The ***WHITE*** family





As the decades flash by there are probably not many people that can state that their father served in the WWI. Mine did. I didn't come along till he was 49 in 1945. His name was Harold

William White.(upper right-hand corner). Also my grandfather, his brother(great Uncle), and his two sons(Dad's cousins) all went overseas with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) was neither diagnosed or recognized for returning soldiers. My father suffered his entire life from that condition but never received any pension for it, nor recognition from the government. He died at the age of 69 in 1965. I enlisted with the Royal Canadian Engineers in 1964 and trained in B.C. and N.B. as a combat Engineer. Our biggest training exercise was for NATO service, when I served with the 2nd. Field Squadron in Gagetown attached to the Black Watch infantry regiment in Newfoundland. We flew into the US SAC airbase in Stephenville in Hercules planes, NFLD. The USA was at war in Vietnam and the base was under wartime readiness. US army ,USAF, British, Irish, Canadian army and RCAF troops carried out field exercises all around the countryside of Stephenville, Port aux Basque, and Cornerbrook. Some of the poor locals living in the remoter areas thought the WW III had started. There was still snow on the eastern hilltops in June. We spent the first night on the base and visited with troops shipping out to fight overseas. I thought to myself that these guys looked awfully young. We were the same age; 18-20. Some were from farming communities. Not street wise as we were from the major cities. I don't think they knew what they were in for. During the month-long training exercise, we built non-construction bridges across rivers out of logs, cut down upstream, floated down to the construction site, captured, trimmed and fitted. Just like the British engineers did in the movie, "The Bridge on the River Kwai", screened in 1964. When training in Vedder Crossing, B.C., just outside Chilliwack, the base Commandant had bus loads of recruits driven into Vancouver for the grand premier showing of the movie. We had our summer dress uniforms on, and were marched down the main street to the theatre to the beat of a military band. It was a great spectacle that had the locals wondering what occasion was taking place.(on left side with Felix Katz). We also built an airfield out of the woods so small aircraft could land, and carried out field maneuvers. It was then that it struck me how well Canadian soldiers were trained throughout the ranks. We captured American positions with relative ease. I don't condone or glorify war. What we see on TV today from Ukraine and Gaza and Lebanon is beyond tragic. Innocent lives lost . Insanity. There would be no wars if only we could send the politicians who start them.

I am among the fortunate ones, those who served and returned home, safe. However, I know my family was very committed to Canada's military service as many of my family members served and one never returned.

Harold White, my father, served in the Royal Canadian Regiment, RCR, of New Brunswick, ultimately serving in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. After 4 years of service, he returned home to Canada. His compensation for his service, medals. He never received any veteran's pension.

George White, my father's cousin, enlisted as a teen and fought in WWI with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He fought in what is known as the battles of the trenches. Sadly, he was a casualty of war.

John White, Jim's brother, my great, was another young Canadian who fought in WWI. He fought for the four years of the war. He survived but came back home a casualty from the experiences suffered in the war.

Jim White, my grandfather, enlisted soon after the outbreak of the war. He served with the Canadians who fought in the four years of the war and fortunately, he also returned home after the war.

Paul White