

## Chapter Three

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## Expectations

### Overall Expectations:

**By the end of this chapter, you will be able to**

- understand how outside forces and events shaped Canada's involvement in the Second World War
- evaluate Canada's participation in the war
- appreciate the impact of the war on Canadians
- describe changes in Canada's international status and its role in the world since 1914

### Specific Expectations:

**By the end of this chapter, you will be able to**

- identify the causes of the Second World War and of Canada's involvement
- explain changes made in Canada's international policy because of the war
- describe how Canada contributed to the war effort and how the war affected life on the home front
- explain how some key technological developments changed the way war was planned and fought
- identify the role played by the Canadian government during the war
- assess key instances in which the Canadian government restricted citizens' rights and freedoms
- describe the events leading up to the Holocaust and aspects of its impact on Canada

### Word List

**Anti-Semitic**

**Blitzkrieg**

**Death camps**

**Fascism**

**Ghettos**

**Holocaust**

**Kristallnacht**

**Order of Canada**

**Ration book**

**Black market**

**Concentration camps**

**Dictator**

**Gestapo**

**Gulag**

**"Juno"**

**Nazi**

**Pogrom**

**Wolf packs**

# Advance Organizer

1915

1920



**1** Life in Europe was not easy after the First World War. The war had destroyed everyday life in many countries.



It was easy for dictators to gain control. They offered simple solutions and promised better times. They silenced those who spoke against them.

**2** The most dangerous dictator of all was Adolph Hitler. He blamed Germany's social and economic problems on unfair treatment after the First World War. He began building up the military. Hitler kept



Germans living in fear with raids by his secret police force. People who disagreed with him began to disappear.

**3** Some nations agreed that Germany had been treated harshly after the First World War. They thought if Hitler took back a little land, he would be satisfied. They did not realize he wanted to create a master race. They did not understand that he wanted all of Europe under German rule.



All German soldiers swore an oath of personal loyalty to Hitler. Under Hitler, the army expanded rapidly.

# The World on Trial

1930

1935

1940

1945

1950

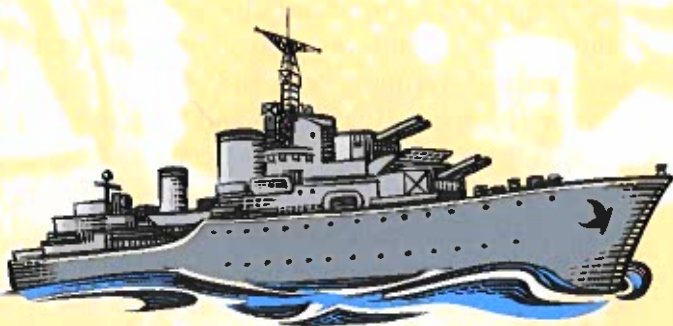
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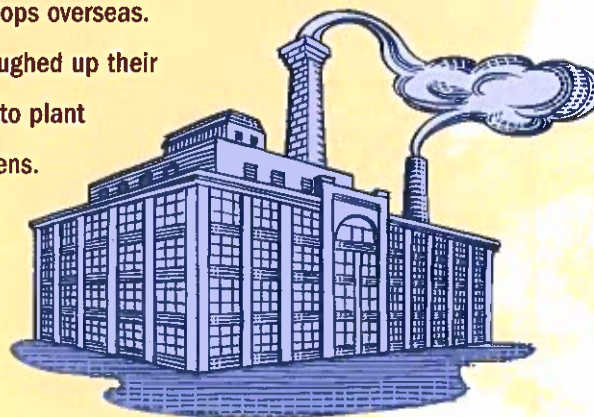
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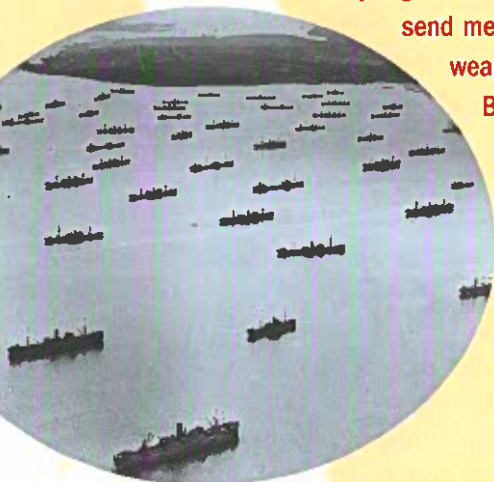
Rationing was an important part of the war effort.



5 Canadians helped the war effort in non-military ways. Canadian factories produced planes, ships, and weapons. Food and gas were rationed so more could go to the troops overseas. Children ploughed up their schoolyards to plant Victory gardens.



4 Canadians played many roles during the war. In Europe, Canadians fought bravely in the air, on the land, and on the sea. At home, the Royal Canadian Navy organized convoys to send men, food, and weapons to Britain.



**Ships waiting for a convoy in Bedford Basin, Nova Scotia.**

# Dictators in a Changing World

Most people in Europe experienced change, insecurity, and frustration through the 1920s. They had expected the Treaty of Versailles to undo the chaos caused by the First World War. Instead, it created as many problems as it solved. The losers of the war felt



The First World War changed Europe's borders. The demilitarized zone shown to the left of Germany is known as the Rhineland.

unfairly treated. The winners believed that they had gained nothing. Everyone felt cheated. Who was to blame?

## *A New Map of Europe*

The conference in Versailles decided that every national group should have its own country. As a result, they gave lands that had been part of Germany back to Poland and France (Alsace and Lorraine had been in French territory before 1870). They divided the Turkish and Austrian empires into a number of different countries. They could not, however, draw a neat line and put all Germans or Slavs on one side, and all Poles or Italians on the other. Many minority groups remained within the new borders. They resented being part of these countries. Majority groups feared the smaller nationalities might cause trouble.

## *Rise of Fascist Dictators*

Most countries in Europe had elected national bodies, or assemblies, before the First World War. These assemblies rarely had much power. Princes, kings, emperors, and their advisers made most of the important decisions. After the war, Europeans lost faith in their old leaders. They had led Europe into a tragic war. Under the leadership of American President Woodrow Wilson, diplomats at Versailles tried to set up democratic governments for the "new" countries. Since few people knew how to run a country in a democratic way, voters had difficulty judging the new politicians.

Then came the Depression of the 1930s. It caused social, economic, and political

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problems in stable democracies like Canada, the United States, and Britain. In an unsettled Europe, the effects were disastrous.

People wanted a way out of the hopelessness, the frustration, and the insecurity. They were ready to follow any leader who promised them better things. They wanted to be told that their country was great. They wanted to believe that their problems were somebody else's fault. They blamed foreigners, communists, democrats, and Jews. Fascism appealed to people living in these conditions. Fascist leaders Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler, and Francisco Franco rose to power in the midst of hopelessness, fear, poverty, and hatred.

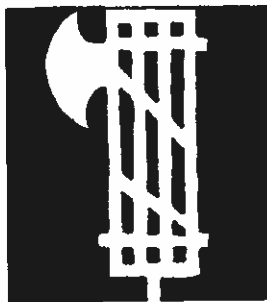
In Turkey, Poland, and Iran, military officers assumed control. Yugoslavia, Romania, and Albania established monarchical dictatorships. Dictatorships also emerged in Bulgaria, Hungary, Greece, Austria, the three Baltic states, Portugal, and Spain.

## *Fascism in Italy*

Benito Mussolini formed the Fascist Party. His goal was to fight communism



Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler (centre) formed a powerful alliance. What image do these officers seem to present?



The term fascism came from ancient Rome, where government authority was symbolized by the fasces, a bundle of rods bound together (representing popular unity), with an axe head (symbolizing leadership) sticking out.

and democratic socialism in Italy. Fascists in black shirts gathered to listen to their leader. These "Blackshirts" broke up trade union meetings and communist rallies with clubs and fists. They waged a campaign of terror against their opponents.

There was much poverty and unemployment in Italy after the First World War. Workers formed unions and called for a general strike in 1922. Mussolini said that if the government didn't stop the strike, the Fascists would. Fascists from all over Italy marched on Rome. In a panic, the king asked Mussolini to form a new government. Soon, Mussolini was the dictator of Italy. He allowed only fellow fascists to run for office.

### *The Soviet Union of Lenin and Stalin*

By 1917, Russia had seen more than 10 years of civil unrest. The new Bolshevik party led by Vladimir Lenin staged a revolution. The Russian emperor, Nicholas II, was overthrown. Lenin's communist government started to make reforms. Lenin meant to turn the Soviet Union into a classless society. Lenin died in 1924 before achieving many of his goals.



*The hammer and sickle symbol represented Soviet communism.*

Joseph Stalin came after Lenin and was far more brutal in his methods. He was an able, but ruthless dictator. Under a series of five-year plans, Stalin dramatically changed Soviet society. He wanted to make the Soviet Union a stronger country. He used the army,

the secret police, and labour camps called "gulags" against anyone who opposed his plans. Millions of Soviet citizens died as he drove the Soviet Union towards greater power.

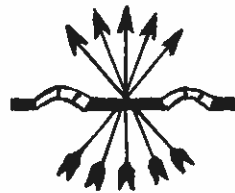
### *The Army in Japan*

Meanwhile, Japan was also changing. Modern methods of manufacturing began in the late 1800s. Japan made gains as a result of the First World War. It developed a strong relationship with both the United States and China. In the late 1920s, a group of young army officers, dreaming of a vast empire, took control of the armed forces. Businessmen who wanted raw materials and markets for Japanese industry supported them. The civilian government was weak and divided. Those who opposed the army were often

killed. By the 1930s, the Japanese military had control over the government. They dictated Japanese policies.

### *The Spanish Civil War*

In 1936, General Francisco Franco led a military revolt against the elected government of Spain. He wanted to stamp out communism.



*Spanish fascists used this symbol.*

The Spanish government was made up of many political groups. The Communist Party was one of these groups. Franco got support from the army, rich landowners, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Falange (the Spanish Fascist Party). Hitler and Mussolini sent military and financial aid to Franco. Stalin sided with the government. The world looked the other way as Franco brutally destroyed Spain's democratic government. The Spanish Civil War lasted three years. It left a million dead. By 1939, another fascist was in power in Europe.

### *Fascism in Canada*

Canada was not immune to fascism. Several small parties copied the racism and brutality of Mussolini and Hitler. The most successful of the Canadian fascists was Adrien Arcand. He was a racist who hated Jews and anyone who was not English or French. Arcand organized a private army. Members dressed in navy blue uniforms and displayed the Nazi swastika alongside the maple leaf. Arcand wrote many papers and brochures. He said he had 80 000 followers, but many believe he had only a few thousand. As Hitler and Mussolini became more aggressive and the world

drifted towards yet another war, Arcand lost support. Canadian authorities became more active in restraining him. When the Second World War broke out, the RCMP arrested Arcand and other fascists. They were interned until 1944.

### *The Mac-Paps in Spain*

Not all Canadians stood by while fascist dictators took control over much of Europe. When the Spanish Civil War exploded in 1936, people from all over the world volunteered to fight the fascists. These “International Brigades” numbered 40 000. About 1500 Canadians went to Spain to fight for the Republic. They formed the Mackenzie–Papineau Battalion (named after the leaders of the 1837 Rebellions). They were nicknamed the Mac-Paps. Half never returned. They were outgunned and outnumbered. Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King did not want to anger Hitler and Mussolini. In 1937, he refused to allow any more volunteers to leave for Spain. The punishment for doing so was two years in jail.



Canadian Nazis joined the National Unity Party. Here, members of Adrien Arcand's party salute at a 1939 meeting held in Montreal. Arcand and other fascists were interned during the Second World War.

The Canadian government disowned the volunteers for two reasons: First, some of them had been active in the On-to-Ottawa Trek of 1935; second, Canada wanted to avoid another terrible world war. However, thousands of Canadians lined up to see them return, even in defeat. These civilian soldiers were right to worry about fascists gaining strength in Europe. Soon, regular soldiers would head to Europe to fight in a long, bloody war.

## FOCUS

1. Why did many people not accept the new national boundaries of Europe?
2. Why were so many people attracted to dictators?
3. Who took power in the Soviet Union, Italy, Japan, and Spain?
4. What did the fascist leaders have in common?
5. How did Canadians respond to the rise of European fascism?

# Adolf Hitler

In Germany, the leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi for short) watched Mussolini's rise to power with admiration. Adolf Hitler was born in Austria in 1889. After an unhappy childhood, he became a homeless drifter. At the outbreak of the First World War, Hitler eagerly joined the German army. He was a good soldier, even though he never rose above the rank of corporal.

When Germany surrendered in 1918, soldiers everywhere cheered because the war was over. Hitler, on the other hand, cried because Germany had been beaten. He swore revenge on the "socialists and Jewish traitors who," he later claimed, "had stabbed Germany in the back." He formed the Nazi Party. Its aim was to rebuild Germany and defeat its enemies.

Hitler made being a Nazi exciting. He



*Before the Second World War began, many world leaders were impressed by Hitler. Here, Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King (centre) is on a state visit to the "new Germany."*



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organized the party along military lines. It had its own salute, uniform, songs, and symbol—the swastika. The Nazis listened to stirring speeches from their leader. They marched through the streets of German towns. The brown-shirted “storm troopers” broke up Communist Party meetings, attacked the homes and businesses of Jews, and struck terror into the hearts of other “traitors,” anyone who did not view the world as they did.

By 1933, the Nazis were the largest party in the German parliament, although they had never won a majority in a free election. As leader, Hitler was asked to be chancellor of Germany. He accepted on condition that he be given dictatorial powers. That evening, the Nazis held torchlight parades. Swept along by excitement, the crowds roared, “Sieg Heil! SIEG HEIL!” (Hail victory).

## *Why Germans Supported Hitler*

Even people who had not voted for Hitler were glad to see a strong leader in charge.



