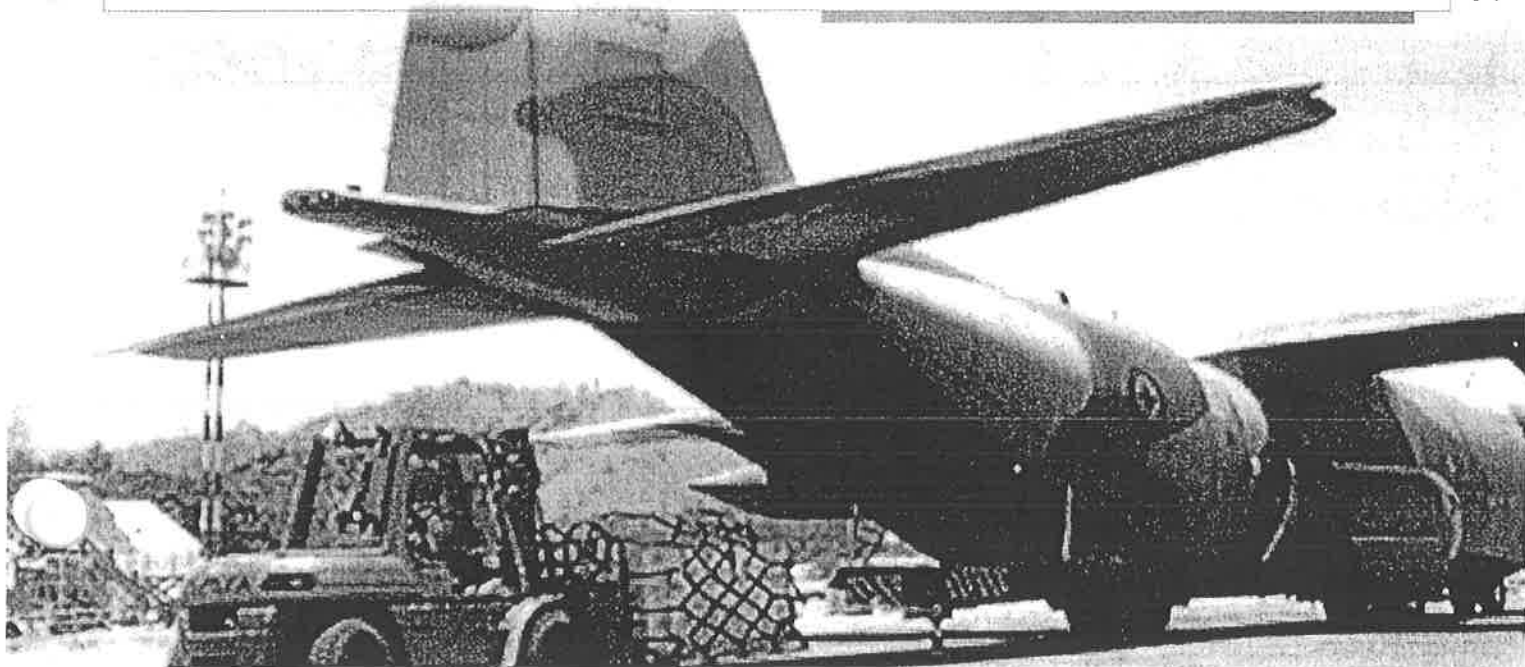
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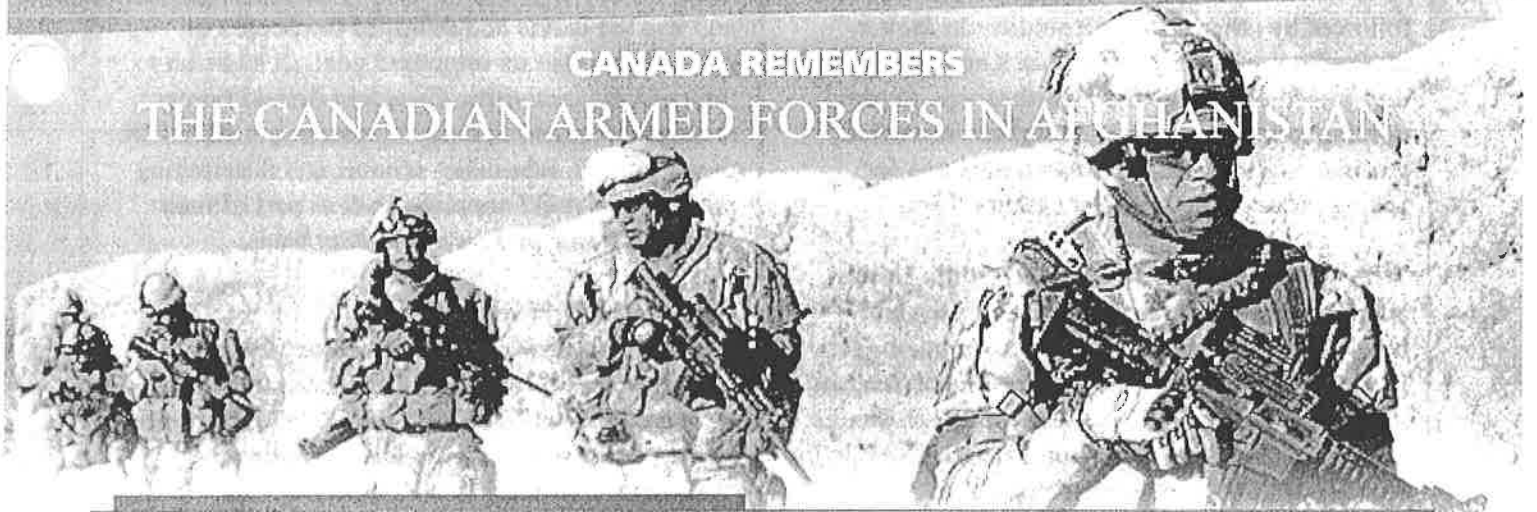
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CANADA REMEMBERS THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN



