

# Beaumont Hamel Memorial Challenge

Girl Guides of Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador Council



## Background:

On July 1, 1916, Newfoundland suffered one of the biggest tragedies in its history. 835 men from the Newfoundland Regiment went into battle at Beaumont Hamel, France during an offensive in the Battle of the Somme. The next morning only 79 men were able to answer roll call as the rest were dead, injured or missing.

There are five Caribou Monuments in Northern France and Belgium to honour the Newfoundlanders who fought in WWI. The sixth is in Bowring Park, St. John's. Newfoundlanders making the pilgrimage to visit these monuments refer to it as the Trail of the Caribou.

**Objective:** This Challenge is to introduce members of Girl Guides of Canada to the history surrounding the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, the Battle of the Somme, and the Battle of Beaumont Hamel. It is a celebration of the past through learning about the heritage and history of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and their involvement in World War I.

### This challenge has 6 monument areas:

Bowring Park, Beaumont Hamel, Gueudecourt, Monchy-le-Preux, Courtrai, Masnières

To fulfill the requirements for this challenge, Members complete:

Introduction

One suggested (or equally appropriate) activity from each monument area

Reflection

## The Caribou Monuments:



## Introduction

A five to ten-minute gathering of all participants to introduce the Challenge and set the tone.  
Suggested components:

- Introduction of what Beaumont Hamel is and what it means to Newfoundland.  
This needs to be appropriate for all ages. It is also important to be sensitive to possible triggers surrounding war, battles, injuries, etc.  
[http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/first-worldwar/fact\\_sheets/beaumont-hamel](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/first-worldwar/fact_sheets/beaumont-hamel)
- Invite local veterans or Legionnaires to speak (if available)
- Play “One More Will Stand” written by Chris Andrews of Shanneygannock  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPe30VErAzM>
- Have a map showing NL, France, and Belgium with the Caribou sites marked
- Introduce centres/areas
- Ode to Newfoundland (now or at the closing)

# Monument Areas

## **Bowring Park: Royal Newfoundland Regiment History**

### Suggested Activities:

- Have someone who can talk to the group about the history of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. This can be a veteran, local historian, teacher, etc. Topics can include enlisting, Blue Puttees, first 500, the battle, etc. (see link below).
- Make a dog tag representing a fallen Newfoundland Soldier (use the links below)

### Resources:

#### History:

<http://www.heritage.nf.ca/first-world-war/articles/recruiting-thenewfoundland-regiment.php>

#### Dogtags:

- <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/classroom/teachers-guides/canada-remembers-times/dog-tags>
- [https://www.veterans.gc.ca/pdf/remembrance/information-for/educators/vw11-tguide/dogtags\\_allconflicts\\_tousconflicts.pdf](https://www.veterans.gc.ca/pdf/remembrance/information-for/educators/vw11-tguide/dogtags_allconflicts_tousconflicts.pdf)
- <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/information-for/educators/learning-modules/beauumont-hamel/dogtags>

## **Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial (France): Being a Soldier**

### Suggested Activities:

- Create an obstacle course for everyone to challenge. Use chairs, benches, etc., whatever you have on hand. Make it as difficult as ability allows. This is to simulate how soldiers would have to climb and crawl from trench to trench on a battlefield.
- Practise some basic First Aid Skills for younger units, and some more Advanced First Aid Skills for older units. Provide the group with some supplies including a blanket, broom handles, etc, and instruct them to try building a stretcher out of the materials as if they would need to transport someone who was injured.
- Capture the Flag: You will need a large area. Divide into two teams. Differentiate the teams with ribbons, hair ties, etc. Assign a safe spot where each teams' flags will be placed. Designate a jail area for each team. Team members must defend the flag and the jail, capture the opposition who have crossed the enemy line and put them in jail by tagging them, and also try to steal the other team's flag and break free jailed teammates. The game ends when the flag is captured and brought to the opposite side.
- Potato Peeler: (This activity is recommended for kids over the age of seven). Most kids have never peeled potatoes, but the army is legendary for having cooks who peel hundreds of pounds of potatoes in one day!! Give everyone a safe-grip potato peeler and a big potato, and see who can get the job done the fastest! Please do not waste the potato - you can save them to cook later or cut in half and make stamps for painting.
- Drill Sergeant Says: A Royal Newfoundland Regiment version of Simon says. Whoever is the Drill Sergeant gives instructions like: "Drill Sergeant Says - Do 5 Jumping Jacks!" The kids have to respond "Yes Drill Sergeant!" and then do what they say. If the Drill Sergeant didn't say "Drill Sergeant Says" and a few of the kids carry on, they have to complete an active task such as stretching, clapping, jumping, push-up, reach up, reach down, toe touch, etc.