German soldiers swore an oath of personal loyalty to Hitler. Under Hitler, the German armed forces expanded rapidly.

They thought he would solve the country’s problems. Few realized his real intentions, even though he had written of them in his book, *Mein Kampf* (*My Struggle*).

Many saw Hitler as an inspiring leader. He was certainly a brilliant and hypnotizing speaker. Nazi rallies were full of colourful parades and rousing marching songs. People who attended felt they were part of a great movement. Paul Joseph Goebbels, Hitler’s propaganda minister, used these rallies to spread hatred, especially against Jews.

### In Their Own Words

**Hitler Youth clubs were quickly established, and in 1935, only those people who had participated in such clubs were eligible to enter the civil service. The following speech was read when young people joined a youth club.**

*Dear boy!/Dear girl!*

*This hour in which you are to be received into the great community of the Hitler Youth is a very happy one and at the same time will introduce you into a new period of your lives. Today for the first time you swear allegiance to the Führer which will bind you to him for all time.*

*And every one of you, my young comrades, enters at this moment into the community of all German boys and girls. With your vow and your commitment you now become a bearer of German spirit and German honour. Every one, every single one, now becomes the foundation for an eternal Reich of all Germans.*

*When you, too, now march in step with the youngest soldiers, then bear in mind that this march is to train you to be a National*

*Socialist, conscious of the future and faithful to his duty.*

*And the Führer demands of you and of us that we train ourselves to a life of service and duty, of loyalty and comradeship. You, ten-year-old cub, and you, lass, are not too young nor too small to practice obedience and discipline, to integrate yourself into the community and show yourself to be a comrade. Like you, millions of young Germans are today swearing allegiance to the Führer and it is a proud picture of unity which German youth today presents to the whole world. So today you make a vow to your Führer and here, before your parents, the Party and your comrades, we now receive you into our great community of loyalty. Your motto will always be:*

*“Führer, command—we follow!”*

*(The cubs are asked to rise.) Now say after me: “I promise always to do my duty in the Hitler Youth in love and loyalty to the Führer and to our flag.”*

Source: Quoted in George L. Mosse, *Nazi Culture* (New York: Grosset & Dunlop, 1968), page 357.



The Depression hit Germany hard. By the 1930s, Germany's economy was in ruins. Unemployment rose from 1.4 million in 1929, to 3.1 million in 1930, and finally to 6 million in 1932. Many other people had only part-time work. Millions of Germans were without food.

Many Germans blamed the new democratic government for the economic hardships. Perhaps the Nazis could put Germans back to work. Hitler promised a strong government. His private army of storm troopers paraded through the streets. They broke up the meetings of other political parties. Many people supported the Nazis out of fear.

Hitler gave the Germans targets to blame for all their problems. His favourite scapegoats were communists and Jews. The Nazis preached "racial purity." They claimed that Germans were the "master race." Jews, Slavs, Blacks, Asians, and other minorities were to be regarded as "impure aliens."

Hitler blamed Germany's troubles on the Treaty of Versailles. The treaty demanded that Germany pay for the First World War with money and goods. As a result, life was difficult for Germans during the 1920s. With the treaty's controversial war guilt clause, they were forced to accept full responsibility

for causing the First World War. One day Hitler tore the treaty to shreds before cheering crowds.

Once in power, Hitler delivered on his promises. Germans were put back to work. New roads and bridges were built all over the country. Guns, tanks, warships, and planes—all forbidden by the Treaty of Versailles—started to pour from German factories. Young men flocked to the army and, in 1936, rode the new tanks down the new highways, across the new bridges and into the Rhineland. Under the Treaty of Versailles, this part of Germany was to be demilitarized. Hitler was prepared to challenge the terms of this treaty. The Allies protested mildly, but did nothing to stop Hitler.

Meanwhile, all traces of democracy in Germany were removed. Socialists, democrats, communists, religious leaders, teachers, and scientists—anyone who spoke out against the Nazis—found themselves in **concentration camps**. Jews lost their jobs and were persecuted in many ways. Nazi propaganda poured out of the newspapers and radios. Unions, schools, churches, and the army were under Nazi control. The Gestapo, Hitler's secret police, was everywhere.

## FOCUS

1. List five reasons why many Germans supported Hitler.
2. What actions did Hitler take once in power?
3. Why might young people have been attracted to Hitler?
4. Would a character like Hitler be attractive to people today? Explain.

# The Gathering Storm

Shortly after the First World War, many countries formed the League of Nations. Their plan was to prevent any future wars. The League was to settle international arguments through diplomacy. As a result of a dispute between President Wilson and the U.S. Senate, the United States did not join, which created a serious weakness in the League. During the 1920s, the League managed to settle some disputes between nations, but by the 1930s things were not working as well. Some countries had learned they could defy the League and get away with it.

## *Manchuria*

In 1931, the Japanese army invaded the northern Chinese province of Manchuria. Within weeks, Manchuria was torn from China. The League of Nations was not prepared to act. Asia seemed so far away. All the League did to support China was to refuse to recognize the new government of Manchuria. In defiance, Japan simply withdrew from the League. Japan set out to conquer the rest of China and to build its empire in the Pacific. In a sense, by 1937, the Second World War had already begun in Asia.

## *Ethiopia and the Rhineland*

Mussolini's economic program was not working in Italy. To take people's minds off the problems of the Depression, Mussolini chose to go to war. He wanted to rebuild the Roman Empire. He saw himself as Italy's "Duce," a leader greater than Julius Caesar.

All through the summer of 1935, Italian troops gathered on the borders of the ancient African kingdom of Ethiopia. In October, they attacked. The Ethiopians fought bravely, but spears and old guns were no match for modern machine guns, planes, tanks, and poison gas.

Haile Selassie, the emperor of Ethiopia, appealed to the League of Nations. The League members agreed that Italy was wrong. They said they would cut off Italy's oil supplies. "Oil means war!" replied Mussolini. The League backed down. In any case, it

was more worried about Hitler's march into the Rhineland. Would France declare war? France, at the urging of Britain, decided it would not.

With the failure of the League to stop



*In 1936 in Geneva, Switzerland, the emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie (standing), pleaded with the League of Nations to step in and protect his country. Mussolini's armies had invaded it in late 1935. The League listened, but did not act.*

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them, Hitler and Mussolini realized they served each other well. They had kept the League from acting against either of them. In 1936, with the military rulers in Japan, they formed the Rome-Tokyo-Berlin Axis. They made the Anti-Comintern Pact. Under this Pact, they agreed to support one another against communist U.S.S.R. Now Hitler had allies. He was ready to gamble that the leaders of Europe would agree to anything to avoid war.

## *The Appeasement of Germany*

In Hitler's vision of the future, Germans everywhere would be united. In 1938, he announced that Austria, which was mostly German speaking, was to be part of Germany. Austria had no way of defending itself against the German army. France and Britain did nothing. Seven million Austrians were soon under German control. Hitler had his next target almost surrounded.

The rich industrialized Sudetenland area of Czechoslovakia was home to 3 million German-speaking Czechs. Hitler claimed that they were oppressed and threatened to take over the area. France, Britain, and the Soviet Union promised to stand by the Czechs. The leaders of Britain, France, Italy, and

Germany met at Munich. The British and French leaders gave in to Hitler's demands because they wanted to avoid another war. They also believed Hitler when he said that this was his last demand. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain went home to cheering crowds claiming he had achieved "peace with honour, peace in our time." Many people in Canada and elsewhere heaved a sigh of relief. Others, such as Britain's future prime minister, Winston Churchill, warned of greater threats to come.

## TIMELINE

### These military events led up to the Second World War.

- 1931** Japan invades Manchuria in northern China.
- 1933** Hitler comes to power in Germany.  
Germany begins to rearm.
- 1935** Italy invades Ethiopia.
- 1936** The Spanish Civil War gets under way.  
Hitler sends German troops into the Rhineland on the French border.  
Japan, Italy, and Germany sign a treaty of mutual protection.
- 1937** Japan invades China.
- 1938** Germany takes over Austria.  
Germany takes part of Czechoslovakia.  
Germany takes the rest of Czechoslovakia.
- 1939** August: Hitler and Stalin in Russia agree not to fight each other.  
September 1: Germany invades Poland.  
Soviet Union also invades Poland and Finland.  
September 3: Great Britain and France declare war on Germany.  
September 10: Canada declares war on Germany.

**Refer to the map at the beginning of this chapter. How would it look by the end of this Timeline? In your opinion, what is the most important event noted?**

## Dr. Norman Bethune

**BORN:** 1890, Gravenhurst, Ontario

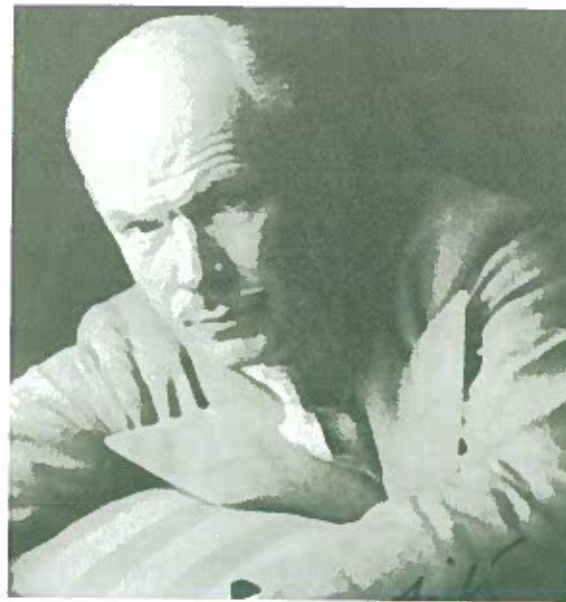
**DIED:** 1939, China

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Bethune established the world's first mobile blood transfusion unit to aid injured soldiers.

**BRIEF BIOGRAPHY:** Bethune entered the University of Toronto in 1909. He interrupted his studies to take a teaching position with Frontier College. He returned to university in 1911, where he enrolled in medical school. His education was once again interrupted, this time by the war in 1914. Bethune joined the Royal Canadian Army Corps and served as a stretcher-bearer during the First World War. After returning to Canada in 1915, he finally completed his medical degree. Bethune contracted tuberculosis (TB) in 1926. While ill, he forced his doctor to perform a radical and dangerous surgery to help cure the disease. Between 1929 and 1936, Bethune devoted himself to other TB victims and to thoracic (lung) surgery. During this time, he invented 12 medical/surgical instruments.

Bethune became very disillusioned with the medical establishment and with the social and economic

aspects of the disease—poor people tended to contract TB. He joined the Communist Party. In 1936, he went to Spain with the Mac-Paps to fight in the Spanish Civil War. While there, he organized the world's first mobile blood-transfusion service on the front lines. Bethune returned to Canada in 1937.



Bethune was soon interested in China's struggle against Japan. He went to China in 1938 to join the Army in Shanxi-Hobei. "That is where I can be most useful," he wrote. In China, he established a hospital to treat the wounded and to train doctors and nurses. When the Japanese destroyed this hospital, Bethune stayed close to the troops and performed operations near the fighting.

Because there were only five qualified doctors, he worked 18-hour days. The following year, he contracted blood poisoning while performing surgical duties on the front. He died a hero to millions of Chinese. Canadian authorities declared him a national hero in 1971. **In your opinion, does Bethune deserve "hero" status? Explain. For more information about Bethune, visit [www.cbc.ca/archives](http://www.cbc.ca/archives) and view the file "Comrade Bethune: A Controversial Hero."**

CANADIAN LIVES

Within months, the German army swallowed up the rest of Czechoslovakia.

Hitler next turned to the German-speaking areas of Poland. The leaders of France and Britain realized that they must take a stand. They declared that they would guarantee Poland's borders.

The Soviet Union had decided it could not rely on the Western democracies for help against Hitler. It noted what had happened to Austria and Czechoslovakia. So, the Soviet Union and Germany signed a non-aggression pact in August 1939. They agreed they would not fight each other. A secret agreement was also made to divide Poland between them. With the Soviet Union out of his way, Hitler was now ready.

### *Canada and Aggression*

Most Canadians did not want to force another war by standing up to Hitler and Mussolini. When the Canadian ambassador to the League of Nations spoke out against Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia, his government said he did not speak for Canada.

Canada's prime minister, Mackenzie King, had met Hitler. He felt that Hitler was not a threat to world peace. He even had an autographed photo of the dictator. Canadians were still clawing their way out of the Depression and had sad memories of the last war. They feared that another war would



*One last good-bye before Canadian soldiers left for war. Many never returned.*

again divide English and French Canadians.

On 1 September 1939, German tanks thundered across the Polish border and bombers flattened the great city of Warsaw. On September 3, France and Britain declared war against Germany. King was still in favour of appeasing Hitler. One week later, however, the Canadian Parliament voted to declare war on Germany. The first Canadian victim of the Second World War was a 10-year-old, Margaret Hayworth of Hamilton, Ontario. She died when a German submarine torpedoed the *Athenia*, an unarmed passenger ship, on the first day of war. Hayworth's state funeral encouraged Canadians to fight.

## FOCUS

1. Why did the League of Nations fail to act against Japan, Italy, and Germany?
2. Why were nations eager to give in to Germany's demands?
3. What was Canada's reaction to German aggression?

# Blitzkrieg

Nazi armies crushed Poland in less than a month. By October 19, the Polish armed forces collapsed under the relentless attack by German tanks and Stuka dive-bombers. Hitler taught the world a new word—**blitzkrieg** (lightning war). After the defeat of

Germany struck again during the spring of 1940. Denmark fell in 1 day; Norway in 2. The Netherlands was smashed in 5 days; Belgium took 18. Even mighty France was shattered in six weeks.

Britain stood alone in Europe. The new

prime minister, Winston Churchill, promised nothing but “blood, toil, tears, and sweat.” It seemed that the war would soon be over. German forces began preparing for the invasion of Britain.



