Alberta-NWT Command
Legion

As December unfolds, Legion branches across the Alberta-NWT Command are celebrating the season with stories of service, gratitude, and tradition. From recognizing decades of community impact to honouring Veterans in heartfelt ways, the holiday spirit shines brightly through the efforts of our members, volunteers, and supporters. This month's newsletter reflects on these moments and shares ways to stay connected.

Branch Stories

Catch up on the latest events and activities in some of our branches:

Branch No. 3 Three Sisters

The second annual holidays market of Legion Branch No. 3 Three Sisters at Canmore returned last November 23, 2024. The market featured a variety of unique Christmas gifts and festive finds. Thank you to everyone who came out to support local vendors and celebrate the holiday season.

Branch No. 71 High River Literary and Poster Competition Winners

Branch No. 71 High River showcased 153 entries in the Legion's Literary and Poster Competition, featuring students from kindergarten to Grade 12 across nine local schools. This impressive participation highlights the creativity and dedication of young people in preserving the Spirit of Remembrance. Check out the complete list of winners **here**.

Branch No. 46 Fort Macleod Sponsors Elf Movie Screening

Branch No. 46 Fort Macleod sponsored a free showing of the movie Elf at the Empress Theatre last November 30. Other sponsors include the Fort Macleod Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and the Empress Theatre Society.

Branch. No. 25 Hanna Shares Greatest Collection of Military Hockey Jersey

Dean Viste of Hanna, Alberta, has collected over 1,250 hockey jerseys, including 130 military Remembrance jerseys. A highlight is a rare 1946 British Empire Services League jersey. Photos of Viste's collection with Hanna's late WW2 veteran Charlie Fielding are featured.

