Facts about Aboriginal Veterans of WWII

Over 3,090 Aboriginal men and women volunteered for WWII

Most of the volunteers came from western Canada

Over 200 Aboriginal soldiers lost their lives

Over 18 Aboriginal men earned decorations recognizing their bravery in battle

Most Aboriginal men served in the infantry

Aboriginal veterans were a part of every major campaign and battle during the war including Dieppe and the Normandy Invasion

16 Aboriginal and Métis soldiers were taken as prisoners of war by the Japanese in Hong Kong

Aboriginal people did not have the right to vote or have full Canadian citizenship at the time of WWII, yet many chose to volunteer for the war effort

It wasn't until November 11, 1992 that Aboriginal Veterans were allowed to place a wreath at the cenotaph during the official memorial service. Prior to that they had to wait until the official service was over to recognize their fallen comrades

Racism was real issue that faced Aboriginal soldiers throughout WWII