

Aboriginal Veterans Quotes

The war proved that the fighting spirit of my tribe was not squelched through reservation life. When duty called, we were there, and when we were called forth to fight for the cause of civilization, our people showed all the bravery of our warriors of old.

- Mike Mountain Horse, WWI Veteran

Being from a reservation and barely able to speak English... it was a sudden integration. It was a shock. I was stunned for two or three months while taking basic training.

- Peter Whitecloud, WWII Veteran

I was very glad I joined the army because my father was in the First World War. My brother was in WWII and I thought I might as well join the army too.

- Allan Bird, Korean War Veteran

The Indians of Canada may look with just pride upon the part played by the in the Great War both at home and on the field of battle.

- Duncan Scott 1918

We were Canadian Native soldiers...warriors in a proud tradition stretching back over the thousands of years into the dim past. We travelled by ship, by plane...and mostly on foot. In a dozen places – we raised our flags, and were buried in those foreign soils.

They were not slow to come forward with offers of assistance in both men and money. About one hundred Indians had enlisted...and the contribution of the Indians to the Red Cross and other funds amounted to over \$1300.

- Dr. Harold McGill

Men couldn't get a job...IN the army they paid a dollar-and-a-half (per day). The most you could get around here for farming or whatever, was a dollar. A dollar-and-a-half sounded awfully good.

- Louis Dumont

As soon as I put on my uniform I felt a better man.

- Tommy Prince

Today we are Canadians, in service to flag, country and Queen under the blue of the sky and the whiteness of fresh water together in the United Nations banner.

Both sides of my family had served in the army for as far back as we can trace...It was only natural that I would volunteer.

- Ronald Lowry

My friend wanted to join the RCN to learn a trade. I went with him, for company...When we got there, I was asked if I wanted to try the tests...so I tried them...I passed and it just evolved from there.

- Ronald Lowry

At the age of 18 my Dad said to me "This is none of our business going over there and fighting the Germans, you have no business going over there." I said "Dad, it's too late, I've signed my name on the dotted line I am going."

The first thing I thought of was I might as well join the army to protect my country and my family. My family first.

There was a guy by the name of Hitler that was taking one country after another and it was just a matter of time that he would come capture our King...I wonder what would happen they said if he comes across over here into Canada. We would lose our homes, our reserves.

- Gordon Ahenakew

I was working. I was a sawer in the sawmill in Flatbush. All of my friends and people I know were joining the army so, I wasn't going to be left behind.

- Leroy Littlebear

People were desperate in a lot of areas, no jobs and the trapping was poor. So they were out to make a living and get three meals a day and they were also very proud when they put on that uniform.

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It was my duty. I even thought maybe it was more my duty than anybody else. I had just as much right, more right to fight than anyone body because I was Indian, this was my country.

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The first time that our people complained about having to serve in the Armed Forces the Government told them "Well you have an agreement with the Queen. And the Queen she needs help today because if she's defeated your agreement goes down with it, so they went."

- Glen Douglas