

WOMEN IN WAR

Wainwright and District Storytelling Tour

Storytellers: Mary Hays and Doreen Vanderstoop

November 2018

Mary Hays and Doreen Vanderstoop, both of Calgary, are active members of TALES (The Alberta League Encouraging Storytelling) and Storytellers of Canada. They have often partnered together for storytelling at concerts, festivals and conferences. They love to tell all kinds of stories – traditional tales, historical tales, family stories and even ghost stories.

Mary Hays' mom and dad both served overseas in the army medical corps during WWII. She grew up hearing their stories. Mary has also collected war stories from her home town and from other veterans of WWII.

Doreen Vanderstoop's parents grew up in The Netherlands during WWII. She tells their stories. Doreen also performs music that was popular during wartime.

It is an honour for them to tell some of their family stories.

LEST WE FORGET.

Sample Program

Strength in Time of War

1. *In Flanders Fields* (Doreen)
 2. *It's a Long Way to Tipperary* - music
 3. "Women Unbroken: Finding Strength in a World at War" (Mary and Doreen, tandem storytelling)
 4. "Christmas 1944" (Mary)
 5. *I'll be Home for Christmas* - music
 6. "Shoeless Kees" (Doreen)
 7. *Pack Up Your Troubles* - music
 8. *Happy Days are Here Again* – music
- Questions

Description of stories

Storytellers - Doreen Vanderstoop and Mary Hays

“Women Unbroken: Finding Strength in a World at War”

Working together on Remembrance Day programs, Mary and Doreen were struck by how the stories of each of their mother’s experiences during WWII could be told in tandem; one story of an Alberta country girl who trained as a nurse and served overseas mingled with the narrative of a young girl during the ‘Hunger Winter’ in war-torn The Netherlands. Their touching and unique collaborative story spans the world with the universal human desire not only to survive but to collaborate in making life worth living.

“Christmas 1944”

This is the story of Fred Pedlar from Oxbow, Saskatchewan. He graduated as a dentist from the University of Alberta in 1941. Fred enlisted with the Dental Corp and served overseas from 1941 – 1945. He was assigned to the Canadian Dental Corp, Royal Canadian Medical Corp, 15th Canadian Field Ambulance, 10th Infantry Brigade, 4th Armored Division. This story is about Canadian generosity, Christmas 1944 in the Netherlands.

“Shoeless Kees”

This is the story of Doreen’s father’s experiences as a fifteen-year-old scrounging for food to keep his family alive during the Hunger Winter of 1944.