Poland came a lull in the fighting. Some people called this the “phony war” or “sitzkrieg.” It was a time of careful preparation before the bloody struggles to come. While the Allies scrambled to mobilize their armed forces, Germany moved its forces from defeated Poland to staging areas for its next invasion.

British and French troops were pinned against the English Channel near the tiny French port of Dunkirk. If British ships could reach Dunkirk in time, the soldiers could be rescued. But the navy had few ships to spare. Instead, English fishers, weekend sailors, and ferry captains took their boats across the

*The Miracle at Dunkirk*  
As the advancing German army swung south into France from the Netherlands,



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channel. Canal boats and river tugs towed rowboats and empty coal barges out to sea to rescue Allied soldiers. This volunteer fleet brought back 350 000 men—10 times what the government had hoped to save. The Germans had not been able to get to Dunkirk in time to prevent this



*Fighter planes ready for take off.*

heroic rescue.

In the distant port of Halifax, Nova Scotia, ships were assembling in convoys to cross the Atlantic. They carried the food, weapons,

and soldiers needed for one of the most important and critical battles in the war—the Battle of Britain.



*Ships wait in Bedford Basin, Nova Scotia, to sail together as a convoy.*

## Max Aitken, Lord Beaverbrook

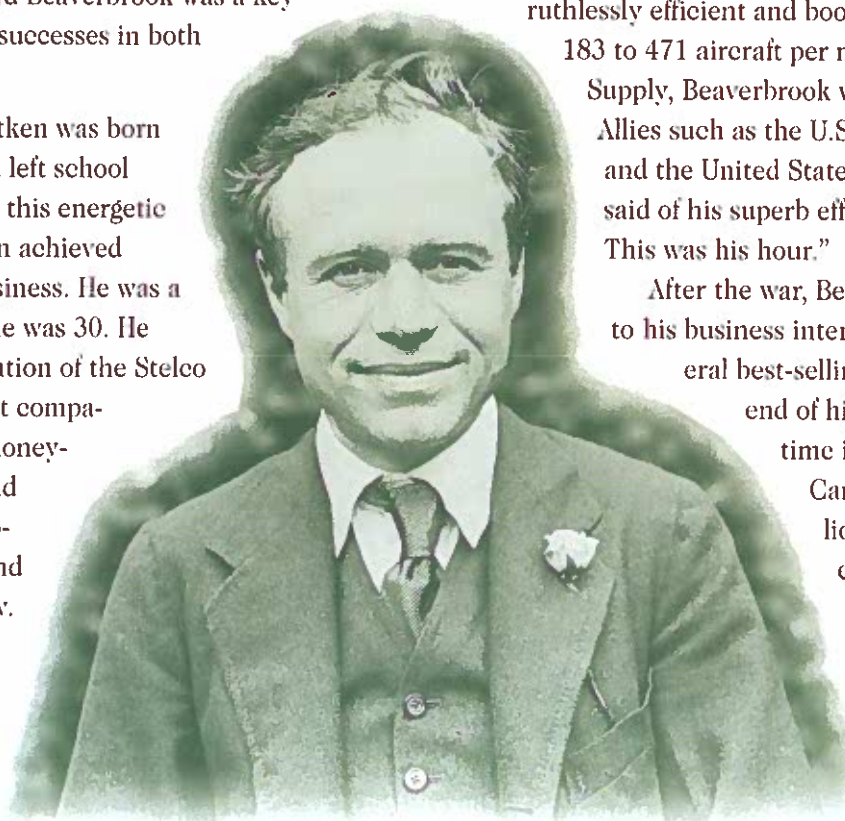
BORN: 1879, Maple, Ontario

DIED: 1964, United Kingdom

SIGNIFICANCE: Canadian Max Aitken had a varied career as a millionaire businessman, British politician, and successful author. A member of the British House of Lords, Lord Beaverbrook was a key figure in the Allied successes in both world wars.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY: Aitken was born to poor parents and left school early. Nevertheless, this energetic and clever Canadian achieved great success in business. He was a millionaire before he was 30. He was behind the creation of the Stelco and Canada Cement companies. While on his honeymoon, he even found time to buy a hydro-electric company and a streetcar company.

Beaverbrook moved to England to pursue business interests. He soon became part of the social and political upper class. He was elected as a member of Parliament and later appointed to the House of Lords.



Between the wars, Beaverbrook returned to business and built a publishing empire. His papers regularly warned readers of the rise of Hitler in Germany. When the Second World War broke out, Prime Minister Churchill called on his friend to oversee the production of aircraft so vital to Britain's survival. He was ruthlessly efficient and boosted production from 183 to 471 aircraft per month. As Minister of Supply, Beaverbrook worked closely with Allies such as the U.S.S.R. (after 1941) and the United States. Winston Churchill said of his superb effort: "He did not fail. This was his hour."

After the war, Beaverbrook returned to his business interests and wrote several best-selling books. Near the end of his life, he spent more time in his native land, Canada. He gave millions of dollars to establish an art gallery in Fredericton, N.B. In your view, what was Beaverbrook's greatest achievement?

Why? If you wish

to visit the Beaverbrook Gallery, go to [www.beaverbrookgallery.org](http://www.beaverbrookgallery.org).

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### *The Battle of Britain*

The British navy and air force controlled the 50 km of water—the English Channel—separating Britain from Europe. Germany needed to control the skies over the Channel before its invasion fleet could sail.

The German air force, or Luftwaffe, set out to destroy the Royal Air Force (RAF). On 10 July 1940, wave after wave of German Messerschmitts and Heinkels streamed across the channel. They spread out over Britain to their bombing targets—radar stations, airfields, ports and factories. Slowly the RAF planes were wiped out. At one point, every fighter plane Britain owned was in the air. Had the Germans launched another attack, no planes would have been available to respond.

Suddenly, the German tactics changed. In August, the RAF made a surprise bombing raid on Berlin. The commander of the German air force, Herman Goering, was furious because he had promised Germans that no Allied plane would ever bomb a German city. The Germans decided to “blitz” British cities in revenge. They planned to terrorize the civilian population into surrender, but the

plan backfired. Bombs rained on London, night and day. Londoners moved into air-raid shelters and subway stations. Each day they set about repairing homes, reopening stores—carrying on. British resistance grew stronger, not weaker.

The German raids on London enabled the few remaining RAF Spitfires and Hurricanes to regroup. Newly trained pilots joined those who had been flying almost constantly since the battles began. New planes came off the assembly lines at the rate of almost 500 a month.

On September 15, German planes almost blackened the skies, but the RAF was ready for them. When the day was over, the Luftwaffe was decidedly beaten. Hitler called off the attack two days later. If he could not beat Britain, he would turn against the Soviet Union.

The Battle of Britain was won by a few hundred pilots. They included 80 Canadians as well as Britons, Poles, Australians, New Zealanders, and South Africans. The Luftwaffe lost 1722 planes, the RAF 915. Canadian pilots accounted for 60 definite and 50 probable “kills.”

## FOCUS

1. What is the meaning of the term *blitzkrieg*?
2. Why was Dunkirk so important to Britain?
3. How did Canadians help win the Battle of Britain?
4. What was Lord Beaverbrook's contribution to the British and Allied war effort?

# Battle of the Atlantic

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Canada had a navy of 3500 men and women, and 10 warships. By the end of the war, the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) had 100 000 sailors and 341 fighting ships. It was the world's third largest navy.

The merchant navy was the "fourth branch" of Canada's military force. It carried military personnel, food, fuel, and weapons to Britain and the Soviet Union. In crossing the Atlantic, it lost 72 ships and more than 1600 merchant seamen. More than 25 000 merchant ship crossings took place during the war.

In 1941, when Germany pushed its U-boat, or submarine, attacks farther into the Atlantic, St. John's became the home of the Newfoundland Escort Force (NEF). The NEF escorted convoys between North America and Ireland. Convoys sometimes sailed as far north as Greenland; however, German U-boats still found and sank many vessels. Hunting in wolf packs, they zeroed in on lone ships.

The RCN played a major role in the NEF. Canadian warships (destroyers and corvettes) sought to find and sink U-boats before they found and sank ships in the convoys. Twenty-four Canadian warships were lost, mostly from submarine attacks.

The Battle of the Atlantic came closest to Canadian shores. Eyewitnesses sometimes saw explosions of merchant ships as soon as they left the safety of Halifax's Bedford Basin. German wolf packs had hunted them down. In January 1942, German U-boats sank a naval vessel just 15 km from St. John's. U-boat attacks also occurred in Placentia Bay and at Bell's Island. In October 1942 a German submarine torpedoed the SS *Caribou*, a ferryboat between Cape Breton and Newfoundland—137 of the 237 people



*Anchor Memorial, Windsor, Ontario, is dedicated to members of the Canadian Navy and Merchant Navy who lost their lives in the wars. Make a list of street names, parks, and memorials that are war related in your neighbourhood.*

aboard were killed.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill felt that the Battle of the Atlantic was a fight for Britain's very survival. "The only thing

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that ever really frightened me during the war," he said, "was the U-boat peril."

The battle was the longest of the war. As Canadian Rear Admiral Leonard Murray saw it, it was "won by the courage, fortitude and determination of the British and Allied Mer-

chant Navy." The dangerous trip they made over and over again was called the North Atlantic Run. By mid-1943, sonar equipment and shore-based aircraft helped put U-boats in retreat. It was a turning point in the war, one in which Canada had played a key role.

## The Technical Edge

**Tribal Class Destroyer** Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Haida* was called "the fightingest ship in the Royal Canadian Navy." She became famous by destroying nine enemy vessels. No other RCN ship destroyed as many. HMCS *Haida* was one of 27 Tribal Class destroyers built between 1937 and 1945. She was one of the most advanced fighting ships of the Second World War era. HMCS *Haida* saw much action in the second half of the war. She escorted convoys to Russia and helped Allied forces during the D-Day invasion. A sister ship, HMCS *Athabaskan*, was sunk in 1944 with the loss of 128 lives.

HMCS *Haida* also saw action during the Korean War (1950–1953). As the last Tribal Class destroyer in the world, the proud ship was decommissioned in 1963.



Today, the HMCS *Haida* sits in Hamilton Harbour and is designated as a National Historic Site. From 1965 to 2003, she was docked in Toronto and was a popular tourist attraction.

## FOCUS

1. Describe Canada's role in the war at sea.
2. Why was the Battle of the Atlantic so important?

# Dieppe

As France fell to Hitler's armies, Italy joined the war on Germany's side. By 1941, nearly all of Europe was under German or Italian control. British and Australian troops were desperately fighting Germans and Italians in North Africa. On 22 June 1941, Germany



*This Canadian soldier patiently waits for action. Dieppe meant a bloody end to inactivity for Canadian forces.*

attacked the Soviet Union. In December 1941, Japan attacked American and British positions in the Pacific. It swiftly captured Hong Kong (imprisoning several hundred Canadians), the Philippines, Malaya, Singapore, and Sumatra.

### *Reasons for a Raid*

By the fall of 1941, the Soviet Union was bearing almost the full weight of German attack. Stalin urged his Western allies to open a second front. If they would attack German-held France, the Soviet Union might get relief.

The British knew they were not ready to start a second front. But the whole Commonwealth was angry about the fall of Hong Kong. The Americans, Britain's new allies, wanted action. Canadian soldiers were also restless. They had been waiting in Britain for three years. A large raid might satisfy the Soviets, the Americans, and the Canadians. It might be useful too. It could test German coastal defences.

A raid could help plan a full-scale invasion. It might also deceive Germany as to the site of the ultimate invasion of German-held Europe in the future.

**HISTOR!CA**

*Minutes*

### *The Dieppe Raid*

On the morning of 19 August 1942, nearly 5000 Canadian soldiers, 1000 British commandos, and some American and French soldiers crouched in landing crafts off the heavily fortified French port of Dieppe. They intended to seize the town, destroy the port facilities and airport, take prisoners and return to England. The key to victory was surprise.

When the first Canadians hit the beach, the Germans were ready and waiting. They had spotted the enemy ships during the night. Some Allied ships had gone off course and arrived late. The raid did not start until daylight. The element of surprise was lost.

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The Canadians found themselves on a boulder beach in front of a town that was fortified with cannons, barbed wire, tanks, traps, and mines. Many landing craft were blown right out of the water. In a boat of 80 men, 40 were killed and 20 wounded within minutes of landing. One regiment had 96 percent casualties. Only a few soldiers ever reached the town.



*The slaughter and chaos that was Dieppe is revealed in this painting by war artist Charles Comfort.*

When the smoke cleared, 900 men were dead. Nearly 2000 were taken prisoner. The men from Winnipeg, Hamilton, Montreal, Calgary, Windsor, Regina, and Toronto had been savagely defeated.

A British military committee examined the causes of the failure. It noted two problems: (1) It was foolish to attack a fortified beach in broad daylight; (2) The enemy should have been pulverized by aerial and naval bombardment before landing. The report concluded that the results of the Dieppe raid were disappointing and the

heavy casualties regrettable. The operation could be seen as worthwhile, however, if its lessons were applied carefully when the time came to re-enter France on a larger scale.

The Dieppe tragedy taught the Allies that much stronger military forces were required to break through the German coastal defences. As well, a much higher proportion of military forces should be held in reserve until the progress of the initial assault was known. Unless this was done, there was no guarantee that any of the beaches would be secured. The D-Day invasion date was now moved from 1943 to 1944.

The next time the Allied forces landed in Europe, they were ready. D-Day occurred on 6 June 1944, the day Allied forces invaded Europe. Many of the disastrous errors of the Dieppe raid were avoided. The sacrifices

made by Canadian and other soldiers on the beaches of Dieppe in 1942 reduced the casualties of Canadian, British, and American forces in 1944.