## Gueudecourt Newfoundland Memorial (France): Postcards for Veterans

*Through special Challenges, such as this one, and acts of remembrance, we recognize the sacrifices our Veterans have made and still make today.*

*Postcards for Peace provides an opportunity for youth to send postcards to express messages of thanks to those who served Canada in times of war, military conflict and peace or to still-serving Canadian Armed Forces members. This learning activity allows youth to actively remember the sacrifices and achievements of Canadian Veterans.*

Resource: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/classroom/postcard-for-peace>

- Explain the annual project. Information in link above.
- Provide the postcards from the link above or have everyone create their own postcards (5x7 cardstock needed).
- Send all postcards to the address provided after the Challenge.
- There is also the option on the website to send e-messages to currently serving troops.
- Alternate activity: Valentine's For Veterans
  - <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/classroom/valentines-for-veterans>

## Monchy-le-Preux Newfoundland Memorial (France): A Soldier's Story

Share the stories of brave Royal Newfoundland Regiment soldiers who fought the enemy and held their ground. These stories have been woven into our history. The links provide the story but they may need to be edited to make them age and time appropriate.

### Suggested Activities:

- Read the Tommy Ricketts story
  - <http://www.rnflr.ca/history.aspx?item=271>
- Read the story of Monchy-le-Preux
  - <http://www.rnflr.ca/history.aspx?item=147>
- Any other story about a heroic soldier/Veteran
- Activities following chosen story:
  - Make a Blue Puttee soldier (see resources at end of document).
  - Use the attached colouring pages for younger units if needed.
  - Colour and cut out the Victoria Cross, attach it to a ribbon and hang on the wall of your meeting space to remind you of their bravery while you complete the other stations.

## Courtrai Newfoundland Memorial (Belgium): Flanders Field / Flowers of Remembrance

Belgium has several sites that are important to the Newfoundland Regiment. The Caribou Memorial is located in the small village of Courtrai. The city of Ypres (pronounced *Ee-per*) has the Menin Gate and the Flanders Field Museum. Just outside of Ypres is Essex Farm. This was where Robert McCrae wrote the now famous poem.

### Suggested Activities:

- Read Robert McCrae's poem <http://www.flandersfieldsmusic.com/thepoem.html>
- Create a paper and spoon or tissue paper poppy or forget-me-not flower (see resources). Turn them into a pin to wear around Remembrance Day or make a wreath out of all of them.
- Read the story of the Forget-me-not  
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/information-for/educators/learning-modules/beaumont-hamel/forget-me-not/story>
- Colouring page  
[https://www.veterans.gc.ca/pdf/remembrance/information-for/educators/beaumont-hamel/forget-me-not\\_e.pdf](https://www.veterans.gc.ca/pdf/remembrance/information-for/educators/beaumont-hamel/forget-me-not_e.pdf)

## **Masnières Newfoundland Memorial (France): *On the Homefront***

This area will focus on what was happening at home during WWI. Wives, mothers, fiancés, girlfriends, and daughters found ways to save money, look after each other, and help the war effort.

WWI affected all children, but older children participated directly in a wide variety of ways, often through recreational clubs, community groups, or service organizations. Boy Scouts and Girl Guides collected money for the Canadian Patriotic Fund and other social support agencies. Young girls made bandages for the medical corps, and knit or sewed articles of clothing for care packages. Children assumed greater responsibilities in homes where fathers or older brothers were at war and mothers were in the labour force, and many worked on farms or in businesses at an early age.