The chain of events that would bring Canadian soldiers into the desolate and dangerous terrain of Afghanistan began on September 11, 2001. On that day, four airliners were hijacked in the skies over the eastern United States; two were deliberately crashed into the World Trade Center towers and one into the Pentagon, resulting in the death of nearly 3,000 people. These horrific attacks shocked and galvanized the United States and much of the world. Canada would soon play a role in the ensuing international efforts to battle terrorism and help bring democracy to Afghanistan.

AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan is a rugged country in Southwest Asia, located between Pakistan and Iran. This ancient, mountainous land is about the size of Saskatchewan and has a population of approximately 30 million people. The various ethnic groups and factions that have made the country home over the centuries have given Afghanistan a rich heritage and diversity, but have also helped make peace and stability difficult to achieve.

The civil war that broke out after the former Soviet Union withdrew from its military occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s would see the Taliban regime gain control of the country. This extreme fundamentalist regime severely limited civil rights

and supported international terrorist groups, including al-Qaeda (the group which was behind the attacks in the United States). In the wake of September 11, the United States and the world took action through the United Nations (UN) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

CANADA AND THE WORLD RESPOND

The first Canadian Armed Forces contribution to the campaign against terrorism in Southwest Asia came at sea. Beginning in October 2001, Canadian ships would see ongoing duty in the waters off the region, supporting and defending the international fleet operating there as well as locating and searching unknown boats looking for illegal activity.

The Aurora patrol aircraft and Hercules and Polaris transport planes of the Canadian Armed Forces Air Command would also be active in Afghanistan and the waters off Southwest Asia, filling important roles in marine surveillance, transporting supplies and personnel, and evacuating casualties. Canadian helicopters also provided important service in identifying merchant vessels and offering valuable transport support over the years.

Canadian soldiers soon travelled to Afghanistan as well. The first were commandoes from the elite Joint Task Force 2 (JTF 2) in December 2001,

Soldiers from the Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group on patrol in the Panjwai District of Kandahar Province, Oct. 2001. Photo: Department of National Defence 652010-3031-25

followed by other Canadian soldiers in January 2002 who were initially based in Kandahar. There they joined American and British troops already fighting to topple the Taliban regime, eliminate terrorist operations and establish the basis for lasting peace in the troubled country.

With the eventual fall from power of the Taliban, attention turned to stabilizing the country and helping establish a new Afghan government. The UN authorized a NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to take on this challenge. The initial Canadian contribution to the ISAF in the summer of 2003 consisted of more than 700 Canadian Armed Forces members stationed in Kabul, the country's capital, with 200 more providing support from elsewhere in Southwest Asia. In Kabul, the Canadians patrolled the western sector of the city, helped operate the airport and assisted in rebuilding the Afghan National Army.

In 2005, the Canadian Armed Forces' role evolved again when they began to shift back to the volatile Kandahar region. While the Taliban government had been toppled, the group remained a strong presence in some areas of the country. Indeed, Canada's return to Kandahar coincided with a resurgence in Taliban activity and our soldiers quickly found themselves the targets of attack.