### In Their Own Words

#### Those who fought on the Dieppe beaches left disturbing accounts.

*"First thing I remember after I left the boat, I got hit in the eye. I got to the wall, and then again I was hit in the leg. And after that—all hell had let loose, of course—I put the bandage on my leg. And my eye, it was gone. And I got hit in the head when I was trying to fix up my eye. Shrapnel in the eye and the head, and a bullet in the leg."*

Source: Private Peter Macleod, Royal Regiment of Canada, quoted in *In Enemy Hands*, by Daniel G. Dancocks (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1990).

*"The landing craft I was in was hit as we were coming in about a quarter mile off shore.... I was shot in the eye at that point, and later, the eye completely closed up, but there was so much to do in a situation like that, you don't really notice these things. It wasn't until later in the action, around 11:00 in the morning, that I realized I was badly wounded and that my eye was gone. When there's so much excitement around you though, you have a tendency to keep going."*

*I think that everyone who landed on that beach that day deserved credit for doing the best possible job that could be done. I don't believe in medals, but if there has to be such a thing, they should be awarded to anyone and everyone who was there."*



*No doubt Dieppe did teach the military planners a lot of lessons, but I think those lessons could have been learned without such a great loss of life ..."*

Source: Ed Bennett, quoted in *Voices of a War Remembered*, by Bill McNeil (Toronto: Doubleday Canada Ltd., 1991), page 271.

**Do you agree that all who were at Dieppe deserved a medal? Explain.**



## Canadian Vision

### Into the Breach

#### **This Was My Brother**

*(For Lt-Col. Howard McTavish, killed in action at Dieppe)*

This was my brother  
At Dieppe  
Quietly a hero  
Who gave his life like a gift,  
Withholding nothing.

His youth, his love,  
His enjoyment of being alive,  
His future, like a book  
With half the pages still uncut—

This was my brother  
At Dieppe,  
The one who built me a doll house  
When I was seven,  
Complete to the last small picture frame,  
Nothing forgotten.

He was awfully good at fixing things,  
At stepping into the breach when he was needed.

That's what he did at Dieppe;  
He was needed.  
And even Death must have been a little shamed  
By his eagerness.

By Mona McTavish Gould, poet and broadcaster. *Tasting the Earth* (Toronto: Macmillan, 1943).

**What is the message of this poem? Is the sister for or against the raid? Explain.**



*Corpses on Dieppe beach next to a Churchill tank.*

### FOCUS

1. How did the war expand in 1941?
2. Provide three reasons for the raid on Dieppe.
3. What were the results of the raid?
4. In your view, was the lesson learned at Dieppe worth the cost of the lives? Explain.

# Canada at War

There is more to war than sending soldiers to the battlefield. How could Canadians and Canadian resources best be used to fight the Second World War?

## *The War Plan*

The Canadian government drew up a war plan. It included what was most important to Canadians, and the areas where Canada could make the biggest contribution to the Allied war effort. The Canadian government carefully co-ordinated its plan with the war plans of other countries. The plan included

- the defence and security of Canada
- the production of food supplies for Britain
- the production of weapons and ammunition for Allied forces
- the training of Allied pilots
- development of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) for home defence and overseas duty
- development of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) for home defence and convoy duty

- development of the Canadian Army for home defence and overseas duty
- development of the Merchant Marine to transport troops and war materials overseas

## *Weapons of War*

Under C. D. Howe, the minister of Munitions and Supply, war products poured from Canadian factories.

One thousand ships, 15 000 aircraft, 700 000 trucks, countless guns, bombs, and bullets were produced. Howe wanted to avoid the profiteering that had occurred during the First World War. A Wartime Prices Trade Board limited prices to "cost plus 10%." Even with these controls, the government paid close to \$65 million a week for war supplies. War was serious business.

The federal government borrowed heavily

by selling Victory Bonds to people. By buying bonds, Canadians helped to finance the war effort.



How effective do you think Canadians would find this wartime poster?

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## *Rationing*

If people had any money left after paying taxes and buying bonds, there was little to spend it on. In 1942, all Canadians received a **ration book**. When they bought sugar, butter, meat, tea or coffee, they had to hand over coupons from their book. When their coupons were gone they couldn't buy any rationed items—except on the **black market**. If they were caught shopping on the black market, they had to pay stiff fines.

Gas was rationed. Canadians could fill up once a month. They could not buy a new car because the last car was produced in 1942.

Anything Canadians could spare went to the war effort. The butter and cheese they didn't eat went to Britain, where rationing was much more severe. The steel that had once made washing machines now made bombers. Even the five cent nickel



*Blind munitions inspector Omer Auger works in a war plant.*



*Rationing was one way all Canadians helped in the war effort.*

changed—it was made of zinc instead. Nickel was needed for armour coating on tanks.

The government encouraged Canadians to conserve for the war effort. Women were asked to check store shelf prices against the government set prices. Families kept Victory gardens and saved metals, rags, papers, rubber, and glass. Bacon fat and bones were saved for explosives. Local clubs canvassed house to

house to collect donations. Clothing regulations were brought in to save material. Only a few items could have frills, furs, cuffs, ruffles, or double-breasted jackets.

*Canada and the United States:  
A Growing Partnership*

One of the most important and long-lasting results of the Second World War was the new partnership between Canada and the United States. Prime Minister King and President Franklin Roosevelt were on

The President even took his summer holidays at Campobello Island in New Brunswick.

During the war Canadian and American co-operation grew rapidly. The Alaska Highway, mostly built by Americans, went through Canadian territory. (See Chapter 4.) The 1940 Ogdensburg Agreement created a Permanent Joint Board of Defence. It bound Canada to a continental system of defence.

The Lend-Lease Act and the Hyde

Park Declaration made for closer military and economic relations among Great Britain, Canada, and the United States. They also bound Canada more firmly to the American economy.

During the war, the Canadian economy boomed because the United States and Britain purchased war materials. By the end of war, one-tenth of Canadians worked in war plants. They produced 900 000 rifles, 800 000 military vehicles, 244 000 machine guns, 16 000 airplanes, 6500 tanks and 4000 boats. The war effort turned Canada into a



*In 1943 in Quebec, Prime Minister King hosted a conference between American President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. King did not attend the meeting, though. He was reluctant to be directly involved in Allied war decisions.*

close personal terms. At one point, Roosevelt pledged American help if Canada was “threatened by any other empire.”

modern industrialized nation ready to expand and prosper after the war.

## LEND-LEASE ACT AND HYDE PARK DECLARATION

The U.S. Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act just before the Americans entered the war. The Act let the United States help Britain and its Allies without getting directly involved. It gave Americans permission to send military supplies, including ships and weapons, to any country that was vital to U.S. economic and military stability. It allowed countries receiving American goods to postpone payment. It also gave the United States permission to use some British-owned military bases.

The Lend-Lease Act, while it helped Britain, did not help Canada's economic stability. Britain could now buy war materials from the United States. Prime Minister King met with U.S. President Roosevelt. The two leaders amended the act. The Hyde Park Declaration, as it was called, allowed Britain to spend Lend-Lease money on goods manufactured in Canada and the United States to buy more military goods from Canada.

### *The Children's War Effort*

Children collected paper, metal, rags, rubber, and bones. They saved string and the foil from cigarette and candy wrappers. Contests

were held to see who could make the biggest ball of aluminum foil. All these items could be recycled into war materials. Students knitted during lunch hour, making socks and scarves for soldiers. They wrote letters to

lonely prisoners of war. Children planted Victory gardens in school baseball diamonds to produce food for the war. Boys drilled as

cadets. Teenagers were let off school to help bring in the harvest.

### *Volunteers and Spirit of Unity*

Canadians volunteered to be air-raid wardens. They patrolled the coasts to guard against an invasion that never came. They studied aircraft to serve as "spotters" in a bombing raid. They built public air-raid shelters. Wealthy

Canadians, such as E. P. Taylor, worked for the government for a dollar a year. The war drew Canadians together in a spirit of unity.



*Canadian students were prepared for gas attacks.*

## FOCUS

- 1. In your view, what was the most important part of the Canadian war plan? Why?**
- 2. Describe five ways in which ordinary Canadians helped the war effort.**
- 3. How did the war affect Canadian–American relations?**

# Pilots, Secret Agents, and Seamen

## *The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan*

Strong air power was vital during the Second World War. Crews needed to be trained before they could go into action but, to do this, they needed a safe place to train. Canada provided



*The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan trained thousands of pilots.*

the bases for the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

Trainees came from all over the Commonwealth—from Australia, South Africa, Britain, the West Indies and New Zealand. Volunteers who had escaped when Poland, France, and Norway fell to the Germans also trained in Canada.

The courses were short and often inadequate. The rush to get pilots and service

crews ready to fight caused many accidents. In one month, 500 aircraft were put out of service by inexperienced fliers. All told, there were 850 deaths during training. On the other hand, 130 000 graduates, over half of them Canadian, went on to fight the battles in the skies.

## *The Secret War*

On the shores of Lake Ontario near Whitby was Camp X. Few knew it existed. Those who did, said nothing. William Stephenson, a Canadian master spy, was in charge of Camp X. It was a top-secret training post for spies, secret agents, and sabotage experts. Agents from Camp X were dropped behind enemy lines to spy and report back by radio. They worked with underground movements in enemy-occupied countries to disrupt enemy activities. Interestingly,

Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond, trained at Camp X.

Station M was a vital part of Camp X. It was staffed by forgers, safecrackers, chemists, movie set designers, and costume experts. Station M provided agents with false passports and money, battered suitcases and shabby suits, and European-style toothpaste and underwear. Everything an agent carried had to look right to enemy eyes.

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## *Canadian Agents*

“Set Europe ablaze,” Churchill told the special agents who parachuted into enemy territory. Of the 28 Canadian agents sent into Europe, 8 died. Even today, little is known of what they did.

Guy Bieler was born in Montreal. His spine was badly injured when he parachuted into France. Even so, he organized a sabotage group. They derailed and blew up trains carrying troops and arms. In the end, Bieler was captured and shot.

Joe Gelleny was trained as an espionage agent and parachuted into Nazi-held Yugoslavia. Later, in Hungary, Gelleny was captured and tortured. He lost 77 kg of weight, but finally escaped. While hiding out in Budapest, he forged travel documents for other spies and for Jews facing Nazi persecution. When the Russians arrived, they took him into custody, but he was eventually freed. He felt he had aged 20 years in his two years as a secret agent.

Henry Fung was a 19-year-old Chinese Canadian who parachuted into Malaya. He helped destroy Japanese communications and transportation systems. When the war ended, Fung accepted the surrender of Japanese forces in their jungle garrisons.

Frank Pickersgill of Winnipeg was captured when he landed in France. Nazi double agents had given him away. He refused to



One of the remaining buildings from Camp X near Whitby, Ontario.

break under brutal questioning. When his captors switched from threats to bribery, he broke a bottle on his interrogator's desk, slashed the throat of an SS guard, and jumped out of a second floor window before being stopped by four bullets. In prison camp, he organized resistance, helping prisoners regain lost pride. The Nazis finally executed Pickersgill and 15 other agents by hanging them from meat hooks in 1944.

## *Canada's Merchant Navy*

During the Second World War, Canada had the fourth-largest merchant navy in the world. Most of its ships were built in Canadian shipyards. Wartime spending in the ship building industry was even greater than in

## William Stephenson

**BORN:** 1896, Winnipeg, Manitoba

**DIED:** 1989, Bermuda

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Stephenson was a First World War aviation ace, an inventor, and a Second World War intelligence agent known as "Intrepid."

**BRIEF BIOGRAPHY:** Stephenson showed an early skill for the world of spying. As a teenager he developed his own secret "Morse Code." He fought in the First World War and barely survived two gas attacks. Later, he faked his medical records and joined the Royal Flying Corps. He quickly became an ace. He recorded 26 "kills," including the brother of the Red Baron. He was later shot down and captured, but he escaped. He was a decorated Canadian hero at the end of the war.

Back in Canada, he invented a new process for transmitting pictures without telephone or telegraph wires.

He moved to Britain to earn his fortune. There, he helped organize the British Broadcasting Corporation and set up a film studio. He explored ideas such as laser beams and splitting the atom.

Stephenson took part in intelligence work during the 1930s. Then, for the war, he ran British Security Co-ordination in the Western Hemisphere. He was based in New York and his code-name was Intrepid.

He led an army of code-breakers, spies, robbers, assassins, and sabotage experts. For his efforts in the "secret war," he was decorated by King George VI of Britain. In 1979 he was made a Companion of the Order of Canada, the country's highest civilian honour. Although some historians believe Stephenson's legendary exploits are partly "hype," he remains one of Canada's most creative and exciting figures. **What qualities made Stephenson such a hero?**



CANADIAN LIVES



the aircraft industry. Park Company, Canada's major supplier, was producing almost two 10-tonne ships a week by 1944.

The 12 000 seamen in Canada's merchant navy transported cargo and soldiers between Canada and Europe. Their contribution to victory was critical.

Until recently, though, the importance of the merchant navy was largely ignored. This is because they were civilians, not official sailors in the Royal Canadian Navy. During the Second World War, official casualty lists did not include merchant seamen; however, their losses were high—one in eight merchant sailors died. A total of 1629 Canadians and Newfoundland merchant sailors perished keeping the sea open. Eight Canadian women, serving as stewardesses or radio operators, died in the service of the merchant navy. Between 1942 and 1945, more than 4500 Allied merchant seamen were held in the German prisoner of war camp Milag Nord, near Bremen.

Since the Second World War, civilian sailors in Canada's merchant navy have struggled to receive the same benefits and



*An example of a naval convoy. This one had 24 merchant ships.*

recognition as those who served in the Royal Canadian Navy. In 1992, pensions and benefits were finally awarded to the sailors of the merchant navy. Some continued to fight for benefits not received from 1945 to 1992. Most of these claims were finally recognized and honoured by the federal government in 1999.

## FOCUS

1. How did Canada contribute to the war in the air and on the sea?
2. What was the "secret war"?
3. Who was "Intrepid," and what did he do?
4. What was the role of Canada's merchant navy?

