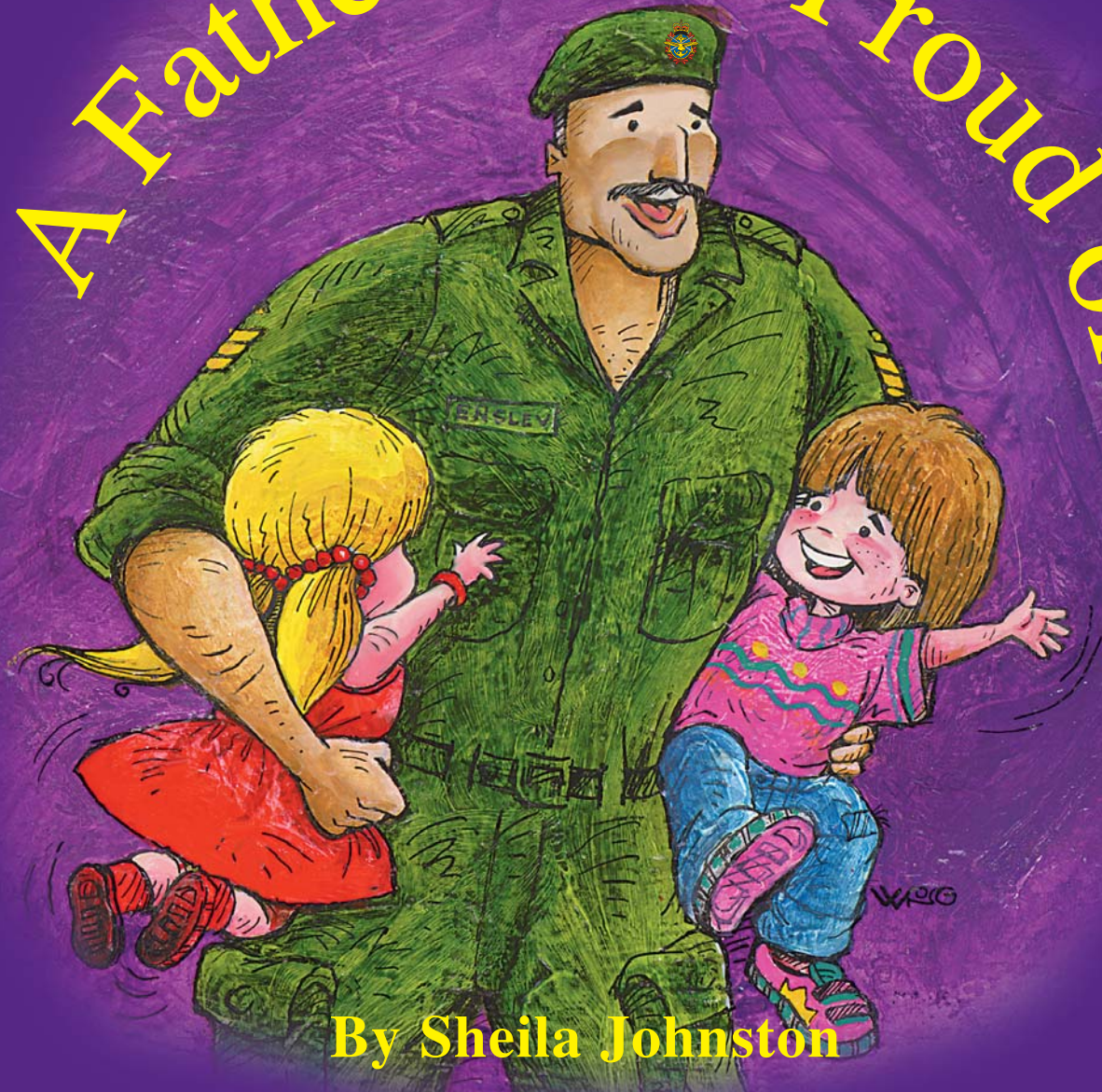




National
Defence

Défense
nationale

A Father to be Proud of



By Sheila Johnston

Illustrations by Don Wong



A-PS-007-000/AF-001
Disponible en français

Canada 



Produced and distributed by Director Military Family Services (DMFS)

To my father,
Jens Christian Enslev
Canada's finest.

Jason and Sheila are the little children who live in northern Ontario.

Their father is a soldier who works on an Army base called Petawawa.

Jason and his sister Sheila do many things together with their father.

They take long walks in the country and play catch.

They like to ride in their dad's jeep best, and once even rode in a tank.

That was at a big birthday party for all the children on the base.

It was neat!





One night, their dad told them that he was going to be away for awhile.

