



## WHAT'S NEW AT VALOUR CANADA?

In 2019, Valour Canada launched our Juno75 Virtual Reality portal which allows people to experience the Canadian battlefields from the fighting of the summer of 1944 in an immersive environment. We are very excited to have been able to expand this to include the Battle of Dieppe and the Battle of Walcheren Causeway in the Fall of 2019.

For 2020, we will be including some historical equipment including an RCAF Lancaster and HMCS HAIDA. The HMCS HAIDA portal was sponsored by Mawer Investment Management – which was founded by Commander Charles “Chuck” Mawer who served aboard HAIDA during the Second World War – please watch our documentary about him and HAIDA here: <http://valourcanada.ca/video-documentaries/commander-charles-chuck-mawer/>.

Also in 2020, we are delighted to be adding a number of documentary videos created by Royal Roads University from their War Heritage Project. The first that we will be releasing during the week of 20 January is entitled “War Horses” and looks at Alberta’s Bar-U ranch during the First World War. More documentaries will be added with a focus on interesting Canadian stories from the First and Second World War.

2020 will be an exciting year for Valour Canada as we expand a number of our programs and celebrate important anniversaries including the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and related anniversaries like the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan which trained over 130 000 air crew during the Second World War in Canada.

We look forward to seeing you at events throughout the year and thank you for your continued support.

## DID YOU KNOW?



By logging into your Google/ YouTube account and subscribing to our [Valour Canada YouTube channel](#), you can have full access to our complete video library and be notified of new videos as soon as they are posted.

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## WINNIE ROACH-LEUSZLER (CWAC) MADE HISTORY AS THE FIRST CANADIAN TO SWIM THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.



Winnie Roach-Leuszler was born in Port Credit, Ontario, in 1926. One of eleven children in her family, Winnie demonstrated great talent and skill as an athlete from a young age.

Winnie started swimming when she was three years old. At the age of nine, she won her first medal in a long-distance swim competition in her hometown. As Winnie grew older and stronger, her abilities continued to set her apart from the competition, despite the fact that she was often pitted against women many years older.

The year 1944 was a whirlwind of events for the 18-year-old Winnie. To start off, she traveled to Clementon, New Jersey, to compete in the Junior National 2.5-mile Swim Championship – she won it. Then, late that summer, she won 5 more races at the C.N.E. (Canadian National Exhibit) in Toronto, one of them while competing against a cohort of 11 male swimmers. Shortly thereafter Winnie was named as Canada’s all-round athlete of the year. Never backing down from a challenge, she decided to join the newly created Canadian Women’s Army Corps (CWAC) for the remainder of the Second World War.

The creation of CWAC was particularly monumental as it marked a shift in roles for women and allowed them to serve their country in a way that was traditionally reserved for men. Members of CWAC were taught military skills such as decoding messages, spotting aircraft, performing vehicle maintenance, range finding, and more. During her CWAC service Winnie competed often and won countless military sporting events.



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After the war, Winnie went on to marry a Royal Canadian Air Force member, Morris Leuszler. They had three children. In 1947, she won the five-mile World Championship swim in Toronto only three months after giving birth. In 1948, she won second place in the same swim competition while in the second trimester of pregnancy with her second child.

In 1951, Winnie made Canadian history when she became the first Canadian to swim the English Channel. It was a grueling feat that took her more than 13 hours in 9°C waters to accomplish. Even in the face of immense adversity, Winnie demonstrated the same courage and determination it had taken all her life to become one of Canada's most accomplished athletes. Later that decade she took up baseball and soon became Canada's first female umpire.

Winnie was inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 1996 for her multiple successes in swimming and baseball. In 1999, she was awarded the Order of Ontario and inducted into Ontario's Swimming Hall of Fame. She died in Surrey, B.C. in 2004.

Winnie Roach-Leuszler, the first Canadian ever to swim the English Channel, joined the military in 1944



To learn more about Winnie's accomplishments, read her Canada's Sports Hall of Fame biography at:

<http://canadasports150.ca/en/sport-veterans/winnie-roach-leuszler/106> .

Photo (main): Winnie in her swimming gear. From Canada's Sports Hall of Fame: Winnie swam the English Channel from Cap Griz-Nez in France to Dover, England. She was on a record time and could see her destination when the tides pulled her back out to sea. Despite this major set-back she persevered. "No matter how tough it is, I'll never crawl ashore. I'm determined to walk ashore" (Credit: Canada's Sports Hall of Fame).

Photo (inset): A CWAC Lance-Corporal's uniform; Winnie served as a Private (Credit: Canada's Sports Hall of Fame).



## VE DAY BATTLEFIELD TOUR

This spring we have managed to secure room on an exclusive basis for **up to 15 spots** to participate with the local Service Battalion in the VE celebrations in Holland and have developed an optional WW1 historical extension.

