



Howard Anderson at 16 or 17 years old

1940 or 1941.

The Army was good to us, really and truly. There was no discrimination really that, we were right in there, as a soldier and that's how we were treated. I ended up as being a lance corporal. Some of the guys were sergeants, sergeant majors and whatever. At least they didn't just look at, that you're an Indian and you'll just, you know, they gave you, if you were good at something, they put you there.

For me, it just taught me how in the heck to look after myself. And this has made quite a difference in my life. It was terrible to come back and find out you couldn't even do that. You couldn't talk to Veterans Affairs, you couldn't bother with them, you couldn't join the [Royal Canadian] Legion. And the Legion was fighting for us too at one time and they just got shot down.



**John Baptist James “John the B” Marchand
1942**

Growing up, nine and ten years old, I was with the guys going rounding up wild horses and then all through my teens, I was breaking horses. And then 15, I went to logging camps and it was always 15 or 20 big rough six-foot, 250 pound guys and everything. And you get this knack I guess is that even if you're small ... there are some things you can do. And there's little ways and means that you go about doing it. And you use that same thing in hiding and protection and things, with a real enemy.



Francis William Godon 1942

My family life was fairly, you know, because you're a Métis and they had you, they called you an SOB and that's a dirty SOB. And we had quite a time to try and get people to understand that we were the same kind of people that they are. I went out working when I was 11 years old. Couldn't hardly speak a word of English but I made on alright. And I never had no schooling because they wouldn't take us. There was no school where we were and the school was about three or four miles [away] and they wouldn't take us there because they didn't want us people to go in the white school because we were, I just said what we were, what they called us. And I think we were just as good as they were.

And I had no education. Finally got in there with working in the kitchen, like fatigues. It was one way of getting in but not really in the army, just like working. Thought I'd try that. If I could get my foot in one door, I know I could make it the rest of the way.

So they seen that I wasn't complaining, they seen that I was doing okay. So one day I went and I got enlisted for the army.



Tom Naphtahli "Little Chief" Settee

1941

"I was running from one slit trench to the other; and they started peppering us, you know. I was running back and I got hit in the leg. I couldn't move, the shrapnel is still here."



**Tommy Prince, Canada's Most Highly Decorated
Indigenous Soldier (Left)**

Tom Settee (Right) During Training



Joseph William 'Joe' Vicaire

1945

So we get off and we landed [in France], we spread out on the edge of the field and then we had our meals there, we had breakfast there, everything all quiet, no plane came along to bomb us. So when we got all with breakfast and everything, they told us what you're going to do now, he said, you have to bury the dead, they'd been laying there for a month. And geez, everybody looked up and, bury the dead? The Germans.

So we all dumped them there, the bulldozer came along that afternoon there, covered them all up. ... So that's what we did the first day I was down there.



Joseph Vicaire, Sr.
World War I

I was born here in Listuguj, [Québec] I was born on August 22nd, 1924 and I stayed in the Listuguj area all my life and ... Well, my mother didn't know [I had joined the Army] until I told her. She didn't like it but my father was in the First World War so she didn't mind after that, she said, okay.



Wilmer Gagnon and Danny Whiteduck in October 1943.

Taken from an interview with Wilmer Gagnon:

I was 16 years old when I joined up. So I was called to go and do guard duty, you saw those four guards in the picture. Well, they had four. And we had to go and guard this camp. So you worked two hours on, two hours off. But we had no ammunition. We just had the big 18 inch bayonet.

So the officer give us a lecture, now he said, "When you're on guard duty," he says, "If you hear somebody coming up to you at night, you tell them to halt."

We said, "What about if he doesn't halt?"

"Well, you tell him three times. If he doesn't halt, you shoot."

I said, "Well, how can you shoot if you don't have a shell?"

He said, "Well, he doesn't know that."

I said, "No, but you do."