# Japanese Canadians

In 1937, Japan invaded China. In what has become known as the Nanking Massacre, about 300 000 Chinese soldiers and civilians were killed. Atrocities were committed.

When France fell to the Germans in 1940, Japan moved into the French colony of

base of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, sailors slept in their bunks. Most looked forward to a lazy day off. Suddenly, waves of Japanese bombers and fighter planes came out of the western skies. In just two hours, much of the American Pacific fleet lay at the bottom of

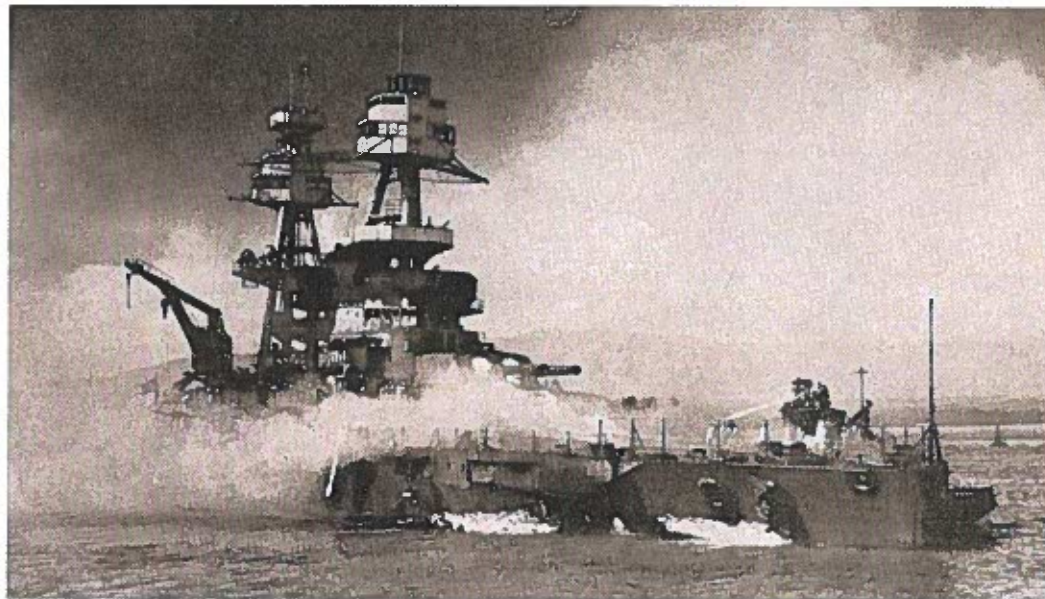
the harbour. The United States had been brought into the war.

Japan's entry into the war caused near panic for many Canadians. To Canada's east, Hitler ruled in Europe. Now Japan was sweeping through Asia to the west. The fall of Hong Kong (including the imprisonment of 1600 Canadian soldiers) and the attack on Pearl Harbor caused fear. Many Canadians worried that British Columbia

might be the next target. The Japanese were rumoured to be planning an invasion assisted by Japanese-Canadian citizens. Racists spread these rumours and demanded that all Japanese Canadians be interned.

## *Canadian or Japanese?*

Canadians had not welcomed Asian immigrants. Few Asians were allowed to enter the



*The attack on Pearl Harbor.*

Indochina. Once Hitler attacked the Soviet Union, the Japanese knew they had nothing to fear from Europe. They attacked Hong Kong, Indonesia, and Malaya, and swept through the islands of the Pacific.

## *Pearl Harbor*

It was a pleasant Sunday morning on 7 December 1941. At the American naval

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country after 1913. By 1942, more than half of the 23 000 “Japanese” living in Canada had been born here. They were Canadian citizens. They did not want Japan to take over the Pacific. Many had fought for Canada during the First World War.

Some Canadians paid no attention to these facts. They decided that Japanese Canadians were dangerous. They might be spies who would help Japan attack North America. After Pearl Harbor, Canada

## NOTICE TO ALL JAPANESE PERSONS AND PERSONS OF JAPANESE RACIAL ORIGIN

TAKE NOTICE that under Order in Council No. 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the British Columbia Security Commission, the following areas were made prohibited areas to all persons of the Japanese race:—

LULU ISLAND (Including Stewart)	SAPPERTON
SEA ISLAND	BURQUITLAM
ESURNE	PORT MOODY
MARPOLE	HOOD
DISTRICT OF QUINTSBOURGH	PORT COQUITLAM
CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER	MAILLARDVILLE FRASER MILLS

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that any person of the Japanese race found within any of the said prohibited areas without a written permit from the British Columbia Security Commission or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police shall be liable to the penalties provided under Order in Council P.C. 1645.

AUSTIN C. TAYLOR,  
Chairman,  
British Columbia Security Commission

declared war on Japan. Japanese-born citizens automatically became “enemy aliens.” Thirty-eight Japanese nationals were immediately arrested. Japanese-language schools and newspapers were closed. More than 1200 fishing boats were impounded. In 1942, the government ordered that Japanese-born citizens be moved from the coastal regions of British Columbia. They were sent

to isolated camps in the B.C. interior. Some families were separated. Men were sent to

## In Their Own Words

### These excerpts describe life in internment camps.

*“Nothing affects me much just now except rather distractedly. Everything is like a bad dream. I keep telling myself to wake up. There’s no sadness when friends of long standing disappear overnight—either to camp or to somewhere in the Interior. No farewells—no promise of future meetings or correspondence—or anything. We just disperse. It’s as if we never existed. We’re hit so many ways at one time that if I wasn’t past feeling I think I would crumble.*

*This curfew business is horrible. At sundown we scuttle into our holes like furtive creatures. We look in the papers for the time of next morn-*

*ing’s sunrise when we may venture forth.”*

Source: Joy Kogawa, *Obasan* (Toronto: Penguin Books, 1981).

*“I was in that camp for four years. When it got cold the temperature went down to as much as 60 below. We lived in huts with no insulation. Even if we had the stove burning the inside of the windows would all be frosted up and white, really white. I had to lie in bed with everything on that I had ... at one time there were 720 people there.”*

Source: Gilchrist Wright, *The Japanese Canadians: A Dream of Riches* (Vancouver, 1978).

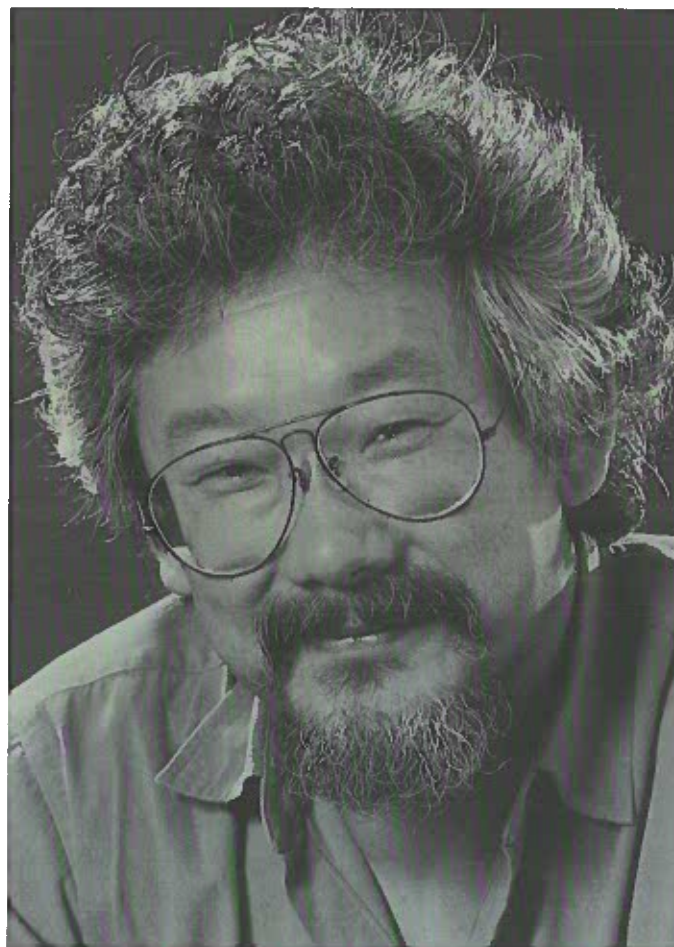
**How do the authors respond to the internment of Japanese Canadians? How would you feel if your family was treated like that?**

## David Suzuki

**BORN:** 1936, Vancouver, B.C.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** David Suzuki is Canada's best-known science broadcaster. His work on television has raised concerns for the environment. He is a passionate fighter against racism and discrimination.

**BRIEF BIOGRAPHY:** Although of Japanese descent, Suzuki's parents were born in Canada. They spoke English at home. Suzuki and his family were rounded up during the Second World War and placed in an internment camp near Slocan, B.C. Japanese-Canadian kids jeered at him because he spoke no Japanese. Non-Japanese children treated him as an "enemy." After the war, his family moved to Leamington, Ontario, where his father told him: "You have to be ten times better than a white, because if you are just as good as a white, you'll lose out every time." His father encouraged his lifelong interest in the environment.



Suzuki was a brilliant student, winning scholarships to pay for his education. He had a promising career as a teacher of genetics. In the 1970s, however, Suzuki left the academic world to popularize science

on radio and television. His television productions are seen all over the world. Suzuki's concern for the planet's environment has made him a powerful spokesperson against pollution. Although best known as a defender of the environment, Suzuki continues to speak out against racism and discrimination. **How did internment affect David Suzuki? For more information about David Suzuki's work, visit [www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org). For more about the internment camps, visit the CBC Digital**

**Archives at [www.cbc.ca/archives](http://www.cbc.ca/archives) and view the file "Relocation to Redress: The Internment of the Japanese Canadians."**

CANADIAN LIVES

one camp, women and children to another. Some men were sent as labourers to farms on the prairies and in Ontario.

The government held auctions to sell these people's personal possessions, homes, and businesses. Although many made their living by fishing, their boats were taken and sold. These were great bargains for the buyers. Japanese Canadians never received a fair price. There was not a single proven case of any Japanese Canadian acting as a spy for Japan. Despite this, the Canadian government refused any compensation for their losses.



*These children's faces reveal the fear and pain of forced evacuation.*

### *Partial Compensation for Japanese Canadians*

Finally, in September 1988, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced that his government would partially repay Japanese-Canadian survivors for their losses.

These were the terms established:

- a public apology for past injustices

against Japanese Canadians, their families, and their heritage

- \$21 000 for each surviving Japanese Canadian born before 1949
- \$24 million to establish a Canadian Race Relations Foundation
- \$12 million to the Japanese-Canadian Association for low-cost housing for elderly Japanese Canadians

## FOCUS

1. How did Japanese aggression affect Canada and the United States?
2. What led the Canadian government to act against Japanese Canadians?
3. What specific measures were taken against Japanese Canadians?
4. Do you support the 1988 policy to compensate Japanese Canadians for their losses during the Second World War? Explain.
5. Should civil rights ever be restricted in wartime? Explain.

# Hong Kong

The first Canadian military engagement of the war took place in the British Crown colony of Hong Kong. In the fall of 1941, most people were not thinking about a war with Japan. Nearly 2000 Canadian troops from the Royal Rifles of Canada and the

also laid siege to the British colony of Hong Kong. The inexperienced, outnumbered troops fought bravely alongside British forces. After 17 hopeless days of battle, Hong Kong surrendered on Christmas Day, 1941.

The survivors spent the rest of the war in



*Only half of Canadian troops in Hong Kong survived. These POWs are among them.*

Winnipeg Grenadiers were stationed in Hong Kong. They were on non-combat (garrison) duty. Most of them had little military training. Some of the soldiers had never fired their rifles. Some didn't even know how to throw a grenade. There was virtually no air or naval support for these troops.

On 8 December 1941, Japan attacked without warning in Northern Malaysia, the Philippines, Guam and Wake Islands. They

Japanese prison camps. Of the 1975 soldiers from Canada who went to Hong Kong, 290 perished in its defence. Another 267 died in the brutal Japanese prisoner of war camps. One-half of the Canadians who went to Hong Kong were either killed or wounded. This was one of the highest casualty rates for a Canadian theatre of action during all of the Second World War.

# The World on Trial

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## In Their Own Words

"In Japan, ... they took their venom out on the prisoners of war for the least misdemeanor or the least error that was made, you received a beating. Which again was hard to take, you had to stand there, and be punched in the face and in the body and without fighting back. The work, it was slave labour. If you can imagine carrying 90 kilos of soy-beans on your shoulders.

Governments never take responsibility for anything. We feel Mackenzie King and his government sent us into something ... Well, they claim they didn't know what was going to happen. The Department of Defence knew what was going to happen because they knew that there was likely to be a war with Japan in the very near future.



The Canadian POW cemetery in Japan.

December 7 every year always grips Hong Kong Veterans because the first thing you hear on the news media is Pearl Harbor. There is nothing ever mentioned of what happened to those 1900-odd Canadians on December 7, 1941."

Source: 1986 interview with Harry Atkinson, one of the Canadian Hong Kong survivors.  
[www.hkvca.ca/accounts/HarryAtkinson.htm](http://www.hkvca.ca/accounts/HarryAtkinson.htm)

**HISTOR!CA**

*Minutes*

**Do you feel that Atkinson makes a good argument about how the whole Hong Kong campaign has been treated by the media, books, and the Canadian public? Explain.**

## FOCUS

1. Why were Canadian soldiers sent to Hong Kong?
2. How well prepared to fight were they?
3. Why was Hong Kong such a bitter defeat for Canadians?

## Women Go to War



*Firefighting demonstration by members of the Canadian Women's Army Corps, 1943.*

Canadian women were eager to defend their country. Initially, Canadian leaders saw little room for women in the war effort. As more and more men left for the battlefield, though, the roles women could play became more obvious.

