

The Bugle and the Passing Bell from CBC Radio

Fifty years ago, CBC Radio devoted 17 hours to the voices and stories of the men who fought in World War One. This summer, to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the war, documentary producer Steve Wadhams and host Beza Seife bring those voices and stories back to life.

<http://www.cbc.ca/bugleandthebell/podcasts/>

The bugle in the title refers to the call to arms and the passing bell is the summons to a funeral.

These extraordinary audio programs provide an authentic insight into the experiences of soldiers in World War I. The stories are brief and mesmerizing, providing listeners with a picture of war more real than can be understood from a history text.

Updated: Weekly

Download episodes from this podcast for: 6 months

Use the links below to download a file.

Episode 1 "Canada answers the call"

Canada's volunteer soldiers describe why they signed up, how they were trained and how they felt as they boarded ships with their guns and horses to fight the army of the German Kaiser.

🔊 [Download Episode 1; "Canada answers the call"](#)

[mp3 file: runs 00:41:13]

Episode 2 "The great adventure"

Canada's first volunteers had a rough journey to war; filthy troop ships, four months of training in England in rain soaked tents and ankle deep mud. By January 1915 they were in France in makeshift trenches and taking their first casualties.

🔊 [Download Episode 2 "The great adventure"](#)

[mp3 file: runs 00:41:13]

Episode 3 "Baptism of fire"

In 1915 at Ypres when Canadian troops took their place in the trenches, they soon found themselves facing an unknown and terrifying new weapon - deadly chlorine gas that came rolling over no man's land into their trenches.

🔊 [Download Episode 3; "Baptism of fire"](#)

[mp3 file: runs 00:41:13]

Episode 4 A world of stealth

In WW1 there were very few quick advances or dashing cavalry charges; the machine gun and barbed wire slowed everything down and combat often became an eerie and deadly cat and mouse game fought in a maze of trenches.

 [Download Episode 4 A world of stealth](#)

[mp3 file: runs 00:41:13]

Episode 5 Siege warfare and Newfoundland's day of the dead

July 1st is a day of celebration in Canada but in Newfoundland it's a day to remember the dead of Beaumont Hamel, where on July 1st 1916 on the first day of the battle of the Somme a Newfoundland regiment was virtually wiped out.

 [Download Episode 5 Siege warfare and Newfoundland's day of the dead](#)

[mp3 file: runs 00:41:13]

Episode 6 Stalemate and slaughter; the battle of the Somme

The battle of the Somme was the most destructive single battle of the first world war. In the end, when it all bogged down into a stalemate, there was nothing much to show for it but the losses on both sides were enormous, a million casualties and a qua

 [Download Episode 6 Stalemate and slaughter; the battle of the Somme](#)

[mp3 file: runs 00:41:12]

Episode 7 The war in the air

At the start of WW1 planes were seen as irrelevant and were despised by the generals; "If I want to see where the enemy is" said Canada's Minister of Militia, "I'll climb a tree". It wouldn't be long before thousands of flimsy warplanes were in the sky.

 [Download Episode 7 The war in the air](#)

[mp3 file: runs 00:41:13]

Episode 8 Highs and lows; Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele

At Vimy Ridge in April 1917 Canadian losses were enormous but Vimy was a victory and one of the high points of Canada's involvement in the war. Six months later, in the mud and slaughter of Passchendaele, morale would be at an all time low.

 [Download Episode 8 Highs and lows; Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele](#)

[mp3 file: runs 00:41:12]

Episode 9 Turning the tide


In the spring of 1918 a huge German push led to an order for allied troops to fight to the last man. The Germans were forced to retreat and now for the first time in years Canadian soldiers sang as they went up to the front lines.

 [Download Episode 9 Turning the tide](#)

[mp3 file: runs 00:41:13]

Episode 10 Pushing on to victory

By August 1918 the end was in sight; only 100 more days before the armistice. When news came through to the soldiers many found it hard to believe and nobody wanted to be the last man to die.

 [Download Episode 10 Pushing on to victory](#)

[mp3 file: runs 00:41:13]

The Bugle And The Passing Bell - Trailer

"The Bugle And The Passing Bell" is a special series to mark the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the first world war.

 [Download The Bugle And The Passing Bell - Trailer](#)

[mp3 file: runs 00:00:30]