### **Suggested activities:**

- Make individual first aid kits  
<https://www.artofmanliness.com/articles/the-complete-guide-to-making-a-diy-first-aid-kit/>
- Talk about the need to recycle and create new things from old. Create t-shirt bags.  
<http://www.mommypotamus.com/no-sew-t-shirt-tote-bag-tutorial/>
- Many women had to take over on the farm while their husbands were away. Have girls plant seeds.  
<https://buggyandbuddy.com/gardening-kids-planting-seeds-free-printable/>

## **Reflection**

A five-minute wrap up/reflection. It is important that everyone leave this Challenge having learned an important part of our history.

### **Suggested activities:**

- Invite everyone to share what they liked about the Challenge
- Invite local veterans or Legionnaires to speak (if available)
- Ode to Newfoundland (now or at the opening)
- An activity or song to end the day (Taps, Unit Closings, etc)

## **Additional Activities:**

The following activities can be done as part of or in addition to the Challenge. They are not meant to replace the Challenge.

1. As an individual member, unit, or District take part in a local Remembrance Day Parade.

2. As an individual member, unit, or District take part in a school Remembrance Day Celebration.
3. Volunteer with the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign.
4. Invite local veterans or Legion members to your Challenge. Invite them to be observers, be guest speakers, or take part in the activities with the group.
5. Host an afternoon tea at a local seniors' centre.
6. Make poppies or forget-me-nots at a meeting and present them to seniors or veterans.

## Program Connections:

Wondering how the activities in the Beaumont Hamel Memorial Challenge fit into the Girls First Program? Below are the program connections. If you find other connections to your program, please feel free to give your girls credit for them. This is not a comprehensive list, feel free to apply your activities to other parts of the program as you see fit. Remember that each activity you complete can accomplish multiple parts of the program.

If this event is organized by a District or Area, then the activities will involve bridging and count for program requirements.

### All Branches:

#### Connect and Question

- Canadian Connections
- World Stage

#### Experiment and Create:

- Art Studio

#### Explore Identities:

- Different Together
- Gender Power

#### Guide Together:

- Spirit of Guiding

## Resources

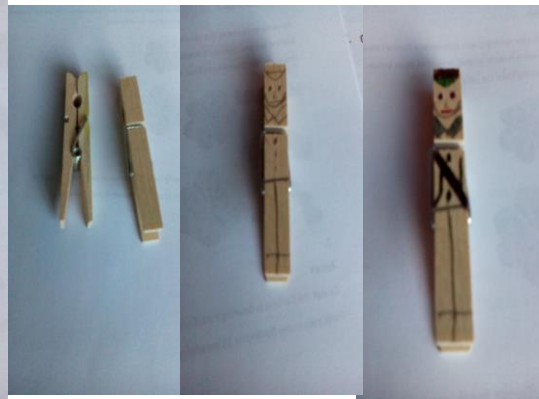
Many of the activities have website links within the description. Others are included here. The craft activities are included. If you find a more age appropriate activity for your units, use it. Many of the ideas came from Pinterest, colouring page websites, etc.