Industrial strength was the key to success in the war, and Canada had vast resources. Canada's women put their brains and muscles to work. They turned raw materials into tanks, planes, and ships. Over one million

women were working in Canadian industry by 1943.

Managers had to change some ideas about workers and how to run a factory. Daycare centres were set up in many plants. Production rose as workers donated free time to produce another tank or bomber. Men were often outnumbered. They sometimes had to endure female wolf whistles, just as women previously had endured male taunts. They learned that, in the right circumstances,



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women could swear as well as men.

In rural Canada, women took over the farming jobs vacated by men who went overseas. The food supply, at home and abroad, had to be maintained. Women handled the added responsibilities to assist in the overall war effort.

Women volunteered to visit wounded soldiers. They sent packages to prisoners of war. They made dressings for the wounded. The family garbage shrank as housewives saved paper, scraps, fat, and bones for recycling.



These women in the CWAC aided the war effort in Halifax.  
What roles did women play in the military?

## Women in Uniform

Society had initially wanted to keep women out of the factories. Now it was determined to keep them out of the armed forces. When women couldn't register with the armed

forces, they set up their own volunteer units such as the CATS (Canadian Auxiliary Territorial Service), which provided technical and first-aid training to women.

## CANADA'S SERVICEWOMEN

### TOTAL

### POSTED OVERSEAS

Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC)	21 624	2 900
RCAF Women's Division (WDs)	17 018	1 400
Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRENS)	6 781	1 000
Nursing Sisters	4 172	4 172

## CANADIAN WOMEN AT WAR



Molly Lamb's "Gas Drill" reveals some of the preparations for war. Is chemical warfare still a concern today?

**Molly Lamb Bobak:** First female official war artist.

**Gudrun Bjening:** War propaganda filmmaker for the National Film Board of Canada.

**Fern Blodgett:** First female wireless operator on a wartime ship. She crossed the Atlantic 78 times during the war.

**Margaret Brooke:** While crossing on the ferry from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland, the ship was torpedoed by a U-boat in Canadian waters. She supported nurse Agnes Wilkie in the icy water all night. At dawn, a giant breaker forced them apart. Wilkie drowned, but Brooke, now unconscious, was rescued.

**Kathleen Christie and Maye Waters:** These two nurses aided the troops during the battle for Hong Kong and imprisonment.

**Marion Orr:** One of Canada's first female bush pilots, Orr ferried military aircraft from factories to military bases overseas.

**Helen-Marie Stevens:** An army nurse who was the heroine at a bombing raid during the London "blitz." She worked for hours aiding customers in a bombed-out restaurant, using champagne as an anesthetic. "I did what any Canadian nurse would do," she said.

**Mona Wilson:** A public health nurse who took charge of the Canadian Red Cross in Newfoundland. She ministered to the needs of shipwrecked soldiers and sailors in the Battle of the Atlantic. For this work she earned the nickname "the Florence Nightingale of St. John's."

**HISTOR!CA**

*Minutes*

By 1941, the armed forces were in desperate need of recruits. Women were finally allowed to enlist. One young woman walked 30 km to a recruiting station. Eventually, Canada had 45 000 servicewomen. They served in a wide variety of non-combat roles, such as radar operators, truck and ambulance drivers, nurses, secretaries, and mechanics.

Some of these women often found themselves in the heat of battle. They were bombed, shelled, and torpedoed. Some were made prisoners of war. Two hundred and forty-four women won medals for bravery. Sadly, 73 were killed and 19 wounded.

### *Women Prove Themselves*

During the war, women succeeded in a society dominated by men. Initially, many men had doubted their worth. Now, women gained freedom and self-respect. They knew the satisfaction of earning their own money. They also knew the unfairness of getting less pay than a man for doing the same work.

As a result of their work, pants became fashionable. The department of munitions issued a message stating, "Please don't stare at my pants. Would you like to know why I

wear trousers like the men when I go about the streets? Because I'm doing a man's job for my country's sake. My coveralls are my working clothes. I wear them for my safety's sake. They are less likely to become entan-



*Some women like this young soldier in the CWAC were expert shooters.*

gled in the machinery. I work in a munitions plant. Every piece of war material I help to produce helps to keep the enemy away from our shores."

After the war, many women returned to more traditional roles. For the young couples who had postponed marriage and babies during the war, peace meant that it was time to start a family. It was not until the 1960s and 1970s that women returned to the gains they had made during wartime.

## FOCUS

1. List five ways in which women contributed to the war effort.
2. In your opinion, were women treated equally? Explain.
3. How did the Second World War affect women's lives?

# Conscription—Again

Should a person be forced to fight during war? This question almost split the country during the First World War. Prime Minister King did not want that to happen again. He promised that his government would not introduce conscription for overseas service.



*The conscription referendum split the nation. Which side do these people seem to support?*

In October 1939, Quebec's premier, Maurice Duplessis, called a provincial election. Duplessis believed that the federal government wanted to use the war to take power away from Quebec. If Canada was to remain united through the war, Duplessis's Union Nationale party had to be defeated.

The federal Liberals supported the provincial Liberal Party in the election. Three Quebec federal Cabinet ministers campaigned against Duplessis. They told the

Quebec people that the federal government would not introduce conscription for overseas service. They said that they would resign if Duplessis was re-elected. This would leave Quebec without any influence in the federal Cabinet. The Liberals were swept into office in Quebec.

Meanwhile, Premier Mitch Hepburn of Ontario thought more Canadians should go to war. He accused his fellow Liberal, Prime Minister King, of being weak on the issue of conscription. King called a federal election in the early part of 1940. The Liberals won an overwhelming victory in all regions of Canada. Hepburn's political career was over.

## *Home Defence*

Volunteers filled Canada's fighting forces overseas. Many people felt this might not be enough. In 1940, Parliament approved conscription for home defence only. Men drafted into this army were often jeered at because they hadn't volunteered to go overseas. They were later called "zombies" by those who thought every young man should want to fight.

## *Conscription, If Necessary*

King had promised not to introduce conscription but, in 1942, he asked the country to release him from his pledge. At that time, it did not look as if the government would need to force men into the armed services. The

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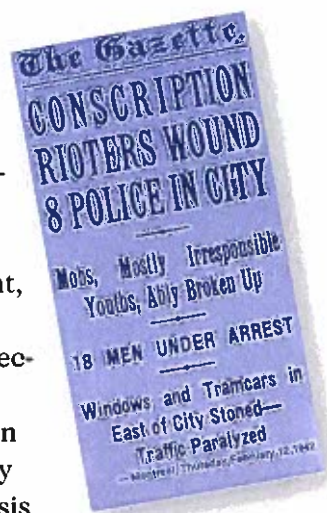


## *The War Heats Up*

As long as the Canadian army stayed in Britain, there was no need for conscription. Two years later, after the Italian campaign and the invasion of France, things changed. The battle for Europe had begun and the losses were high. The Canadian government tried its best to recruit men voluntarily. Only a few enlisted. In November 1944, King ordered 16 000 of the soldiers conscripted for Home Defence to go overseas.

There was an uproar. One Quebec Cabinet minister resigned, but most other French-Canadian leaders stood by King. Louis St. Laurent, King's "Quebec lieutenant," told Quebecers that the decision was necessary.

Fortunately, the war ended soon after. Only 2500 conscripts actually fought. Unlike the conscription crisis of 1917, Canadian unity was strained, but not broken.



Canadian army in Britain was not yet fighting, but King knew the situation might change. If it did, he wanted to be ready.

The government organized a vote on the question. Across the country, 65 percent voted to let the government decide. Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia were 80 percent in favour of conscription. In Quebec, 72 percent were against. Many French Canadians felt they had been betrayed. King tried to reduce tensions. He used the slogan "Conscription if necessary, but not necessarily conscription."

## FOCUS

1. What is conscription?
2. Why was it a sensitive issue in Canada?
3. How well did Prime Minister King handle the conscription issue? Explain.
4. Would you have supported or rejected conscription? Why?

# The Italian Campaign

## *The Tide Turns*

The tide of war began to turn in favour of the Allies in 1942. British and American troops drove back Italian and German forces in North Africa. Field Marshal Rommel, “the Desert Fox,” led these enemy soldiers.

In the freezing Russian winter, German troops faced disaster. The decisive battle was fought at Stalingrad. In February 1943, the once-proud German Sixth Army surrendered. The Russians took 90 000 prisoners. Soviet forces now turned towards Berlin. They had suffered starvation, torture, and

atrocities at the hands of German troops. The Soviet forces wanted to take revenge on the German people.

The Americans recovered quickly after Pearl Harbor. They repaired most of the ships sunk on that fateful December morning and put them back into action. In June, American aircraft carriers defeated the Japanese navy at Midway Island. Island by island, American troops moved closer to Japan. In China, communist and nationalist armies fought against the Japanese invaders. British and Commonwealth forces began to drive the Japanese from Southeast Asia.



*Even close to enemy fire, Allied soldiers sat down for a Christmas dinner on 25 December 1943. What do you think they thought about?*

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## *The Invasion of Sicily*

Canadian soldiers had not seen any action since the disastrous raid on Dieppe. Now the 1st Canadian Division took part in the invasion of Sicily under General Montgomery. The battle for Sicily was fought under the blazing July sun. Within 38 days, the victorious Allied troops prepared to invade the Italian mainland. Mussolini's dream of

Italy. More than 30 000 were wounded or killed. The German forces fought hard. A few snipers in the rugged mountains could slow an army to a crawl. Even with the help of Italian partisans, or secret supporters, the Allies paid heavily for every kilometre they won.



a new Roman Empire was shattered. His own people rebelled and threw him out of power in 1943. Hitler swiftly moved German troops into Italy. He would not let Italy's surrender hold him back.

*For Canadian soldiers, much of the Italian campaign was a street-by-street battle.*

## *The Liberation of Italy*

The Italian campaign was long and difficult. Ninety-one thousand Canadians fought in

In the Battle of Ortona, 1375 Canadian soldiers lost their lives. The Germans turned the battle for the town into a series of house-to-house fights. It took a month to capture Ortona. Canadians became experts at street fighting. They developed the mouse-holing technique.



They used explosive charges to blast a hole from the attic of one house through the adjoining wall into another house. Soldiers, spraying machine-gun fire and tossing grenades, jumped through the hole. They cleared the house of Germans before moving to the next house. Because German forces tried to lure Canadians into houses wired for demolition, the end result was a town in rubble. The Germans developed such a high opinion of Canadian soldiers that they put their best troops against them whenever possible.

On 4 June 1944, the Allied armies



*The Battle of Ortona was gruelling. It took the Allies a month of tough fighting to win the town.*

entered Rome. Canadian soldiers marched with their British, American, New Zealand, Indian, South African, French, and Polish comrades to the cheers of the Italian people.





*This map shows the advance of Allied troops in the West. Russian forces were also moving in from the East.*

Two days later came D-Day—the long awaited Allied invasion of France. In February 1945, Canadian troops in Italy

transferred to Europe to join the Canadian army fighting to free Holland.

## FOCUS

1. In what way did the tide turn in 1942?
2. What made the battle for Italy so difficult?
3. What reputation did the Canadians earn for their fighting in Ortona?

# D-Day to V-E Day

Everything had been carefully planned. The tide was right. The moon was right. But would the weather be right for D-Day, the big invasion, code-named Operation Overlord, planned for 5 June 1944? Would it have to be put off for a month and kept a secret? The



*As Allied soldiers crossed German borders, the end of six years of war was finally in sight.*

south of England was one big army camp. Everybody knew that the invasion of France was about to begin, but only a few knew when and where the landings would be made.

On June 4, troops were ordered into the ships. Some ships set out. Suddenly, reports

indicated the weather was deteriorating. The landing was postponed and the ships recalled. By next morning, violent winds were battering the coast of northern France. The troops stayed crammed aboard the ships, awaiting further orders. Then, the weather forecasters said there would be a lull in the storm. General Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander, decided that D-Day would be June 6, a day later than planned.

## *The Normandy Beaches*

Across the English Channel, the Germans were waiting at Calais. German pilots returning from bombing raids had reported that the main buildup of troops and equipment was at Dover. What they had really seen were empty tents, dummy ships, plywood gliders, and inflated rubber tanks. One of the greatest hoaxes of all time had succeeded.

The Allies struck 200 km to the southwest on the beaches of Normandy. Bombers pounded the German defences all night long. Just before dawn, paratroopers dropped behind enemy lines. The liberation of Europe had begun.

The Dieppe raid had taught the Allies that the Germans could defend any ports they tried to capture. So, they wouldn't invade a port. Two complete harbours were built in Britain, towed across the English Channel, and assembled in Normandy.

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## *Juno Beach*

There were five Allied-coded landing areas: "Utah & Omaha" for the Americans, "Gold and Sword" for the British, and "Juno" for the Canadians. Juno Beach was an 8 km beach near four Normandy towns. The Canadian soldiers were supported by 109 ships and 10 000 sailors of the Royal Canadian Navy. The Queen's Own Rifles landed first. They ran a 200 m dash to the cover of a seawall. Then they faced guns that had not been seen on the aerial

photographs. These guns wiped out almost an entire platoon before being destroyed. It was a very hard-fought day of battle, but the Canadian troops got farther inland than the other Allied forces. However, 340 were killed and 574 wounded on that "longest day."

Another 13 000 were wounded. Two nearby cemeteries contain nearly 5000 Canadians killed during the entire Normandy campaign.

**HISTOR!CA**

*Minutes*



Canadian forces help drive Germans from occupied Europe.

## *The Push to Berlin*

It took 11 months before Western troops met their Soviet allies near the Elbe River in central Germany. Hitler was determined to fight to the end. Canadians were given the task of clearing German forces from the French, Belgian, and Dutch ports during the push towards Berlin. This was slow, dangerous work. Enemy forces fought from behind strong fortifications. Every port taken meant more Allied ships could unload tanks, weapons, and troops.

