



HENRY NORWEST

During the First World War over four thousand Aboriginal people served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. During the first part of the war some Aboriginals who attempted to enlist were denied while others were readily welcomed.

Once the government became aware of the inconsistency, and under the pressure of requiring more soldiers for fighting overseas, a decision was made (1915) to formally approve the recruitment of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit men. Then, in 1917, the Military Service Act was passed by Prime Minister Borden's Unionist government and conscription became law – all male citizens between the ages of 20 and 45 could be called on for military service. Even though Aboriginals were not legally citizens at that time, no exemption was given to them and hence, they were required to serve. Many individuals and communities objected. After multiple negotiations Order-in-Council PC 111 was passed (1918) and Aboriginals nationwide were released from the requirements of conscription.

Despite the ongoing controversy and debate,

Aboriginal men continued to enlist, and as the war dragged on the fighting took its toll. Many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit men were killed in battle. But they had also a newfound respect and perceived a level footing among their peers - they had never experienced these things as non-citizens back in Canada (and many would again fight discrimination following the war).

...cont'd on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



- **MILITARY HISTORY ARTICLE: HENRY NORWEST**
- **WORD GAME**
- **EVENTS / ORGANIZATION UPDATE**
- **HOW TO CONTRIBUTE**

HENRY NORWEST, CONTINUED...



... cont'd from page 1

Many were loved by their non-Aboriginal comrades-in-arms. Their knowledge of field craft, proficiency with animals, and incredible skills in concealment, tracking, scouting, and sniping, set them apart from the others and often boosted morale.

The reality that Aboriginal soldiers serving in the Canadian Expeditionary Force were a huge asset is undeniable. In fact, an estimated 370 Aboriginal soldiers won military honours for their actions during the length of the First World War. Among them was Henry Norwest, a Métis rodeo-performer and ranch-hand from Alberta.



Henry Norwest "spinning a rope" (Credit: Canadiana.ca).

Norwest originally enlisted in 1915 using his mother's maiden name but was discharged for misconduct before he was able to leave Canada for Europe with his comrades. He re-enlisted eight months later under the name of Norwest and was assigned to the 50th



Photo (L): Henry Norwest (Credit: Simcoe).
Photo (R): Original Grave Marker erected by members of the 50th Battalion (Credit: Canadian Virtual War Museum).

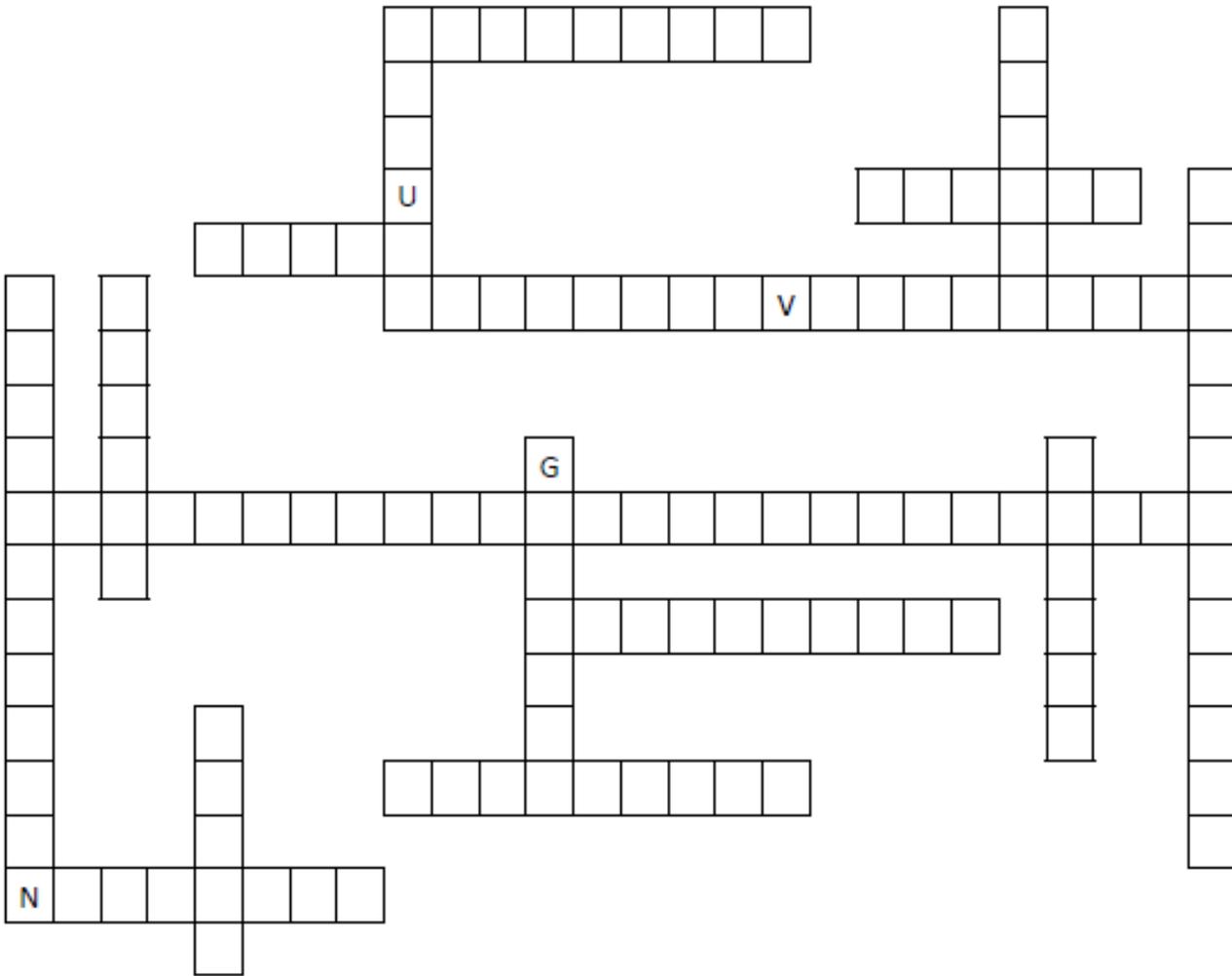
Canadian Infantry Battalion. In France he quickly earned a reputation as a skilled sniper and won the Military Medal in 1917 during the Battle of Vimy Ridge. His sniping was credited with saving a significant number of Canadian lives. Nicknamed "Ducky," Norwest was well-liked by his fellow soldiers.