Tour dates for Holland, France and Belgium are from **May 2 to 14, 2020**. The tour will start in Amsterdam and end in Paris (does not include flights).

This includes transportation along with the Battalion for the first part of the tour, and private coach for the second part, select local accommodation, welcome gifts, complimentary in transit meals and beverages and an exclusive guided experience at each battlefield site by your own private Valour Canada historian.

In addition we will be participating along with military personnel and veterans in all of the VE commemorative ceremonies listed in the itinerary . The costs presented also includes a charitable component that will be contributed to support Valour Canada's programming.

- "Liberation of Holland" tour - \$5000 (Includes a charitable receipt of \$2000)
- "Canada during the First World War" add-on - \$2000 (Includes a charitable receipt of \$1000)

For a detailed itinerary or additional information, please contact Valour Canada's President, Peter Boyle: [peter.boyle@valourcanada.ca](mailto:peter.boyle@valourcanada.ca) or **403.685.2660**.



## STAY TUNED FOR...

- The Winter/Spring 2020 Museum Dates
- The 2019/2020 Annual General Meeting Details

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## SOCIAL CONNECTIONS ... DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA AT:



Facebook: [www.facebook.com/militrivia](http://www.facebook.com/militrivia)  
Username: @militrivia



Twitter: [www.twitter.com/valourcanada](http://www.twitter.com/valourcanada)  
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Username: @ValourCanada



Website: [www.valourcanada.ca](http://www.valourcanada.ca)

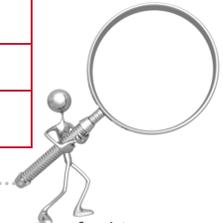
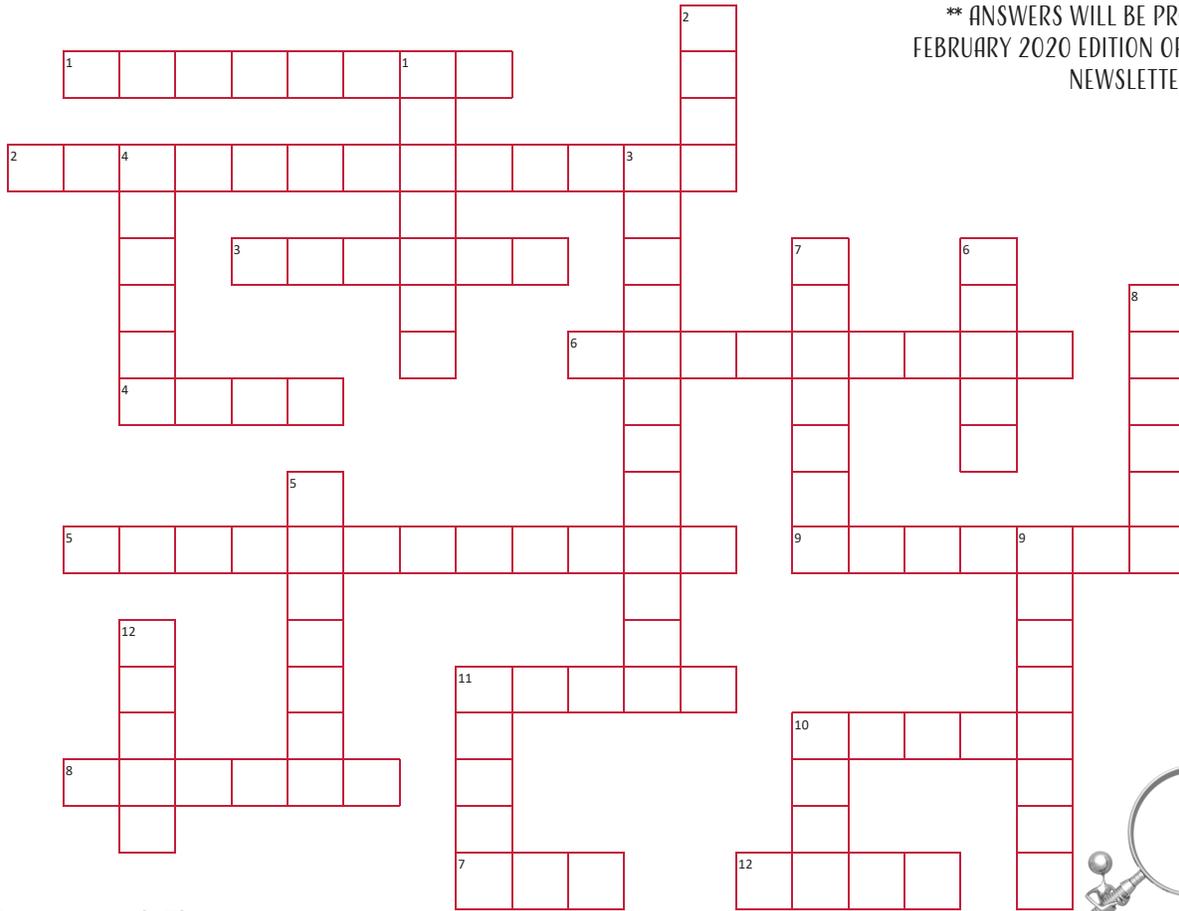
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## COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS?