The ports fell, one by one. On 8 September 1944, Canadian forces

entered Dieppe. This time they came by land and as conquerors. The stain of defeat was erased as they marched into the port.

## *Liberation of Holland*

In 1945, the Canadian Army played a major role in liberating the Netherlands. The Germans had opened the dykes that held back the water from the low-lying fields. Canadian troops found

**HISTOR!CA**

*Minutes*

## Garth S. Webb

**BORN:** 1918, Midland, Ontario

**SIGNIFICANCE:** This Canadian veteran of the Second World War led the drive to build the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy, France.

**BRIEF BIOGRAPHY:** Webb served in the Canadian Army and saw action on D-Day. After the war, he returned to civilian life. He graduated from Queen's University in 1947 and became a successful Toronto real estate appraiser.

In 1994, while attending the 50th anniversary ceremonies of D-Day, Webb and Lise Cooper decided to build a Canadian museum in France to honour Canada's Second World War contribution. He stated: "There's a memorial at Vimy for World War I, but there was nothing for World War II." Along with other Canadian war veterans, Webb and Cooper founded the Juno Beach Centre Association. They began the difficult task of fund-raising for the proposed museum. On 6 June 2003, the Juno Beach Centre was formally opened. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Garth Webb were key participants. Within two years, more than 100 000 people visited the Centre, including many Canadian school groups.

Webb's contributions to the Juno Beach Centre have not gone unnoticed. In 2002, he received the Gold Jubilee Medal. It is "presented to Canadians in recognition of a significant achievement of distin-



guished service to their fellow citizens, their community, or to Canada." In 2003, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson presented Webb with the Meritorious Service Cross, along with the following citation: "A veteran of the D-Day landings and of the Battle of Normandy, Garth Webb is the driving force behind the creation of

the Juno Beach Centre, an interactive education museum located on the Normandy coast of France. Mr. Webb's dedication and commitment to the Centre preserves the memory of the accomplishments and sacrifices of Canadian soldiers, sailors, and airmen on a critical day in the history of the world, and honours Canada's contribution to the Allied victory in World War II." **What role did Webb play in the Juno Beach Centre? Why is it important for Canadians today to know how earlier Canadians contributed to the Allied victory?**

C A N A D I A N L I V E S

boats and kept moving. As Germans retreated, grateful Dutch families poured out of their homes to welcome their liberators. Even today, Canadians are warmly received in the Netherlands.

### *The End of the Dictators*

On 27 April 1945, Mussolini was captured and shot by his own people. They strung his body upside down on a meat hook and displayed it



*This photo, taken in May 2005, shows Governor General Adrienne Clarkson and other dignitaries unveiling a Liberation of the Netherlands commemorative plaque.*

1945, Germany surrendered unconditionally. It was V-E Day—Victory in Europe Day.

in Milan. Three days later in his underground bunker, Hitler listened to Soviet guns bombarding Berlin. He placed a revolver in his mouth and pulled the trigger. His body was burned so that it could not be displayed by his enemies. On 8 May



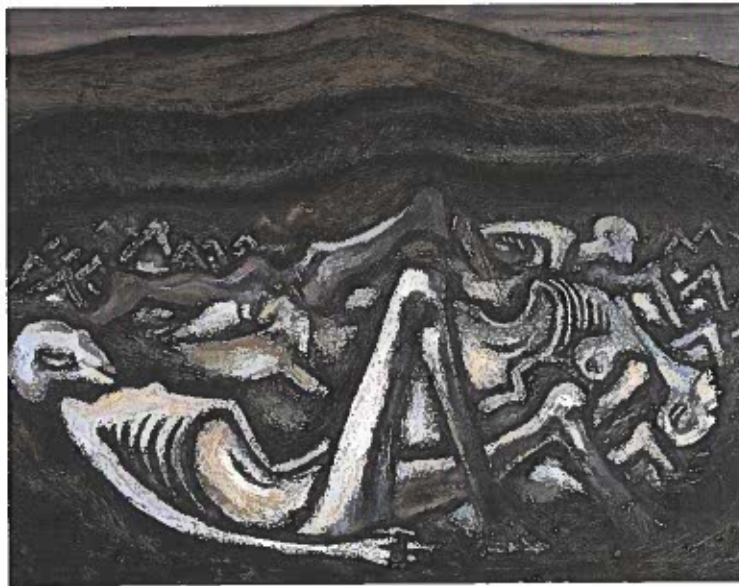
*The Juno Beach Centre, in Courseulles-sur-Mer, commemorates Canada's role in the Second World War.*

## FOCUS

- 1. Why was the weather such an important factor in the planning of D-Day?**
- 2. What preparations did the Allies make to ensure success for the invasion?**
- 3. What role did the Canadians play after D-Day?**

# The Holocaust

When Hitler came to power in 1933 he began his war on the Jews. He ordered Germans to boycott Jewish stores. Laws excluded Jews from being teachers, doctors, lawyers, university students, and government employees. To get jobs as civil servants, Germans had to prove that there was no Jewish blood in their veins. Jews lost the right to vote. In many places, they were not



Near the end of the war, a Canadian war artist, Aba Bayefsky, visited Nazi concentration camps. These terrible scenes of human suffering so moved him that he spent the next 40 years of his life trying to capture the tragedy and meaning of the camps. Why does this image remain so powerful today?

allowed to use public parks, swimming pools, or sports fields. Jewish children had to attend schools for Jews only. Western nations made feeble protests against the

German treatment of Jews, but took no concrete action. They even attended the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

In May 1939, the passenger liner *St. Louis* sailed from Hamburg, Germany, with 907 Jews aboard. They were looking for a safe home far from the persecution of Nazi Germany. They tried to land in Cuba, but were turned away. They headed for the United States, but were forbidden to enter. They came north to Canada, but Canadians, too, turned them away. The Canadian prime minister, Mackenzie King, showed a strong anti-Semitic attitude at the time. Canada's official response to Jewish refugee applicants was: "At present, Canada is not admitting Jews. Please try some other country." The *St. Louis* returned to Europe where the Dutch, the French, and the British agreed to give its passengers a home. A year later the Germans occupied the Netherlands. The Dutch were powerless to save these and other Jews. Most of the passengers of the *St. Louis* later perished in Nazi death camps.

Most countries tried to keep all immigrants out during the Depression years. Many people were particularly prejudiced against Jews. In Canada, over 100 000 people signed a petition to stop Jewish immigration. Attitudes like these kept Jews from escaping Europe during the 1930s. When Hitler overran the continent, they were caught in a death trap.

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## *Kristallnacht*

On 7 November 1938, a Polish-Jewish student, Herschel Grynszpan, shot a German diplomat, Ernst von Rath. When news of Von Rath's death reached Hitler, he ordered his storm troopers to wreak havoc on Jewish communities in revenge. **Pogroms** occurred throughout Germany and Austria during the night of November 9. Ninety-one Jews were killed. Hundreds were seriously injured and many more were terrorized and humiliated.

Almost 7500 businesses were destroyed and about 177 synagogues were burned to the ground. Police were ordered not to interfere. The Gestapo arrested 30 000 wealthy Jews. They were released on the condition that they leave the country and surrender their wealth to the authorities. Insurance payments to owners of businesses destroyed during that night were confiscated by police. **Kristallnacht**—the night of broken glass—marked a major escalation in the Nazi persecution of the Jews.

## *Concentration Camps*

By 1941, the German policy was becoming clear. It wanted the outright extermination of all Jews in areas under German control. It was referred to as the “Final Solution.” When Germany conquered parts of the Soviet Union, large numbers of Jews were forced into slave labour camps. The Nazis wanted a more systematic way of killing the Jews. They set up death camps, such as Dachau,

Auschwitz, and Treblinka, to quickly and scientifically kill Jews. Men, women, and children were herded into “showers” and murdered by clouds of poison gas. Later the bodies were burned in huge ovens.

## LIFE IN THE GHETTOS

During the Middle Ages, places called **ghettos** were common. The purpose of these areas was to keep Jews together. Usually, ghettos were enclosed within walls or gates, which were kept locked at night. Inside, Jews had complete freedom. They had their own places of worship, schools, courts, and recreation centres. Outside, however, they were in constant danger of being assaulted. Although most ghettos were abolished during the 19th century, the Nazis revived them during the Second World War.

By 1945, over 6 million innocent Jews had died in Nazi death camps—one-third of them children. Several million other enemies of the German government also lost their lives—French, Dutch, Russians, Poles, Romas (gypsies), communists, homosexuals, and Germans who opposed the Nazi regime.

## *Who Bears the Guilt?*

Hitler committed suicide in Berlin in 1945. Many war criminals were hunted down and punished after the war. During the Nuremberg Trials, 174 war criminals were prosecuted. Adolph Eichmann, the person in charge of the “Final Solution,” was captured in 1961 in Argentina by Israeli agents. He was tried as

a war criminal, found guilty, and executed. The infamous Dr. Josef Mengele, who carried out medical experiments on live Jews, was never captured. He died in South America in 1979. Some Nazis who had been part of the **Holocaust** were given forged identity papers by Allied authorities. They traded information and services for new identities. Some lived with new names in countries such as Canada and the United States.

In 2005, a famous Nazi hunter, Simon Weisenthal died. He was responsible for bringing over 1100 Nazis to justice.

*Who bears the guilt?*

Was it just Hitler and his fellow Nazis who gave the orders to kill? What of the guards who worked in the camps, the chemical workers who made the poison gas, or the railway workers who carried thousands to the camps? What of the ordinary citizens who watched their neighbours disappear and said or did nothing? What about those who claimed that they were innocent because they simply did what they were told? What of the nations who looked the other way before and during the war; or Canada, which refused to admit Jewish refugees in the 1930s?

*Criminals in Canada*

In 1987, the Canadian Parliament passed a law allowing the arrest and trial of war criminals living in Canada. Although officials attempt to locate, try, or deport these people, success is difficult to achieve. These crimes are more than 60 years old and it is hard to find witnesses. People change a great deal in more than half a century. Legal proceedings move slowly. Suspects are often too old or sick to be investigated properly.

Canadian Edgar Bronfman has fought long and hard for Jewish families. He has tried to recapture their wealth, which was stolen by the Nazis and hidden in secret Swiss bank accounts. As head of the World Jewish Congress, Bronfman forced the Swiss banks to drop their famous wall of secrecy concerning bank accounts. The Swiss have agreed to search for all that was stolen from European Jews and deposited in their accounts. They have found \$300 million so far. The banks are combing the world to find the owners or their heirs. Bronfman has also taken his campaign to other nations holding money originally stolen from the Jewish community. He said, "As long as I draw breath, I will see to it that nobody profits from the ashes of the Holocaust."

*The State of Israel*

After the war, many Jews who survived the Holocaust wanted to escape from the persecution and destruction of Europe. Some wanted to return to what they believed was their ancestral homeland in Palestine. In the midst of a war with Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon, the Jewish state of Israel was proclaimed in 1948. The United States and the Soviet Union immediately recognized the new government. The State of Israel was created as a national home for the Jews. Although many survivors moved to Israel, it was not to be the land of peace that they had expected. The creation of the State of Israel greatly offended and hurt the Palestinians and neighbouring Arab countries. The resentment and conflict from this dispute has continued to the present. The progress towards peace has been long and difficult.



## In Their Own Words

**Some Canadian POWs (prisoners of war) found themselves in the infamous Nazi death camp of Buchenwald rather than a normal POW camp. They spent a few devastating weeks in nightmarish conditions. Here is one moving account of what they saw:**

*"The trip to Buchenwald was very scary. I didn't know what Buchenwald was. I don't think any of us knew what a concentration camp was at that time. When we arrived at Buchenwald, I don't think we were off the train five seconds when the fellow next to me got hit in the face with a rifle butt. The SS guard hit him because he didn't move fast enough.*

*First of all, they shaved us, our heads and our whole body. And then they gave us a pair of pants and a shirt and a little tiny hat. And we slept on the bare ground. This is the latter part of August, and Buchenwald is on a mountain, so it gets pretty cold. And we were there for I don't know how many nights. Quite a few, I know, and it was awful cold and uncomfortable.*

*I think the thing that frightened me most about it was the deaths every day. Because people would die and they would keep them in the huts to get the extra rations. And then the bodies were just thrown out on the street and a wagon came along each morning and they piled the bodies on and took them to a crematorium.... The guards*

*were maniacs. They would think nothing of setting the dogs on a prisoner, and that would be it.*

*We were suffering from malnutrition, because all we got to eat was a little bowl of soup made from grass or cabbage leaves and an inch of bread and three little potatoes a day."*

Source: Pilot Officer Bill Gibson, 419 Squadron, RCAF, quoted in *In Enemy Hands: Canadian Prisoners of War 1939-45* by Daniel G. Dancocks (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1990).

On 10 December 1945, Canada began the first war crimes trial in its history. German General Kurt Meyer was charged with the murders of Canadian POWs. Meyer was later convicted and sentenced to death, but the sentence was never carried out.

