

REMEMBRANCE DAY

"Let us never forget the service our armed forces have provided around the world." GORD

WAR STORIES...

SHARE YOUR ACCOUNTS

Last Saturday's Gazette featured a story by writer Peggy Curran about families trying to learn more about the wartime experiences of their parents and grandparents. At montrealgazette.com, we asked readers to share their stories. Here are a few of the submissions we received. To read all the stories and share your own, go to montrealgazette.com/yourwarstories



'Only once did I see my father break down'

My father, Lloyd George Chapman, joined the Royal Canadian Medical Corps in Ottawa in 1940. He was 19. He had been invited to join by the bandmaster of the Ottawa Boys Band who he knew from playing in that band. My father served in Italy and northwest Europe in a field ambulance unit. He saw so much death and injury before he turned 25 that it was no small wonder that he, like so many others who had served, never talked about what they had seen and done.

Only once did I see my father break down: when he told me of an incident where one of the unit's ambulances had been sent forward to pick up wounded soldiers. The ambulance hit a mine and the two soldiers in the truck were killed. He felt he was responsible for the soldiers' death as he had sent them forward as he had been commanded to do. He carried that with him his whole life.

As I grew older and would accompany my father to Remembrance Day ceremonies, I began to understand that which was not said but could be seen in his face and in his eyes.

I never told my father how proud I am of him and his service for his king and country. All I can do now is honour his memory every day but especially on Remembrance Day. It is the least I can do to say to him now: "Thanks, Dad." It is the least any one of us can do to say thank-you to those who have served and continue to serve our country in the cause of freedom.

Lou Chapman

'Their father wanted a Canadian soldier to share their dinner'

It was Christmas Eve in Nijmegen. Dad sat in his truck writing a letter to Mom. A little girl asked him to come home for Christmas dinner. Dad said no. He couldn't just run off with a little girl. Her older sisters came back. They asked

why he hadn't come. Their father wanted a Canadian soldier to share their dinner. So Dad went. He was filthy. After dinner, he took a hot shower and fell into a deep sleep on the clean white sheets. He hadn't slept that well since England. He woke up in the morning to find his uniform cleaned and pressed beside the bed; even his underwear. Dad always laughed when he told the story. The girls' father was a baker. He had just been liberated from a concentration camp. He had hidden a Jewish family in a secret hiding place under the bakery oven. An employee betrayed them. The man's son-in-law shot the traitor in the street.

Phillip Morris

'He had just turned 17'

Our father enlisted in the army in 1939 when he was 17 years old. He made his decision on his way to work at Eaton's. He hopped off the streetcar, went to the Black Watch recruitment office, and was turned away because they had reached their quota (for the day/week). He then went to another army recruiting office, stretched the truth about his age (he fact he had just turned 17 within a couple of months). His mother was so angry with him when he went home and shared the news - in fact she insisted that my grandfather do whatever to get him out. To which he replied that he would just head up to Toronto and re-enlist.

My father did not see his parents or sister again until the spring of 1946, when he landed in New York aboard the Queen Mary. Sir Winston Churchill was also aboard the ship.

My father served in England, Italy, France, Belgium and Holland and annually can be found selling poppies at a Bank of Montreal branch. This is a very important day in our country's history. Let us never forget the service our armed forces have provided around the world throughout the years.

Gord

'Most of his comrades never made it back'

My dad and four of his brothers joined the Second World War. My dad left in 1939 when I was 7 and didn't get back until 1945. It was very hard on my mother as she was left with four kids. My father's troop was getting ready to sail for Dieppe when he was wounded by shrapnel when England was bombed, and he spent several months in hospital. Most of his comrades never made it back.

Grace

'Everyone loved him but could never figure him out'

My uncle, Les Cowie, drank as often as possible and was at times a lonely guy. But everyone loved him, but could never figure him out. Anyway, when he passed, to our surprise many war vets showed up at the funeral and told us of his bravery during World War 2. We never knew! Les was a great guy and we miss him tremendously.