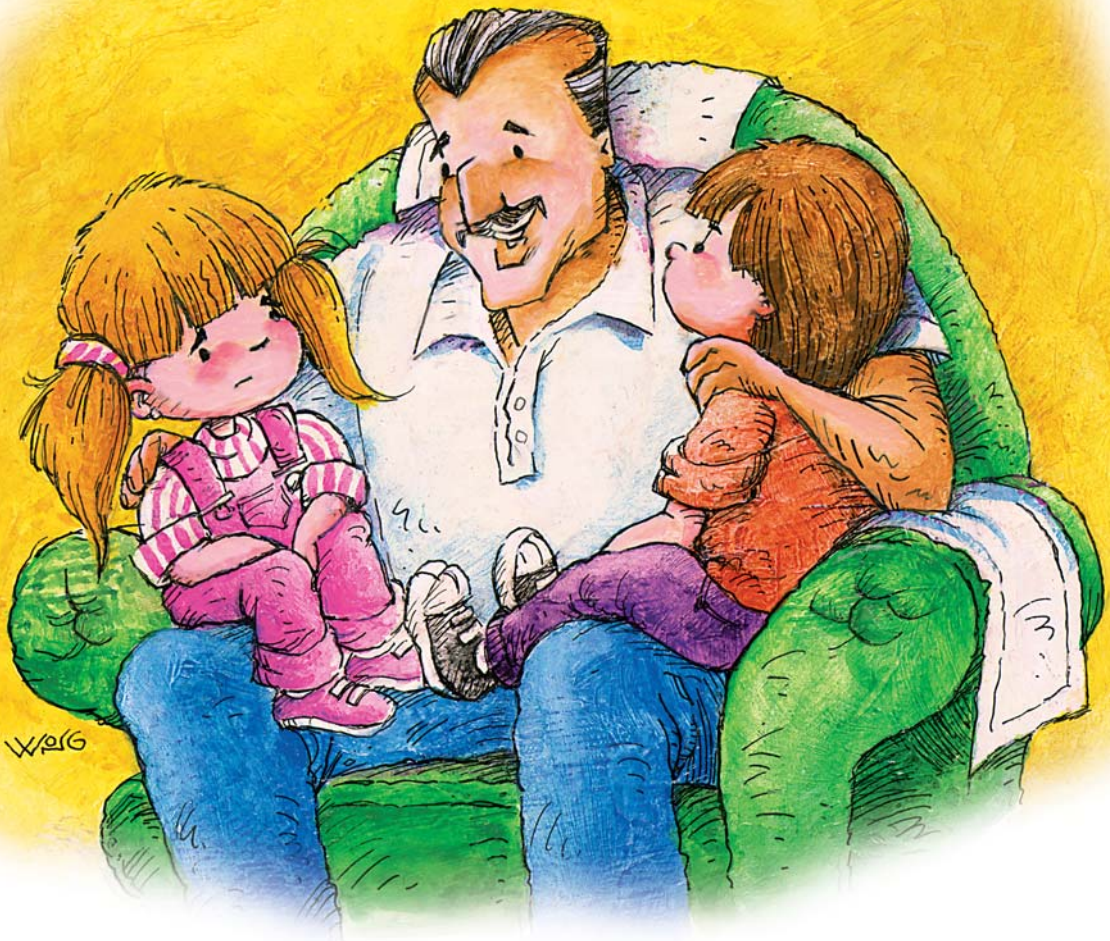
“How long?” Jason asked.

“Six months”,
his father replied.

Jason and Sheila
began to cry.

They didn't want their
father to go away for so long.





W/26



The next day Jason and Sheila went to the park with some of their friends. They were very sad.

None of their friends' fathers had to go away.

It wasn't fair.

They wished their father had another job.

Then he would be home all the time.



Jason and Sheila were upset all week.

Nothing their father said cheered them up.

One night their father came to their room.

He told them that tomorrow they

would all go on a trip.

They would leave early in the morning.





The next morning, Jason and Sheila went to the base where their dad worked.

They went to their father's office.

It had many maps on the wall.

Their father pointed to a country that was far away. Their father said that there were many problems in that country.



He would be going there to work with the United Nations.

The United Nations was like an umpire.

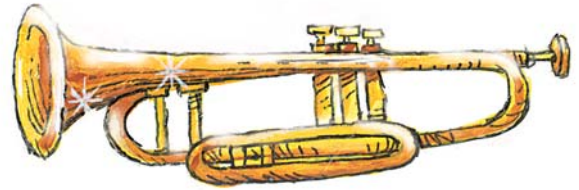
It kept people from fighting in a war. It was keeping the peace.

That was a very important job.





Next they went outside to a big square. There were many people marching around and a band was playing. They thought the uniforms looked neat and the music was great!



Their dad then said, “Canada is a wonderful place. By being a soldier I can serve my country. I can help other children like you and your sister. It’s hard work and sometimes it means I can’t be home with my family. Do you understand my job now?”



