

VICTORY IN EUROPE 1945-2020

Issue date: April 29, 2020



Booklet of 10 stamps
414130111
\$9²⁰



On May 8, 2020, we mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe – a milestone known as Victory in Europe Day. More than one million brave Canadians who served in the conflict helped make the victory possible – as did everyone on the home front whose efforts kept the economy going and provided food, munitions and other critical supplies to the armed forces. To mark this significant anniversary, Canada Post issued a pair of stamps. They tell the stories of two Canadians who exemplified

the courage, determination and sacrifice that helped secure the victory in Europe.

By the height of the war, nearly one million Canadian women were working in manufacturing plants, filling gaps in the workforce left by men serving overseas. In 1941, Veronica Foster, who made Bren light machine guns at John Inglis Co. Limited in Toronto, was selected by the Canadian government for a public relations campaign to encourage women's participation in the nation's war industries. "Ronnie the Bren Gun Girl" – believed by some to

have inspired the fictional American icon “Rosie the Riveter” – motivated women across Canada to roll up their sleeves and get to work for the war effort.

In April 1945, Private Léo Major, known as the “One-eyed Ghost” after losing partial vision during D-Day battles, and Corporal Welly Arsenault volunteered to scout the German-occupied Dutch town of Zwolle. Enraged by the fatal shooting of his comrade just hours into the mission, Major took up

Arsenault’s weapons and charged the town alone – running through the streets with “a burst of fire, a couple of grenades and a lot of loud noise.” He created the impression of a full-fledged attack, capturing dozens of prisoners and later setting fire to the local Gestapo headquarters. The ruse worked, and the Germans fled. Major was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for single-handedly liberating Zwolle, where a street now bears his name.



First day of issue
special envelope
414130131
\$1⁹²

First day of issue
special envelope
414131131
\$1⁹²

CORRECTION

In the booklet credits for the stamp issue commemorating the 75th anniversary of the victory in Europe, we misspelled the name of Eric Fernberg, Collections Manager, Dress and Insignia, Canadian War Museum. We sincerely apologize for this error and reiterate our thanks to Eric Fernberg and his colleagues for their ongoing generosity of time and expertise in supporting our work.



SPECIFICATIONS

Product	Denomination	Size	Quantity	Printing process
Booklet of 10 stamps	2 x Permanent™ (domestic rate)	40 mm x 32 mm	130,000	Lithography in 4 colours
Official First Day Cover – Veronica Foster	Permanent™ (domestic rate)	190 mm x 112 mm	7,000	Cancellation site: Toronto ON
Official First Day Cover – Léo Major	Permanent™ (domestic rate)	190 mm x 112 mm	7,000	Cancellation site: Montréal QC

Design: Ivan Novotny, Taylor|Sprules Corporation **Stamp photos:** Léo Major – Nationaal Militair Museum (Soest, Netherlands); courtesy of the Major family; © Jan Kranendonk | dreamstime.com. Veronica Foster – Library and Archives Canada, National Film Board of Canada. **Printing:** Lowe-Martin

Included in *Stamps of Canada* April-June 2020 collector's pack: die-cut stamps from booklet.

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