**Record of Service: Cold War Transcript ENG**

The Second World War leaves Europe in ruins. While European nations focus on rebuilding and recovery, their international influence dwindles. The United States and Soviet Union assume the role of global superpowers and become bitter political rivals. Their opposing ideologies — capitalism and communism — come to define and divide the world. To reinforce their power, the two nations engage in a nuclear arms race. The stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction creates a persistent universal threat. The rivals also discourage neutral nations from partnering with the other side through diplomatic and armed interventions.

During this period, Europe is divided with democratic states in the West and communist states in the East. On both sides, countries engage in economic and military alliances to ensure security if war erupts. Western allied countries, including Canada, establish the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 1949. The Soviet Union pressures its satellite states to join a similar defence treaty called the Warsaw Pact. After years of low-level aggression, the Cold War ends in 1989 with the fall of the Berlin Wall, the symbol of a divided Europe, and the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Canada’s military role during the Cold War ranges from domestic defence and preparedness to participation in North Atlantic Treaty Organization and United Nations operations. As part of its commitment to its European allies, Canada provides an infantry brigade, air division and warships. Notable contributions include the Korean War and Suez Crisis, peacekeeping roles, and the Canadian Forces Bases in West Germany and France.