Regretfully, Norwest was killed on the morning of August 18, 1918, by an enemy sniper. In retaliation an artillery barrage was launched on Dead Wood where enemy snipers were known to be located.

Norwest's legendary marksmanship and ability to slip behind enemy lines contributed to Aboriginal soldiers' reputation as unparalleled snipers and reconnaissance scouts.

For more articles like this - please visit our [online military history library](#).

WORD FILL-IT-IN



CAN YOU FIND WHERE EACH WORD BELOW GOES IN THE PUZZLE?

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. YPRES | 5. VIMY RIDGE | 9. TREATY OF VERSAILLES | 13. CONSCRIPTION |
| 2. ST. ELOI | 6. HILL 70 | 10. BORDEN | 14. AUGUST |
| 3. MONT SORREL | 7. PASSCHENDAELE | 11. GERMANY | 15. NOVEMBER |
| 4. SOMME | 8. AMIENS | 12. CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE | 16. ARMISTICE |

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR DONATION CAN DO?

\$50 = 

\$50 (or ONE membership) allows three students to attend Valour Canada's in-museum program.

\$500 = 

\$500 (or TEN memberships) allows one class to attend Valour Canada's in-museum program.

\$2000 = 

\$2000 (or FORTY memberships) allows the development of one new lesson plan and activity module for our in-museum program.

\$5000 = 

\$5000 (or ONE HUNDRED memberships) allows the development of one new virtual reality module.

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE



VALOUR CANADA - MEMBERSHIP FORM

To fill out this form online, please visit our [website](#).
***Please return completed form with payment information to:**
Valour Canada, 1820 24 St. SW, Calgary, AB T2T 0G6

Contact Information:

Date: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Membership Type (please check ONE):

- One-Time Donation (without membership) \$ _____ (please print)
- Monthly recurring donation (without membership) of \$ _____ (please print)
- Annual membership of \$50.00
- Annual membership of \$50.00 + one-time donation of \$25.00 = \$75.00
- Annual membership of \$50.00 + one-time donation of \$50.00 = \$100.00
- Annual membership of \$50.00 + one-time donation of \$100.00 = \$150.00
- Annual membership of \$50.00 + one-time donation of \$ _____ (please print)
- Annual membership of \$50.00 + recurring monthly gift of \$ _____ (please print)
- My donation is made in memory/in honour of: _____.

**All donations and memberships qualify for a charitable tax receipt.*

Payment Slip (please PRINT):

I would like to pay by cheque - **my completed cheque is attached.**

I would like to pay by credit card:

I, _____, authorize Valour Canada to charge my credit card (below) in the amount of \$ _____ as a one-time amount, and/or \$ _____ as a monthly amount.

Name on card: _____ Card Number: _____

Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____



PROGRAM UPDATE

- **Programs/Events.** All Fall 2020 education programs and events have been postponed. Stay tuned for more information in the New Year.
- **AGLC Casino.** Our AGLC Casino fundraiser has been scheduled for **December 2 & 3** at **Elbow River Casino**. If you would like to volunteer, please contact us at contact@valourcanada.ca.
- **Remembrance Day.** Check out our [YouTube](#) page for exclusive Remembrance Day videos, including a Remembrance Day ceremony with Field of Crosses, as well as several vignettes on remarkable Canadian veterans.
- **Update.** We noticed two errors in our October newsletter. Please [visit our website](#) for a corrected version.
- **YouTube Subscriber Contest.** Thank you to everyone who participated in our YouTube Contest - the winner of the Valour Canada mug is John Lusty from Calgary! Congratulations John!

- **Have you heard?** The Kerby Centre is hosting a virtual Remembrance Day ceremony. To participate, please register [here](#). Registration is free, and all are welcome.

OCTOBER 2020 ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1) AMIENS | 8) FLERS-COURCELETTE |
| 2) CAEN | 9) NORMANDY |
| 3) PASSCHENDAELE | 10) MONTE CASSINO |
| 4) FALAISE | 11) YPRES |
| 5) DIEPPE | 12) FESTUBERT |
| 6) ORTONA | 13) WALCHEREN |
| 7) KAPYONG | 14) VIMY RIDGE |

NOVEMBER JIGSAW PUZZLE



Have you tried our newest feature? A monthly, online jigsaw puzzle of historical photos - entertain your mind, while honouring our Canadian Military heritage.

To try the latest puzzle - [please click here](#).

QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS?

We would love to hear from you! Please send any comments, questions or suggestions by emailing: contact@valourcanada.ca.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (click on the icons to the right) to stay up-to-date on more great resources!



CONNECTING
CANADIANS TO
THEIR MILITARY
HERITAGE

403.685.2660 contact@valourcanada.ca

1820 24 St. SW, Calgary, AB T2T 0G6

@Militrivia @valourcanada

DONATE // BECOME A MEMBER // SPONSOR

Find out how you can make a difference at:

ValourCanada.ca