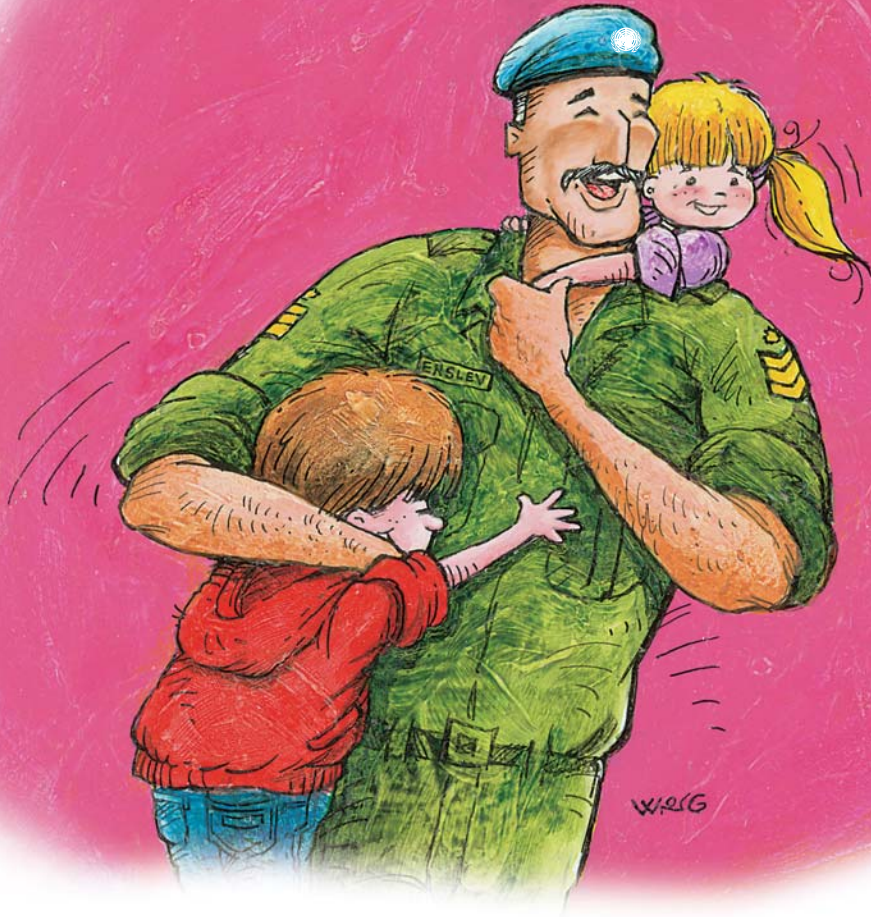


Jason and Sheila thought for a moment.
Their father was very smart and brave.
They loved their father and they were
beginning to think about Canada in a new way.
They were happy they had come today.

Their father was a soldier and they
were glad their dad cared.

“We understand,” they both said.





When their father left for
overseas, Jason and
his sister waved
him goodbye.



He looked
very handsome
in his uniform. He wore a
blue beret now instead of a green one.
He was off to represent Canada and
to make the world safe.
It was a very **IMPORTANT** job!





They would miss their father, but they
were very proud of him.

And when they grew
up, they would
be soldiers too!!





Executive Director
Oak Tree Family Resource Centre
P.O. Box 4000,
272nd Street
Aldergrove, BC V4W 2V1

Executive Director
Comox Military
Family Resource Centre
P.O. Box 310,
19 Wing - Comox
Lazo, BC V0R 2K0

Executive Director
Borden Family Services Centre
Bldg E - 123, CFB Borden
Borden ON L0M 1C0

Executive Director
Chimo Family Resource Centre
CFB Chilliwack, BC V0X 2E0

Executive Director
Centre Multi -Service
3e Escadre BFC Bagotville,
C.P. 280
Alouette QC G0V 1A0

Executive Director
Calgary Family Support Centre
2287 Flanders Ave SW
Calgary AB T2T 5K9

Executive Director
Saskatoon - Dundurn
Military Family Resource Centre
Box 624
Dundurn SK S0K 1K0

Executive Director
Moncton Military
Family Resource Centre
Bag Service 6100,
CFB Moncton
Moncton NB E1C 9L4

Executive Director
Military Family Resource Centre
74 Iroquois Ave.
CFB Gagetown NB E2V 2A1

Director
Canadian Military
Family Resource Centre
NEADS, 305 Burhanna Rd
Rome NY USA 13441-4507

Executive Director
Larkhill Family Resource Centre
Bldg T- 100CFB Shilo
Shilo MB R0K 2A0

Executive Director
Military Family Resource Centre
of the National Capital Region
107 Sparks St,
6th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1P 5B5