Waggie

The main Remembrance Day activities today in the Montreal area:

The main venue for the Royal Canadian Legion's official Remembrance Day ceremony will be at **McGill University**, 845 Sherbrooke St. W., because of major renovations at Place du Canada. The ceremony starts at 10:30 a.m. inside McGill's Roddick Gates. After a wreath-laying ceremony, a 21-gun salute and two minutes of silence, veterans, veterans organizations and members of the military will march down McGill College Ave. and along Ste. Catherine St. to Phillips Square.

In Pointe Claire, a Remembrance Day ceremony will be held at the **National Field of Honour Cemetery**, 703 Donegani Ave., at 10:30 a.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACQUES ROY

This photo ran in Saturday's paper without caption information. It shows Jack Doucette (on the left with the bird) and his brother, Gerald, on leave in London during the Second World War. Doucette would die near Fleury-sur-Orne, France, on July 21, 1944. His nephew, Jacques Roy, is using the Internet and war records to find out more about his uncle's death. Read Our Father's Wars at montrealgazette.com/saturdayextra

Changing the face of pediatric care

The new Montreal Children's Hospital of the MUHC

LIKE ALL NEW PARENTS, IMAD OBEID AND HIS WIFE were overjoyed to welcome their first son, Mahdi, into the world. That joy was soon clouded by a worrisome discovery: Mahdi suffered from a disfiguring and dangerous malformation of his skull.

Teamwork and innovation bring new hope

Fortunately for the Obeids, a new multidisciplinary team at the Montreal Children's Hospital of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) specializes in treating severe craniofacial deformities, which affect about one in every 2,500 Quebec children. Under the leadership of plastic surgeon Dr. Mirko Gilardino and orthodontist Dr. Broula Jamal, the team of 19 specialists brings together disciplines like neurosurgery, pediatrics, dentistry, genetics, otolaryngology and ophthalmology to make sure children suffering from these conditions have the best possible chance of a normal life.

For Mahdi, this meant a complex six-hour surgery involving the plastic surgery and neurosurgery teams when

he was just eight months old. The operation was a complete success, and the Obeids are now at home raising a happy and healthy young boy.

The new Children's: making the best even better

Success stories like this one happen every day within the walls of The Montreal Children's Hospital. But these walls are now more than 50 years old, and were not designed to accommodate the multidisciplinary teams and sophisticated equipment needed to perform operations like Mahdi's.

That's where the Montreal Children's Hospital on the McGill University Health Centre's Glen Campus comes in. With brand new, state-of-the-art operating theatres designed to house the most advanced surgical and



The new Montreal Children's will feature high-tech operating rooms designed to house the latest surgical technologies

imaging equipment, surgeons like Dr. Gilardino will have the best tools and ideal space at their disposal to help kids like Mahdi.

"There is nothing more gratifying than knowing you've given a seriously

ease the stress of a hospital stay. And, with the one of the most advanced pediatric healthcare environments in North America at their disposal, the talented caregivers at The Montreal Children's Hospital will be able to send more children like Mahdi back to their homes, their schools and their friends with a clean bill of health.

doors knowing they will probably never have to walk back in." The new Children's has been designed from the ground up with the needs of its young patients in mind. Single-patient rooms with comfortable

"The Montreal Children's Hospital at the Glen Campus will give us everything we need to make sure as many kids and parents as possible walk out our doors knowing they will probably never have to walk back in."

ill child a chance at a healthy and functional adulthood," says Dr. Harvey Guyda, Associate Executive Director of The Montreal Children's Hospital. "The Montreal Children's Hospital at the Glen Campus will give us everything we need to make sure as many kids and parents as possible walk out our

family spaces will help control infections while allowing parents to visit and stay overnight. Efficiently-designed inpatient units will mean nurses can easily monitor their patients and be at a child's side at a moment's notice. Cheerful colours, soothing materials and easy navigation will help



Dr. Jean-Pierre Farmer, Dr. Mirko Gilardino and Dr. José Montes of the Montreal Children's Hospital of the MUHC performed Mahdi's complex craniofacial surgery

The New MUHC: Transforming Health Care for Generations



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The Montreal Children's
Hospital Foundation

The Best Care
for Children

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