If there is anything you'd like to see in our newsletter, or any suggestions for future newsletters, please send us a message at: [contact@valourcanada.ca](mailto:contact@valourcanada.ca) - we'd love to hear from you!



\*\* ANSWERS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE FEBRUARY 2020 EDITION OF VALOUR CANADA NEWSLETTER



## Crossword Clues:

### ACROSS:

- 1) Allied powers invaded which French coastal region on 6 June 1944?
- 2) David Currie was awarded which military decoration during the Second World War? (2 wds)
- 3) Canadians fiercely battled German paratroopers in December 1943 in which Italian city?
- 4) On 13 August 1941, a new Canadian Women's \_\_\_\_ Corps was announced.
- 5) In September 1944, Canadians were involved in Operation \_\_\_\_\_ in the Netherlands (2 wds).
- 6) Molly Lamb Bobak was appointed as an official \_\_\_\_\_ in 1945? (2 wds)
- 7) Toronto's Queen's Own Rifles were tasked with taking \_\_\_\_\_ White Beach on D Day.
- 8) The HMCS Haida was a \_\_\_\_\_-class destroyer.
- 9) On 8 May 1945, which nation formally surrendered to end the war in Europe?
- 10) Lt. Robert Gray is the only member of Allied forces to have a memorial dedicated to him in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11) Women in the Royal Canadian Navy were nicknamed the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12) The British forces invaded Sword beach and \_\_\_\_\_ beach on D Day.

### DOWN:

- 1) In 1944, Sgt. Tommy Prince won the US Silver Star for his involvement in Operation \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ powers and allied powers were used to describe the two major groups of nations involved in the Second World War.
- 3) David Currie was born in what Canadian province?
- 4) La maison des Canadiens was the first house liberated in France by which Allied nation?
- 5) The Canadian Navy had two hospital ships: the Lady Nelson and the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6) The Allied invasion of Sicily was called Operation \_\_\_\_\_?
- 7) By the end of the Second World War, close to 5000 Canadians served as \_\_\_\_\_ Sisters.
- 8) The Italian island conquered in 38 days in the summer of 1943.
- 9) Which ocean saw fighting between the Royal Canadian Navy and the German u-boats?
- 10) The Canadians were to attack a beach, codenamed \_\_\_\_\_ on 6 June 1944.
- 11) Over 50 000 \_\_\_\_\_ served in the armed forces during the Second World War.
- 12) On 7 December 1941, the U.S joined the Second World War after the Japanese attacked American fleets on \_\_\_\_\_ Harbor.



## WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE:

- ⇒ Go to [www.valourcanada.ca](http://www.valourcanada.ca) and click “join now” (to become a member) or click “donate” (for a one-time donation)
- ⇒ Fill out the member application form (below) and mail (with cheque or completed credit card payment slip) to Valour Canada

Membership Application Form:			
DATE		NAME	
ADDRESS			
CITY/TOWN		PROVINCE	
POSTAL CODE		PHONE	
EMAIL			
<b>Membership Type (please select one):</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership fee of \$50.00 (your membership qualifies for a tax receipt)			
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yes! I want to assist Valour Canada in their mission to “Inspire, Connect and Educate Canadian Youth on their Proud Military Heritage” by making a tax-deductible donation in addition to my membership fee:</b></p>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation of \$25 + membership fee of \$50.00 = \$75.00 (total cost)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation of \$50 + membership fee of \$50.00 = \$100.00 (total cost)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation of \$100 + membership fee of \$50.00 = \$150.00 (total cost)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation of \$ _____ + membership fee of \$50.00 = \$ _____ (total cost)			
<input type="checkbox"/> One-time donation of \$ _____ (does not include membership)			
My donation is made in memory of/ or in honour of: _____			

### Payment can be made by:

- **Cheque**, made out to “Valour Canada” and mailed to: 1820 24 St SW, Calgary AB T2T 0G6
- **Online**, by visiting [www.valourcanada.ca](http://www.valourcanada.ca)
- **Credit card** using the payment slip below (and mailing to the above address)

Credit Card Payment Slip		
Name on Card:	_____	
Credit Card #:	_____	
Expiry Date:	/	3-digit Security Code: _____

**Thank you for your support!**