

Chalk Talk

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,



While preparing this Remembrance Day issue, I came across the November 1st obituary for the pilot who, in August of 1945, dropped the bomb on Hiroshima which killed more than 70,000 Japanese. [see **News** section below for entire article]. Paul Tibbets was an ordinary boy, born in Illinois, who grew up to be an outstanding pilot destined to play a key role in an extraordinary situation. Who could have imagined when, at age 22, he abandoned his medical studies to join the army air corps, that one day he would be chosen to fly the plane, named after his mother, Enola Gay, which would drop the first nuclear bomb and change warfare forever? The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are defining moments for WWII and for mankind. In the intervening 62 years of his life, Mr. Tibbets often found himself at the centre of both praise and controversy.



I have to admit that I approach this issue and others dealing with war history with mixed emotions ... trepidation really. If you review even a

fraction of the veterans' testimonials contained in the many links provided in this newsletter, it becomes clear that these military men and women have not forgotten what they experienced. It lives in them, emotions, barely contained beneath the surface, spill out of them easily, as do words of esteem for their fellow servicemen — both living or lost. Their war experiences have shaped their lives and their world-view to a great extent. It is important that we remember what these veterans cannot forget.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. Check out www.4edu.ca to order free, quality teachers' resources.

[Your feedback is appreciated.](#)

Mary Kovack

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Moments to Remember

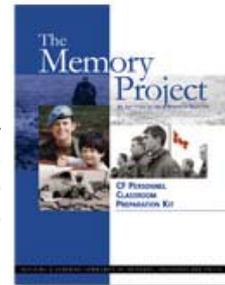


Established in 1997, The Dominion Institute provides educators and interested Canadians with a variety of educational programs, events and resources that help engage youth and all Canadians in learning about our history, shared citizenship, and democratic Institutions and values. Institute programs fall under three broad themes: memory, identity and democracy. To learn more about the Institute and explore educational resource sites, [click here](#).

Memory | Democracy | Identity

Veterans Bring War History To Life

Created in 2001, **The Memory Project** is the Dominion Institute's flagship educational programme, designed to connect veterans and students online and in classrooms across the country. The Memory Project Speakers' Bureau includes 1,500 veteran volunteers from across Canada visiting classrooms and community groups to share their stories with youth. The veterans in The Memory Project represent a wide range of conflicts, including World War I, World War II, Korean War, Peacekeeping Operations and Canadian Forces experiences.



To download The Memory Project classroom resources, [click here](#). To arrange for a veteran to visit your classroom, [click here](#).

The Memory Project Digital Archive, an online database that houses the oral histories and artifacts of more than 350 Canadian veterans, complements the Speakers' Bureau. To date,

these veterans have reached more than 300,000 young people. To go directly to The Memory Project's Digital Archive, [click here](#) or click on the specific area of military history below.

[Source: [Dominion Institute Online](#)]



Remembrance Day Toolkit



The Canadian War Museum created the **Remembrance Day Tool Kit** as part of its mission to promote public understanding of Canada's military history in its personal, national and international dimensions. The Kit contributes to this goal by providing students and teachers with access to the Museum's unique archival resources.

The materials in the Remembrance Kit address a wide variety of military experiences, primarily through the lives of ordinary Canadians. Documents include scans of original postcards, letters, journals, telegrams, photographs, war art, and archival documents of ceremonies. The Kit also contains suggested classroom activities for teachers of primary and secondary students. Those seeking further information on Canadian military history will find an extensive bibliography. To find out more about the kit and as well as how to order/download other educational resources available from The Canadian War Museum, [click here](#).

WarMuseum.ca

Canadian Youth – Growing up in Wartime

Canada's children and teenagers played an important role in Canada's war effort. They filled many of the gaps left by male family members who left to join the armed forces.

- Youth were constantly encouraged by their teachers, family, and friends to support the home front effort.
- With most able-bodied men overseas, there were not enough farm workers to harvest the crops. Countless young people worked long hours on farms to ensure a steady food supply for Canadians and our Allies.
- To encourage students to help with the harvest, many schools did not count attendance or introduce new material in classes until after the crops were in.
- The government lowered the minimum age for obtaining a driver's licence to 14 so that children could legally operate farm trucks and other vehicles.
- Many children saw themselves as junior soldiers. They prepared for war by memorizing aircraft silhouettes and building ship models. Many high school students joined cadet corps and learned how to march, perform arms drills, and fire weapons.
- Teachers often had children write letters to Canadian military members overseas, telling them about what was happening back home.
- Canadian children were joined by hundreds of British refugee children (guest children) who were sent by their parents from bomb-ravaged Britain to Canada for their safety. They lived and went to school with Canadian children.