Video Resources: Follow the link and scroll down to First World War

- <https://www.heritage.nf.ca/videos/documentary-series.php>

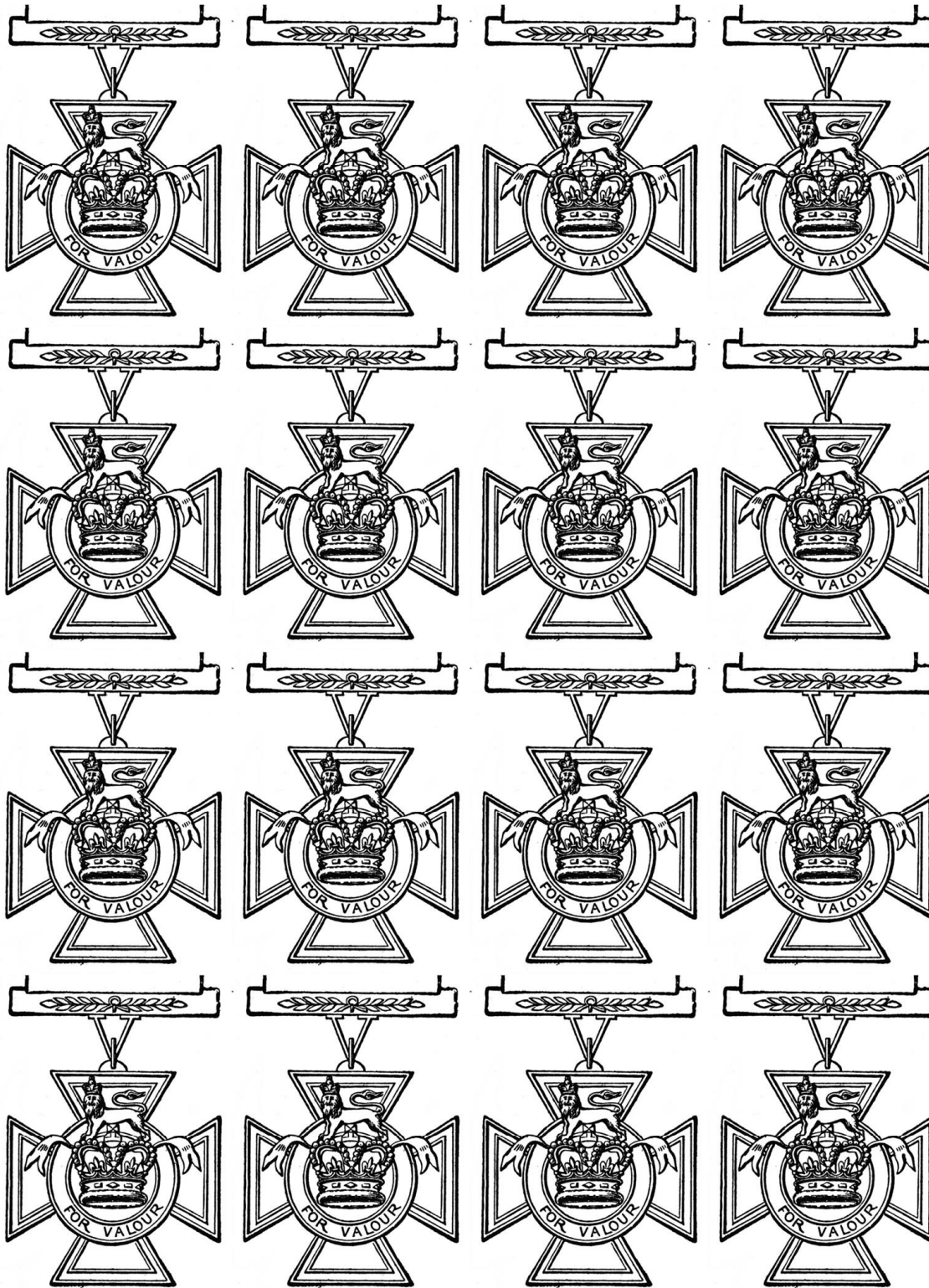
**Clothespin Soldier:** This activity can be done using two different types of clothespins. It is at the discretion of the Guider which style to use. Using the links and/or pictures below, create a Newfoundland Regiment soldier. You will have to look at pictures to find appropriate colours as these links are not specific to that type of soldier.

<http://craftsbyamanda.com/clothespin-christmas-soldiers/>



## Victoria Cross





## Forget-Me Not Flower (Felt version)

Use blue felt and a black/yellow button

Updated March 2021



## Paper Poppies/Forget-Me-Nots

Updated March 2021



Use red paper with black centers for poppies, light blue with black/yellow centers for forget-me-nots.

## HOW TO MAKE Crepe Paper Flowers







paint the world  
**SUPER**  
**COLORING**





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