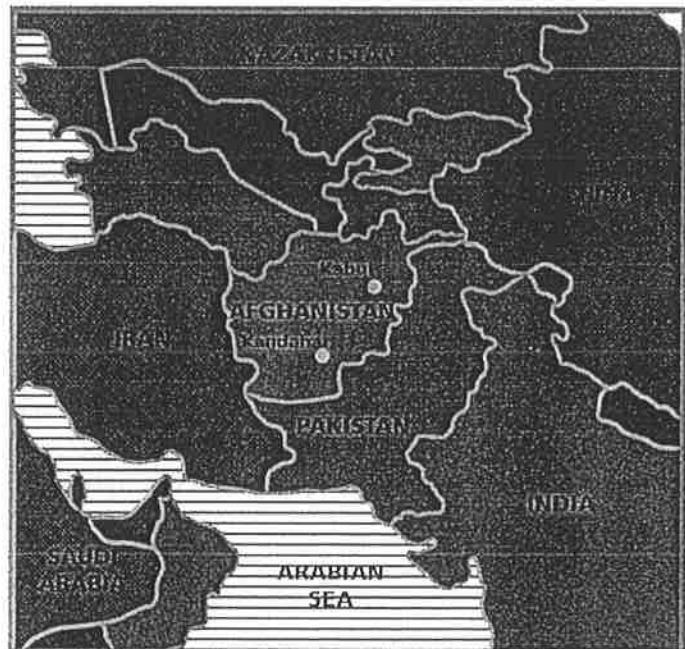
The numbers of Canadian soldiers soon swelled to approximately 2,300 to help deal with the enemy and support the Provincial Reconstruction Team operating there. Canadian tanks, artillery and infantry soldiers all took part in many ground operations in Kandahar, including large-scale offensives against massed Taliban forces. This chapter of Canada's efforts in Afghanistan was the most perilous. Anytime Canadian soldiers left the relative safety of their main camps to go "outside the wire," the danger was very real.

Canada's combat role in the country ended in 2011 when the focus shifted to training Afghanistan's army and police force and the last of our service members left the country in March 2014. But Canada's efforts in the troubled country have been numerous. Reaching out in an attempt to build trust

and win the hearts and minds of the people of Afghanistan was an important goal. In addition to their military activities, Canadian Armed Forces members engaged in many humanitarian efforts like digging wells, rebuilding schools and distributing medical and relief supplies, both as part of their official mission and on a volunteer basis.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- More than 40,000 Canadian Armed Forces members served in the Afghanistan theatre of operations between 2001 and 2014. These brave men and women are eligible to receive the General Campaign Star-Southwest Asia.
- Afghanistan is a very poor country and its climate can be extreme. Summer temperatures of 50° C are common and huge dust storms can sweep across its arid deserts.
- Camp Nathan Smith was a base for Canadian operations in Kandahar for several years. It was named in honour of a soldier from Nova Scotia who was killed there in 2002.
- Operation *Medusa* was a September 2006 offensive in Kandahar province that involved more than 1,000 Canadian Armed Forces members, making it our country's largest combat operation in more than 50 years. The heavy fighting in Operation *Medusa* tragically saw the loss of 12 Canadians, but the Taliban were pushed from the Panjwai district.



HEROES AND BRAVERY

Canadians demonstrated great bravery time and again in Afghanistan. Here are just some examples of that valour.

- A number of Canadians who served in Afghanistan have earned the Star of Military Valour, our country's second-highest decoration for courage. The first was Sergeant Patrick Tower in August 2006 when he braved enemy fire to lead the extraction of a platoon that had come under heavy attack.
- Flight Lieutenant Chris Hasler, a Canadian serving with Britain's Royal Air Force, received the Distinguished Flying Cross for piloting helicopter resupply missions under fire in July 2006.
- Captain Nichola Goddard became the first female Canadian Armed Forces member to die in combat duty when the forward artillery observer was killed in a firefight on May 17, 2006.

SACRIFICE

Canada's efforts in Afghanistan have made a difference, but this has come at a great cost. The threat of suicide attacks and roadside bombs was a constant risk. Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) caused the most Canadian casualties. There were also many other perils beyond ambushes and firefights with the enemy. Landmines and friendly fire incidents took the lives of our soldiers while

vehicle accidents, illnesses and the psychological strain of serving in such a difficult environment also could take a heavy and life-long toll. Sadly, 158 Canadian Armed Forces members died in the cause of peace and freedom in Afghanistan.

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