[Source: Veterans' Affairs Canada]



From *The Memory Project* Digital Archive, a letter written at school in 1945 from the Calvert siblings to their older brother who was a prisoner of war in Hong Kong. To read more, [click here](#).

Facts and Figures — Living With War: Scrimping, Saving and Scavenging

- Children learned to scrimp and save to raise money for the war effort. They learned to recycle and collect materials, such as metal, rubber, fat, and grease, that were in short supply and could be reused to produce useful products. Encouraged by incentives such as free passes to movies, Canada's children became ardent scavengers.
- Children collected tons of scrap. Some even donated their own toys for metal salvage drives.
- Children used their hard-earned money, bringing their nickels and dimes to school, to buy War Savings Stamps which they stuck into special booklets for post-war redemption.
- Boy Scouts and Girl Guides conducted many fund-raising activities. As an example, the 10th Toronto Scout Troop collected 510,000 pounds of salvage and used the money they earned to buy a truck, an ambulance for the Royal Canadian Air Force, and Victory Bonds.
- Of the \$5.5 billion raised in Victory Loan appeals, millions were contributed by children.
- To save precious U.S. dollars, an embargo was put into place against all non-essential items from the U.S., including comic books. Canadian publishers responded with a series of black and black-and-white comic books which became known as "Canadian whites". In the summer of 1941, the first Canadian comic book, "Wow No.1" hit the stands, and all 52,000 copies were sold.



Photo: "Wait for me, Daddy": Private Jack Bernard, B.C. Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles) saying goodbye to his five-year-old son Warren. 1940 / New Westminster, B.C. National Archives of Canada/PA C-038723

[Source: Veterans' Affairs Canada]

Epilogue — What We Remember



Remembrance Day, November 11, is a day of national commemoration for the more than 100,000 Canadians who have died in military service. The costs for Canada, with its relatively small population, have been substantial.

- In the First World War (1914-1918) the population of Canada was 7,800,000.



- In the First World War (1914-1918) the population of Canada was 7,600,000. Of the 625,825 who served, 61,082 died and 154,361 were wounded.
- During the Second World War (1939-1945) Canada's population had grown to 11,500,000. Of the 1,086,343 who served 42,042 died, 54,414 wounded.
- Just a few years later, during the Korean War (1950-53) Canada's population had jumped to 14,000,000. Of the 27,751 who served 516 died and 1,072 were wounded.
- To date 119 members of Canada's peacekeeping forces have been killed.

[Source: War Museum.ca]

News & Related Links

[Paul Tibbets, 92: Dropped bomb on Hiroshima](#) — Julie Carr Smyth, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, TheStar.com, Nov. 1, 2007

Paul Tibbets, the pilot and commander of the B-29 that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, during the Second World War, died Thursday. He was 92. Tibbets had requested no funeral and no headstone, fearing it would provide his detractors with a place to protest, Newhouse said. In 2005 newspaper interview, Tibbets said he wanted his ashes scattered over the English Channel, where he loved to fly during the war. Tibbets' historic mission in the plane Enola Gay, named for his mother, marked the beginning of the end of the war in the Pacific. It was the first use of a nuclear weapon in wartime. The plane and its crew of 14 dropped the bomb, dubbed "Little Boy," on the morning of Aug. 6, 1945. The blast killed 70,000 to 100,000 people and injured countless others.

[Pain of Holocaust felt by many groups](#) — Nicholas Keung, Immigration/Diversity Reporter, *The Star.com*, November 3, 2007

Some people take part because it relates to their own sufferings, others as a form of penitence. The bottom line is, no one wants the Holocaust to be forgotten and repeated. That's why various cultural and religious groups are championing Holocaust Education Week [November 1 – 11] as an opportunity to share their own painful experiences of internment, enslavement and persecution – and to speak up for one another as "one human race." The 10-day annual commemoration, featuring more than 150 educational and cultural programs, kicked off Thursday night.

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