

War Memories across Canada Conversation Kit:

Canadian Women's Army Corps Lougheed House Calgary, Alberta



Bibliothèque et Archives Canada – Library and Archives
Canada/PA-145516

During the Second World War, the Canadian government recognized that allowing women to serve in the military, in non-combat roles, would free men to fight overseas. The Canadian Army created the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC) in 1941. Thousands of women joined. Most worked in Canada, but some served overseas.

Discussion Questions:

Rose Wilkinson said her time as a CWAC, "was the best four years of my life." Why do you think being apart of the CWAC such a positive experience for women like Rose? Why, at the end of the war, would it have been difficult for her and other women to return to their pre-war roles? How do

you think women in the army today manage their different roles?

21,000 Canadian women joined the CWAC during the Second World War. Thousands more served in women's air force and naval organizations. These units were disbanded when the war ended. How did the creation and subsequent disbanding of this workforce impact the evolution of women's roles during post-war years? Consider political, economic and social effects.

How important is it to hear personal stories from war veterans like Rose Wilkinson, rather than reading narratives in history books? Considering the veteran generation will soon have past on how do you think we should personal stories such as Rose's can be passed on across generations today?

Activities:

Travel to Calgary to visit Lougheed House, the former CWAC barracks. What was it like for CWAC members to live there? Alternatively, visit the Canadian Women's Army Corps Memorial Monument at the Kitchener Armoury near the site of the former CWAC training centre.

How did women in your community participate in the Second World War? Visit your local museum or ask permission to interview women who served during the Second World War.

Research the roles of Canadian women in the military and around the world today.

Resources:

Websites

Canadian Women and the Second World War – On the Home Front - World War II and the NFB

<http://floraweb.nfb.ca/ww2/home-front/women-and-the-war.htm?article=18789&subtype=articles>

An article by Ruth Roach on Canadian women's contribution to the war effort.

Available in [French](#).



Bibliothèque et Archives Canada – Library and Archives Canada/PA-129092

Canadian Women's Army Corps, 1941-1946 – Canadian War Museum

<http://www.warmuseum.ca/learn/dispatches/the-canadian-womens-army-corps-1941-1946/#tabs>

Available in [French](#).

Canadian Women's Army Corps - CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum

<http://www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org/archives/articles/paving-the-way/cwac>

Includes a history of CWAC and provides details about the memorial CWAC plaque located at CFB Esquimalt.

Entry of Women in the Military in the Second World War: The Canadian Women's Army Corps – Parks Canada

http://www.pc.gc.ca/APPS/CP-NR/release_e.asp?bgid=280&andor1=bg

Available in [French](#).

Lougheed House

<http://www.lougheedhouse.com/>

Lougheed House served as barracks for the Canadian Women's Army Corps. It is now a National and Provincial Historic Site and Museum.

Videos

Proudly She Marches, directed by Jane Marsh. National Film Board, 1943.

https://www.nfb.ca/film/proudly_she_marches/

A short documentary about the training of CWAC servicewomen.

Books

Athene, goddess of war: the Canadian Women's Army Corps, their story, by W. Hugh Conrod. Writing and Editorial Services, 1983.

[Canadian Women's Army Corps Recruiting Booklet](#) (1943).

De la poêle à frire à la ligne de feu: La vie quotidienne des Québécoises pendant la guerre '39 – '45. Auteur, Geneviève Auger. Boréal, 1981.

Greatcoats and glamour boots: Canadian women at War (1939-1945), by Carolyn Gossage. Dundurn Press, 1991.

A history of Canadian servicewomen during the Second World War.

Canada



[War Heritage Research Initiative | Initiative de recherche du patrimoine de la guerre warheritage.royalroads.ca](#)