

# VOICES OF WAR

5 x 60min.

**HISTORY**  
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# VOICES OF WAR

Canadians today are generally hard-pressed to relate to the impact that World War I & II and the Korean War had upon those who served in those conflicts. Our veteran population is rapidly declining and consequently, so too is our firsthand source of information and unique perspective on war, that only veterans possess. There is a growing sense that Canadians take their freedom and liberties for granted, and that *Remembrance Day* will become just another holiday; a largely ceremonial observance having little relevance to the sacrifices it was set aside to honour.

*Voices of War* is a documentary series that provides surviving veterans, and by extension their departed comrades, a forum to speak of their involvement in war; sharing their experiences of the battles, the fear, the camaraderie, the love, the liberation, the loss of innocence that is war.

## A SOLDIER'S VOICE - EPISODE 1

In Canada, the living memory of World War I is now fading, as are the lives of those who served as our defenders in the trenches and the front lines of Europe. Who will speak for the fallen when the last veteran has passed away? Who will help us remember those who sacrificed everything to protect our freedom? The program features 11 veterans who served during World War I. They reveal their experiences of enlisting, training and fighting overseas, and tell us about the friends and family they left behind. Finally, they speak about their darkest moments and the horror of being in the carnage of the Great War. World War I was a signal time in the hearts and minds of Canadians who were there. Today, the veterans from this War are now few and far between. *A Soldier's Voice* hopes to create a living legacy of the remaining veterans of World War I.

## STORIES FROM THE TRENCHES - EPISODE 2

Of the more than 700,000 who served in the **Royal Canadian Army** during World War II, less than a quarter survive today, time having decimated their ranks as surely as war claimed their comrades. From common foot-soldiers fighting in the streets of Ortona or on the beaches of Normandy, to tank commanders in Sicily and Italy, or prisoners of war in Japan, Canada's army saw action on all the major fronts of World War II. *Stories From The Trenches* chronicles the experiences of these and other Canadian veterans who served in that world-encompassing conflict as members of Canada's Army.

## STORIES FROM THE AIR - EPISODE 3

Never before or since has Canada's Air Force been as large as it was during World War II. Canada had 48 squadrons serving in the European and Pacific theatres alone. Over 17,000 **RCAF** personnel were killed and many more wounded. In *Stories From The Air*, veterans of **The Royal Canadian Air Force** share their experiences fighting in the treacherous skies above Europe, Sicily, Burma and beyond, providing a living witness to the sacrifice they and their departed comrades made in the cause of freedom.

## STORIES FROM THE SEA - EPISODE 4

By the end of World War II, the **Royal Canadian Navy** had over 100,000 personnel and more than 400 vessels, making it one of the largest navies in the world. Marginal food, the stench of close quarters and unspeakable boredom punctuated by sheer terror often characterized life aboard-ship. In *Stories From The Trenches*, the veterans of Canada's navy share what it was like to be a young man, suddenly thrown into a world conflict far from home. From the treacherous waters of the North Atlantic to virtually every ocean on the globe, Canada's sailors served the Allied cause hunting deadly U-boats, providing escort duty to vulnerable convoys or bringing much needed men and supplies to war-weary troops.

## VOICES OF WAR: KOREA - EPISODE 5

Nearly 27,000 Canadians served during the Korean War from 1950 – 1953. Over 500 were killed and more than 1000 wounded. Yet nearly half a century since the Armistice was signed in Panmunjon, most Canadians are unaware of the role Canada played in that conflict. Korea is known as "*Canada's forgotten war*," with most people seeing it as little more than an obscure "*policing action*" by the United Nations, played out in the shadow of the devastation of World War II. *Voices of War: Korea* is the story of the Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen who served in that conflict; a first person account as seen through the eyes of the Canadians who fought and died there. This is their story, a largely forgotten accounting of battles waged, blood spilt, lives spent and ground won and lost. The Korean veterans' stories take their place alongside the stories of Canada's other veterans; they are our last veterans of the twentieth century, our last - *Voices of War*.



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