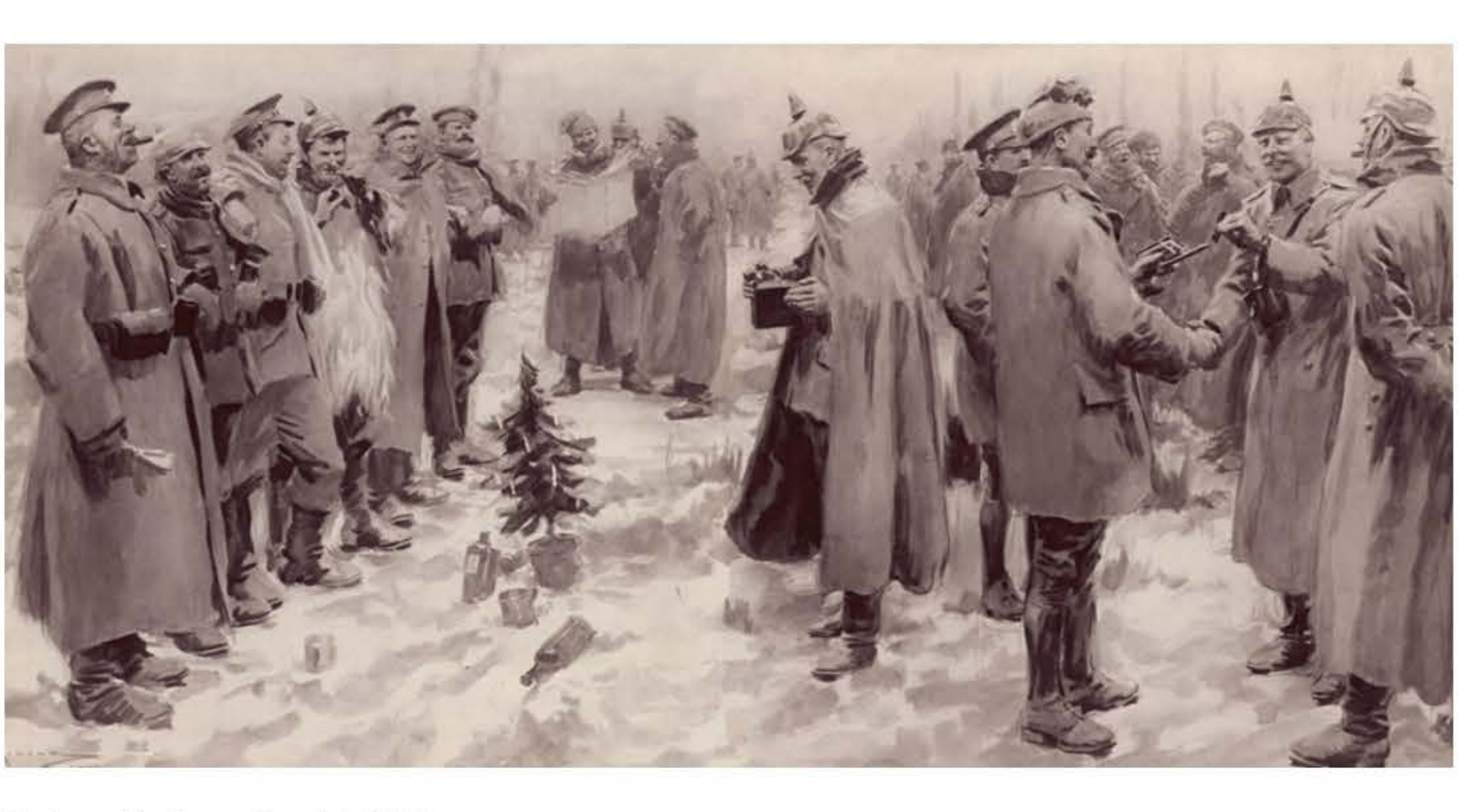


Photo credit: Alamy. Copyright © Alamy.

Christmas-in-the-Trenches-Inspired Tribute to Kensington Veterans

Students from St. Basil School, aged 4 to 10, brought smiles to Veterans at the Branch No. 264 North Calgary Legion with decorated chocolates and handwritten cards, as inspired by the story of "Christmas in the Trenches," where British and German forces shared chocolate on Christmas Eve 1914. Here are some of the Veterans with their thoughtful gifts.

A Decade of Dedication: Branch No. 291 Okotoks Anniversary and Legacy

Branch No. 291 Okotoks, the youngest branch in Alberta-NWT Command, celebrated its 10th Anniversary on October 24 with a Veteran and Member Dinner. A decade old, the branch has achieved remarkable success, contributing nearly $500,000 to support Veterans and their families, including funding bursaries for secondary and post-secondary students, supporting three cadet corps, aiding medical initiatives and hospice care, assisting Command Service Officers, maintaining a Memorial Wall, and providing direct support to Veterans. We commend their achievements and thank Malcolm Hughes, Founder and Past President, for sharing this inspiring news.

Holiday Traditions and Special Recipes from Our Branches

December is a month rich with festive spirit, and our branches have embraced the season with unique traditions and delicious recipes! From the warm scent of freshly baked shortbread to the communal joy of sharing Lefse, these activities create memorable moments that embody the spirit of the season.

Branch No. 93 Hythe Lefse-Making Tradition

Branch No. 93 Hythe has a lovely tradition of hosting a lefse-making bee on Grey Cup afternoon. Lefse, a beloved Norwegian flatbread, is prepared together in the afternoon, then enjoyed alongside other goodies while watching the big game. What a fun and delicious way to bring the community together! **Click the image below** to view Branch No. 93 Hythe's Lefse recipe.

Norwegian Lefse

Branch No. 285 Centennial: Santa Needs Help Program

Branch No. 285 Centennial is supporting the Military Family Resource Centre with its Santa Needs Help program, collecting new, unwrapped gifts and cash donations for children. The branch is also selling cookbooks for $20, with proceeds benefiting the Ladies Auxiliary. **Click here** to see the Santa Needs Help poster, photos, and a shortbread recipe from the cookbook.