Executive Director
Shearwater Community
Resource Centre
P.O. Box 298,
12 Wing - Shearwater
Shearwater, NS A1A 1S6

Executive Director
CFS St. John's
Family Resource Centre
509A Placentia Place
St. John's, NF A1A 1S6

Executive Director
Toronto Military
Family Resource Centre
40 Woodhead Crescent
North York, ON M3M 2Z5

Executive Director
Trenton Family Resource Centre
P.O. Box 1000,
CFB Trenton
Astra, ON K0K 3W0

Executive Director
Camp Wainwright
Family Resource Centre
P.O. Box 29
Denwood, AB T0B 1B0

Executive Director
Military Family Resource Centre
Canadian Forces Northern Area HQ
P.O. Box 6666
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

Director
Canadian Military Family
Resource Centre Ramstein
Box 7050,
P.O. Box 5055
Belleville, ON K8N 5W6

Director
Canadian Military Family
Resource Centre Bruxelles
NATO Staff BRUXELLES
P.O. Box 5048
Stn Forces
Belleville, ON K8N 5W6

Director
Canadian Military
Family Resource Centre
Geilenkirchen
SLOT 7006
P.O. Box 5052 Stn Forces
Belleville, ON K8N 5W6

Director
Canadian Military
Family Resource Centre
SHAPE Casteau,
P.O. Box 5048 Stn Forces
Belleville, ON K8N 5W6

Director
Canadian Military
Family Resource Centre
United Kingdom
C/O CFSU(E) Daws Hill
P.O. Box 5051 Stn Forces
Belleville, ON K8N 5W6

Directeur administratif
Centre de la famille Valcartier
Edifice Ste-Jeanne d'Arc
Courcellette, QC G0A 1R0

Executive Director
Military Family Resource Centre
CFB Winnipeg, 350 Doncaster St
Winnipeg, MB 3R9 1W8

Executive Director
Goose Bay Military
Family Resource Centre
P.O. Box 730, Stn A
Goose Bay, Labrador A0P 1S0

Executive Director
Military Family Resource Centre
Formation Halifax
FMO Halifax, NS B3K 2X0

Executive Director
Militia Training
Support Centre- Meaford
RR1
Meaford, ON N4L 1W5

Directeur exécutif
Tandem/Carrefour de la
collectivité militaire
BFC Montreal, Garrison St-Hubert
Richelieu, QC J0J 1R0

Executive Director
Military Community Resource Centre
P.O. Box 5000
Moose Jaw, SK S6H 7Z8

Executive Director
Multi-Service Family Resource Centre
22 Wing- North Bay
Hornell Heights, ON P0B 1P0

Executive Director
Debert Military Family Resource Centre
CFS Debert,
328 Dieppe Ave
Debert, NS B0M 1G0

Executive Director
Military Family Resource Centre
CFB Esquimalt
FMO Victoria, BC V0S 1B0

Executive Director
Military Family Resource Centre
CFB Edmonton
P.O. Box 10500
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

Executive Director
CFB Gander Family Resource Centre
P.O. Box 6000
112 Sullivan Ave
9 Wing Gander
Gander, NF A1V 1X1

Executive Director
Military Family Resource Centre
P.O. Box 582
14 Wing - Greenwood
Greenwood, NS B0P 1N0

Executive Director
Kingston Military Family
Resource Centre
Bldg R-26, CFB Kingston
P.O. Box 17000,
Stn Forces
Kingston, ON K7K 5L0

Executive Director
Medley Family & Community Services
P.O. Box 5260
Cold Lake, AB T0M 2C3

Executive Director
Pemico Family Resource Centre
10-16 Regalbuto
CFB Petawawa, ON K8H 1L3

Executive Director
Military Family Resource Centre
P.O. Box 190
Suffield, AB T0N 2N0

About the Author

Sheila Johnston is herself a military brat who spent her childhood in Petawawa, the daughter of Jens Enslev. This book is based on the true story of how her father explained his absences to her and her brother Jason.

Sheila joined the military in 1986 as a signals officer but reclassified to artillery in 1990, becoming Canada's first female artillery officer. Her brother, Jason also enrolled in the military at the same time and served as an artillery gunner. He was tragically killed in 1989 in a car accident while on Christmas leave. This story also serves to commemorate her much loved sibling.

Sheila left the Army in 1992 to pursue her doctorate in military studies. After a research trip to Bosnia in the summer of 1994 Sheila organized "Operation Homefront" a project that sent carepackages and childrens' letters to Canadian peacekeepers deployed abroad. The many resulting conversations she had with military parents led her to realize the need for a book like this.

Sheila is the wife of Captain Paul Johnston and mother of three children, Kelcei, Jens and McCauseland. She now resides in Ottawa and is currently working on her second children's book, a juvenile guide to the United Nations and Peacekeeping.