



UKRAINIAN PIONEERS
Товариство Українських Піонерів Альберти
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA
EST'D 1941

VISION:

Be a Leader in the
preservation of the history
of Ukrainians in Alberta.

MISSION:

Engage in activities that
preserve and promote awareness
and appreciation of Ukrainian
history in Alberta and Canada.

The Ukrainian Pioneers Association of Alberta presents:

Forged By War: Ukrainians in Canada and Europe

— FOUR DATES. EIGHT DECADES OF WORK. —

1941

ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHED.

A volunteer organization is registered in Alberta to support cultural, educational, and publishing work.

1963

A MONUMENT UNVEILED.

The Monument to the Ukrainian Pioneers opens at Elk Island National Park.

1970

A LANDMARK HISTORY PUBLISHED.

The *Ukrainian Pioneers in Alberta, Canada* becomes the first of several major reference works.

2008

AN ENDOWMENT CREATED.

A University of Alberta fund supports Ukrainian cultural activities, publishing, and bilingual studies.

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The First Wave of Immigration (1892–1914)

The first wave of Ukrainian immigration to Canada brought settlers, largely from Galicia and Bukovyna, to the prairies in search of land, opportunities and freedom. Many came to Canada to escape conscription into the Austrian army.

1 Ukrainians in Austria's Army



Before World War I, Ukrainian men between 21–43 years of age had to serve in the Austrian army. They were from those parts of western Ukraine under Austrian-Hungarian occupation.

2 Austrian Military Badges



These badges were issued by the Austrian Army between 1914–1917 to Ukrainian 'Sich' riflemen fighting during World War I.

3 Ukrainians Fighting for Canada – Filip Konowal, VC



Thousands of Ukrainian Canadians volunteered to fight for Canada. Many were killed in action. Others were recognized for their bravery. Corporal Filip Konowal received the Victoria Cross, Canada's highest military decoration for valour 'in the face of the enemy.' Only 71 Canadians were awarded this medal during World War I.

4 A Daring Escape



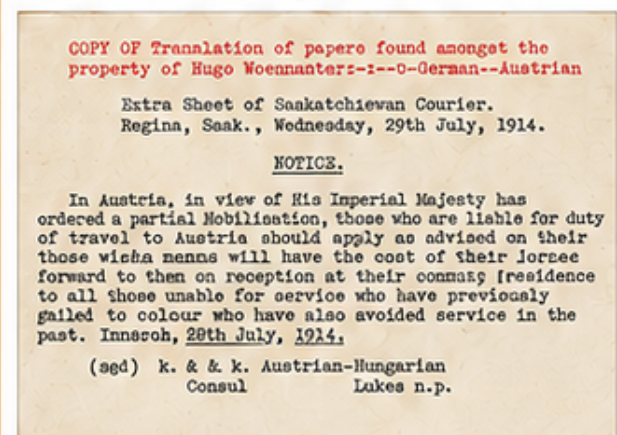
In 1918, Zalinsky told the police that, at age 20, he left Austria dressed in female attire along with three other young men to avoid military service. Seventeen others tried to cross the border into Germany with him but were stopped.

5 Notice from Austria for Reservists to Return



With the threat of war on the horizon, Austrian and German officials sent notices to reservists in Canada to return home. This is the Austrian notice sent July 29, 1914, a week before Canada was at war.

6 English Translation of Conscription Notice



English translation of notice to Austrian reservists published in the Saskatchewan Courier.

“ In search of freedom and a better life, they crossed oceans and borders to build new futures on Canada's prairies. ”

Amidst The Second Wave of Immigration (1919–1939)

The second wave of Ukrainian immigration arrived in Canada following World War One and the collapse of empires. Many newcomers were veterans, political refugees and families affected by war, revolution, and shifting borders. The intermingling of the first and second waves continued the development of Ukrainian life in Canada and increased awareness of events happening in Europe.

1

**World War I –
Ukrainians forced
to fight as part of the
Imperial Russian Army**



After WWI and following the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian and Russian empires, Ukrainian lands were partitioned among several neighbouring states. This led to soldiers from places like Rivne fighting in the Russian army during World War I. and then forced to fight for the Poles after the war.

3

Vladimir Kaye (Kysilewsky)



Vladimir Kaye (Kysilewsky) immigrated to Canada in 1925. Although he served for a short period of time in the Winnipeg Grenadiers, his greatest contribution was to document and preserve the history of Ukrainians in Canada. He accomplished this as a historian, professor, and most importantly as an archivist ensuring information about Ukrainian-Canadians did not disappear. He also helped to establish the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Post World War I Ukraine

This map shows shifting battle fronts in western Ukraine immediately after World War I.



2

**After WWI –
Ukrainians forced
to join the
Polish Army**



The same Ukrainian from Rivne was later forced to join the Polish Army after World War I.

4

The Ukrainian Flying School in Oshawa



In the late 1930s, Ukrainian-Canadians established the Ukrainian Flying School in Oshawa, Ontario to teach young people how to fly in light of European tensions.

During The Third Wave of Immigration (1946–1960)

During World War Two, Ukrainian-Canadians fought for Canada while Ukrainians living in Ukraine, who survived battles in their villages, were forcibly removed to work in German labour camps. Hundreds of thousands of others fled westward to escape communism. After the war, these displaced Ukrainians lived for several years in camps for Displaced Persons (DP) in Germany and Ukrainian-Canadians assisted many of them to immigrate to Canada.

1 BADGES OF A DIFFICULT JOURNEY



During WW II, the Nazi regime forced Ukrainians to wear public badges of identification and humiliation. P for those from Polish occupied parts of Ukraine. OST (Ostarbeiter) badge for individuals from Russian occupied parts of Ukraine.

2 LEAVING HOME



Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians were driven from their homes by the war. Many spent months and years living in horse drawn wagons as they travelled westward to escape communism.

3 UKRAINIAN-CANADIANS FIGHTING FOR CANADA



Tens of thousands of Ukrainians Canadians enlisted in Canada's military. Many died flying missions over enemy territory, sailing on the high seas, and liberating Holland and other countries. Bohdan Panchuk, son of first wave Ukrainian immigrants, served in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

During the war he helped to establish the Ukrainian Canadian Servicemen's Association. He and many others in Europe and Canada worked selflessly assisting Ukrainians in DP camps to come to Canada. After the war he married Anne Cherniawsky in London, England on February 2, 1946.

4 WILLIAM PETER WYNNYK



William Peter Wynnyk joined the Royal Canadian Air Force as an air gunner in a bomber and was killed in action on 4 December 1944.

His nephew, Lieutenant General Paul Wynnyk, recently retired as the highest-ranking general in the Canadian Army.

Together, their legacy reflects the lasting contribution of Ukrainian-Canadians in service to Canada.

5 SUPPORT FROM CANADA

After the war, dozens of Ukrainian Canadian organizations supported Ukrainians in DP camps. They sent food, clothing, and moral support.



6 PRESERVING CULTURE AND FAITH



Ukrainians brought their language, traditions and faith to the displaced persons camps and from there to Canada. During the years they lived in these camps, many completed their education, got married, and had children.

7 YAROSLAW SKRYPNYK – SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP



Many Ukrainians arriving in Canada after World War II joined the Canadian military. Yaroslav Skrypnyk arrived in Winnipeg in 1947 and soon after joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, the oldest highland regiment in Western Canada. Skrypnyk went on to be a leader in the Ukrainian community in Alberta, nationally, and internationally.