Branch No. 256 Stony Plain Holiday Events

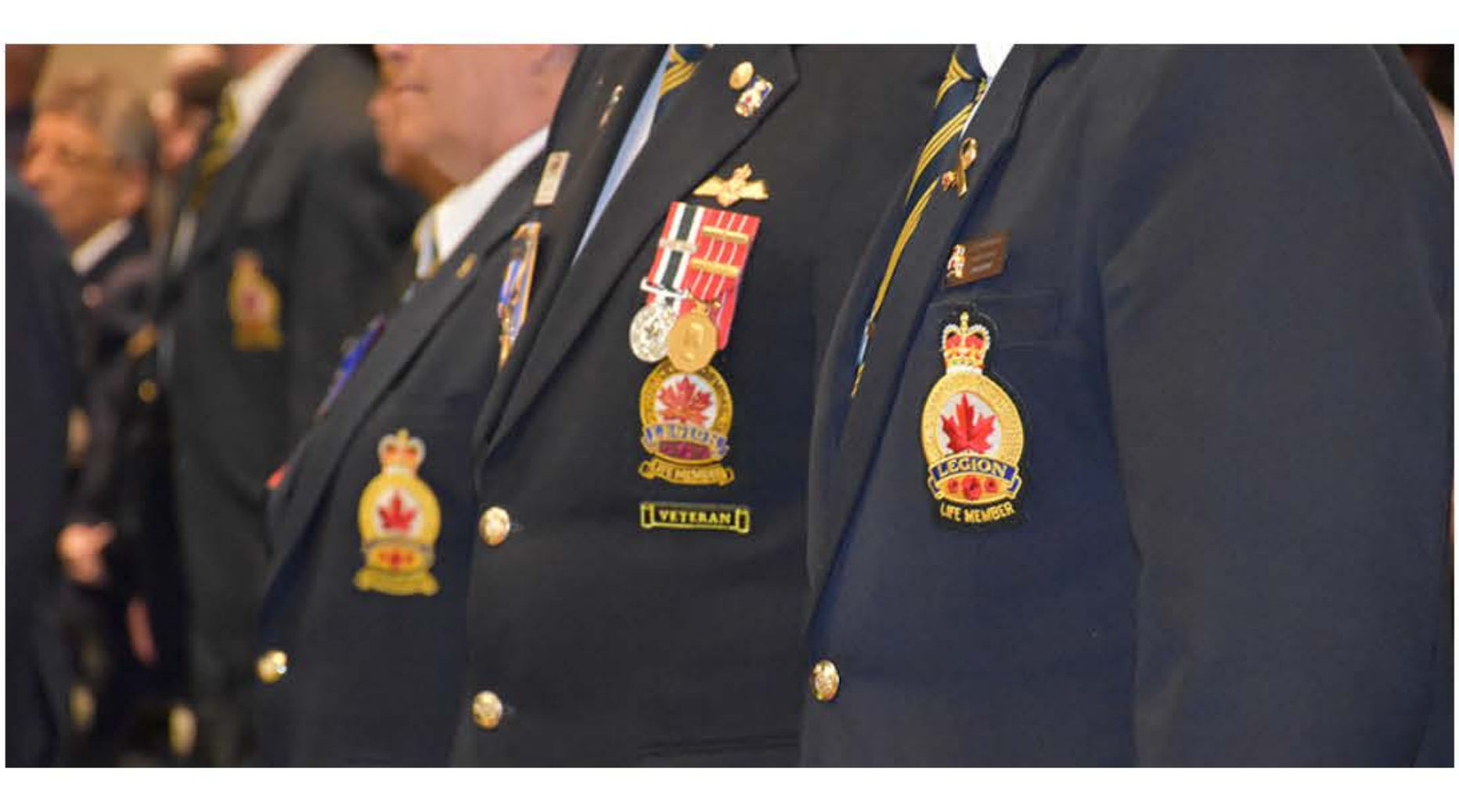
Branch No. 256 Stony Plain is celebrating the holiday season with a Kids' Christmas Party on December 14 for members' children and grandchildren. The Meat Draw for turkeys and hams runs every Saturday before Christmas, with a special Christmas Raffle Basket draw on December 21. Members attending on December 21 bring snacks and appetizers to share.

December Branch Anniversaries

This month, we celebrate the milestones of Alberta-NWT Command and several of our branches for their years of dedication and service to veterans and their communities. Here's a look at all of us celebrating our anniversaries this December, listed by years of longevity:

Branch No.	Location	Anniversary
	Alberta-NWT Command	98th Anniversary (Dec. 20, 1926)
35	Red Deer	98th Anniversary (Dec. 27, 1926)
36	Rimbey	98th Anniversary (Dec. 27, 1926)
72	Spirit River	96th Anniversary (Dec. 27, 1928)
70	Big Valley	96th Anniversary (Dec. 11, 1928)
78	Turner Valley	95th Anniversary (Dec. 27, 1929)
80	Nanton	95th Anniversary (Dec. 27, 1929)
132	Onoway	90th Anniversary (Dec. 6, 1934)
137	Flatbush	88th Anniversary (Dec. 10, 1936)
168	Edgerton	79th Anniversary (Dec. 29, 1945)
271	St. Albert	67th Anniversary (Dec. 11, 1957)

Thank you for being the cornerstone of our success and for adapting through the years to continue making an impact. Here's to your incredible history—and to the future we build together!



Be Part of the Bigger Picture

Every branch has a story to tell, and your community wants to hear yours! Whether it's a special event, milestone, or act of community service, sharing your branch's stories helps foster unity and inspire others. Submit your stories and photos to abnwtsubmissions@abnwtlegion.com to be featured in the Alberta-NWT Command newsletter or The Legion Magazine.

May the joy of the holiday season stay with you throughout the year. Happy holidays to all!

MERRY
Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
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