## JEWISH IMMIGRATION DURING THE 1930s

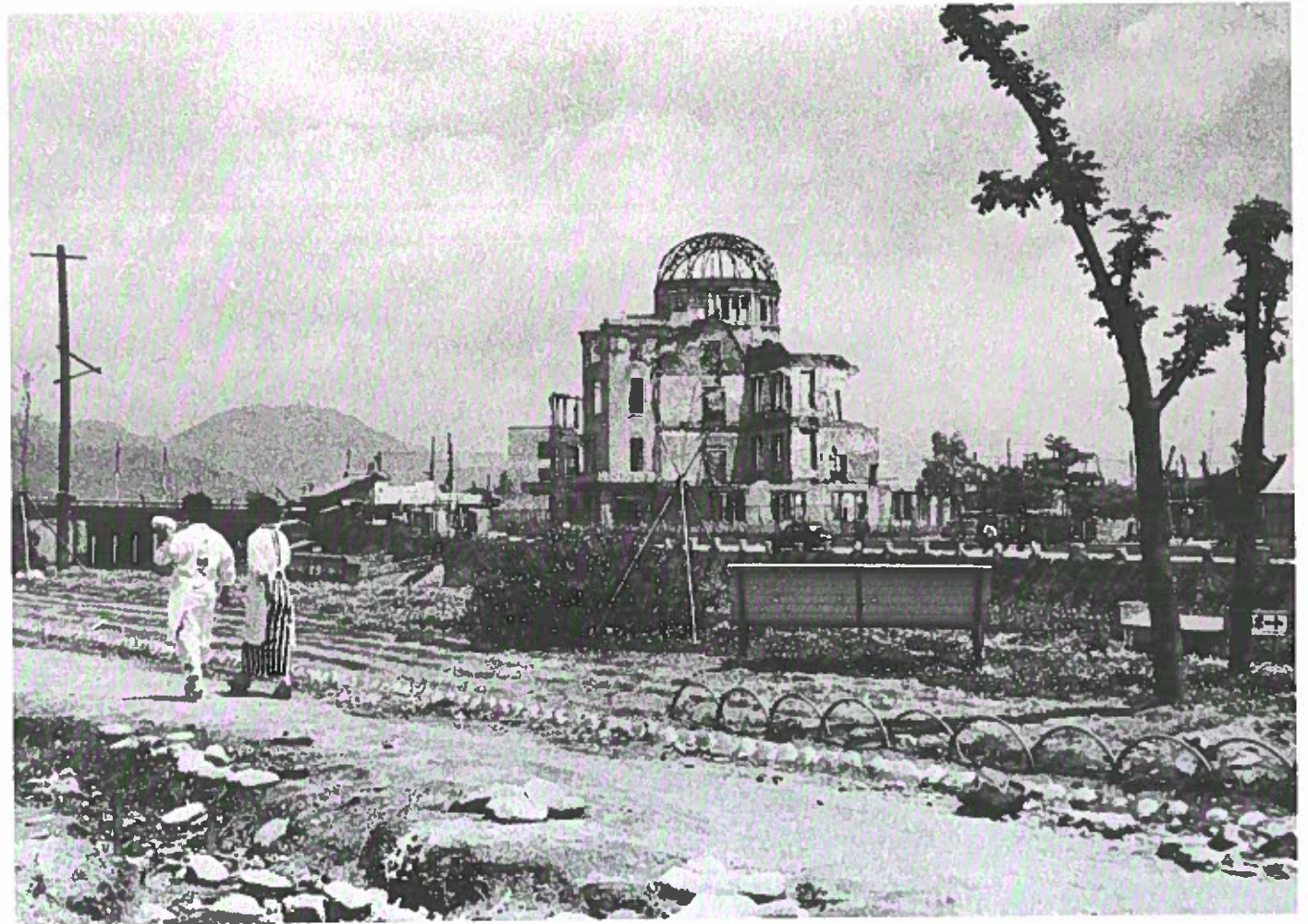
Country	Jewish Immigrants
United States	150 000
Palestine	100 000
United Kingdom	85 000
Argentina	20 000
Colombia	20 000
Mexico	20 000
Canada	4 000

**What do the numbers above reveal about Canada's response to Jewish Immigration before the war?**

## FOCUS

1. What actions did the Nazis take against the Jews after 1933?
2. What is the significance of the *St. Louis*?
3. What was the "Final Solution"?
4. In your opinion, who was guilty of the mass slaughter of the Holocaust?
5. How should Canada deal with war criminals?

# The Mushroom-Shaped Cloud



*Devastation was total in the Japanese city of Hiroshima.*

On 6 August 1945, a lone American bomber, the *Enola Gay*, flew high over the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The plane dropped a single bomb, nicknamed "Little Boy." For the first time in history, an atomic bomb was

unleashed on the world.

Hanging from a small parachute, the bomb drifted over the city. It exploded with a burning white flash "brighter than a thousand suns." Shock waves destroyed buildings.

# The World on Trial

1915 1920 1925 1930 1935 1940 1945 1950

## The Technical Edge

**Atomic Bomb** The creation of the bomb brought with it great fear and uncertainty. This new technical development threatened the very existence of humankind. Canada has never manufactured or possessed nuclear weapons; however, the bombs that exploded over Japan contained uranium mined in Canada. One of the young scientists involved in the creation of the nuclear bomb was Louis Slotin of Winnipeg. Slotin was an expert at assembling the firing mechanisms for atomic

bombs. He completed the assembly of the first test bomb in 1945. Slotin prided himself on his nerves of steel as he finished putting together the firing mechanism by hand. He called this dangerous operation, "tickling the dragon's tail." In 1946, he was going to move to Chicago for a new job. He was performing his procedure one last time when something went wrong. His screwdriver slipped and a deadly chain reaction took place. The lab was flooded in a bluish glow. Fearing an explosion, Slotin separated the materials with his bare hands. He suffered a massive dose of radiation and died within nine days.



*A model reveals what remained of Hiroshima after the bombing.  
Are nuclear bombs still a threat in the world today?*

Fireballs burned through the streets. Pieces of the city tore through the air. Finally, a huge mushroom-shaped cloud billowed over the city.

People who looked up at the sound of the explosion had their bodies melt from the

heat of the blast. Skin turned black and flesh was ripped from bones. By the end of the day, 173 000 people were dead or dying. Those who died at once were lucky. Many more suffered slow, painful deaths from radiation poisoning. Decades later, deformed

babies were still being born to the survivors of the Hiroshima bombing.

The United States demanded that the Japanese surrender. There was no reply.

Three days later, the same horror was repeated at Nagasaki. Eighty-thousand more people were cremated in a nuclear inferno. Japan surrendered unconditionally on 15 August 1945—V-J Day.

### *The United Nations*

Even before V-E Day, the leaders of the world were looking for a way to maintain peace in the future. The old League of Nations had failed. They would learn from its mistakes and build a better, stronger organization, the United Nations.

It was not going to be easy. The war had created new borders and new hatreds. The “old” world powers—Britain, Germany, France, and Japan—lay shattered and exhausted. Two new rival superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—had gained strength and influence.

The Second World War left a bitter, confused, and divided world. The shadow of the atomic bomb and a new arms race lay across it. Could the United Nations keep the peace? What role would Canada play in the new world order?



*Robbie Engels moved to Canada after surviving the Holocaust. He was liberated from a Dutch concentration camp by Canadian troops. Engels spent his life ministering to the needy and underprivileged. Here, he is delivering presents for the Toronto Star's Santa Claus Fund. He worked for the Fund for more than 14 years. Why do you think Engels was so keen to “do good” in Canada?*

## The Technical Edge

**Radar** Many people feel that Canada's role in the development of radar (radio detection and ranging) contributed as much to the end of the war as the invention of the atomic bomb. In 1935, A. G. L. McNaughton, an electrical engineer, became president of the National Research Council (NRC). Eleven years earlier, McNaughton and a colleague, W. A. Steel, had patented a cathode ray tube detection finder. The cathode ray tube detection finder detected the position of radio signals. As president of the NRC, McNaughton saw the military potential of his earlier invention. The NRC did not have funding to pursue the development of radar at that time. When Canada entered the war in 1939, however, the army and the RCAF asked the NRC to develop coastal defence and airborne radar. The navy also requested radar. They were concerned about the enemy being in the water close to Halifax. This time, the government allocated substantial funds to the NRC for its research. It formed a secret Crown corporation, Research Enterprises Ltd. (REL), to manufacture any products designed or invented by scientists at the NRC. By 1940, the "Night Watchman," the first operational

radar in North America, was installed in Nova Scotia.

Scientists at the NRC made another important contribution to radar development in 1943. They invented a radar unit that worked with wavelengths of 10 cm, rather than the existing 60 m. This new system, called the CDX, was developed by William Crocker Brown. It could identify very small objects. The CDX proved amazing during testing and soon became used for coastal defence. The timing could not have been better. German submarines had become a major threat to Canada's safety by 1943. Indeed, when the CDX radar was being installed on the coast of British Columbia, a submarine periscope was sighted in Canadian waters. The group hastily completed the installation. They turned on the radar unit and, sure enough, a submarine's signal was detected. They quickly alerted the military. After verifying that the submarine was unfriendly, the officers opened fire. The German submarine soon went out of the radar's range of detection. *Why was radar such an important development in the war?*

### FOCUS

1. Why is the atomic bomb such a feared weapon?
2. How was Canada connected to the atomic bomb?
3. What was the chief aim of the new United Nations?
4. What new superpowers arose after the Second World War?

# Sharpening Your Skills

## Analysing Propaganda

### THE SKILL

Recognizing and evaluating propaganda

### THE IMPORTANCE

We need to be able to evaluate something that we are constantly bombarded with.

Every day we are subjected to propaganda. Advertisements cleverly try to convince Canadians to buy a particular type of shampoo, car, snack, or drink. Teachers emphasize the importance of education and staying in school. Politicians promote their particular political party.

Propaganda may be defined as the organized distribution of information designed to promote a policy, idea, belief, or cause. On a grand scale, it involves the systematic manipulation of public opinion to make people behave in a particular manner.

Wars generate the most propaganda. Each country uses propaganda as part of its military strategy. On the home front, messages are created to instill pride in the country's war effort, to build confidence, and to inspire sacrifice. Other propaganda is designed to boost the soldiers' morale. The best propaganda exploits the power of words and images to appeal to the public's heart and mind. It plays on the peoples' emotions

by focusing on such symbols as national flags, families, children, homeland, and the evilness of the enemy.

During the First World War, the Canadian government forbade the publishing of more than 250 publications that it saw as pro-German, anti-British, communist, or negative to the war effort due to gory descriptions of combat. Soldiers' letters home were also subject to censorship.

As the war dragged on, and casualties mounted, Robert Borden's Conservative government began a broad propaganda campaign designed to raise morale and convince Canadians of their responsibility to contribute time, energy, and money to the war effort. Posters, songs, poems, fiction, and cartoons were essential elements in this program.

In 1942, during the Second World War, the Wartime Information Board co-ordinated all Canadian war news and information. It gave guided tours to foreign visitors, gath-

ered and analysed Canadian news, conducted opinion polls, and provided press information. The CBC and the National Film Board were also tools for government propaganda.

To analyse propaganda, ask the questions that appear below and to the right:

- Who produced it?

- When was it produced?
- For whom was it designed (the target audience)?
- What was its purpose (its message)?
- What was the issue or event depicted?
- What symbols were used?
- What emotions were being appealed to?
- What logic was employed?

## Application

This exercise is for your artistic side! Analyse the poster presented here and in the first chapter that are designed to recruit soldiers. Then create a suitable poster for either war that contains similar themes. At the bottom of your poster, discuss how it was designed to achieve its goal of encouraging young men to join the army. For additional posters, see: [www.civilization.ca/cwm/propaganda](http://www.civilization.ca/cwm/propaganda).



FIRST WORLD WAR PROPAGANDA POSTER

# Questions & Activities

## Questions and Activities

### Match the person or item in column A with the description in column B.

- | A                       | B  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Blitzkrieg           | a) spy training centre near Whitby       |
| 2. Little Boy           | b) Allied retreat from France            |
| 3. The Axis             | c) city in Italy                         |
| 4. The <i>St. Louis</i> | d) soldiers conscripted for home defence |
| 5. Pearl Harbor         | e) an atomic bomb                        |
| 6. Camp X               | f) Jewish refugee ship                   |
| 7. Ortona               | g) Canadian fascist                      |
| 8. Adrien Arcand        | h) alliance led by Germany               |
| 9. Dunkirk              | i) Allied invasion of France             |
| 10. Zombies             | j) lightning war                         |
| 11. D-Day               | k) American naval base in Hawaii         |
| 12. Holocaust           | l) the Nazi "war" against the Jews       |

### Who Am I?

#### Identify the following people from the clues given.

1. I served as British prime minister during the Second World War. I promised the British nothing but "blood, toil, tears, and sweat." Who am I?
2. I am a Canadian scientist of Asian ancestry. My people suffered greatly in Canada during the war. Who am I?
3. I ran a brilliant spy organization during the war. In 1979, I was honoured by the government of Canada. Who am I?
4. I led Canada during the Second World War. I engineered a solution to the conscription crisis. Who am I?
5. I grew up in Canada, but moved to Britain. I was in charge of British aircraft production during the Battle of Britain. Who am I?
6. I was a Canadian doctor who helped the Chinese in their struggle against invasion by the Japanese. Who am I?

### Discuss and Debate

1. The conscription issue divided Canadians during two world wars. Arrange the classroom to look like the House of Commons. Act as a member of Parliament for a certain constituency in Canada. Be prepared to give a speech in favour of, or against, conscription during the Second World War. After the debate, hold a vote on the issue. If your class had been the House of Commons, would conscription have been introduced?
2. The decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japanese cities has often been criticized. Imagine that you are an adviser to Harry Truman, the U.S. president. Write a memo either supporting or attacking the plan to drop the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Then hold a meeting of the president's advisers. Be prepared to defend your views.
3. Many Nazi supporters were tried for war crimes at Nuremberg after the war. Hitler, however, had committed suicide and could not be brought to trial. Imagine that Hitler had been captured alive. Organize his trial with judges and defence and prosecution lawyers. Select students to play the parts of witnesses, members of the jury, court reporters, guards, and so on.

### Do Some Research

1. Find out about one of the following and write a brief report:
  - a) a Canadian soldier of the Second World War (perhaps a relative)
  - b) a famous general of the Second World War
  - c) some new weapons invented during the Second World War
  - d) a Canadian winner of the Victoria Cross in the Second World War
  - e) Aboriginal Canadians during the war



2. Interview someone who remembers the Second World War. Find out about that person's experiences at home in Canada or at the battle fronts of Europe, Africa, or the Pacific. Assemble a class booklet or tape of memories of the Second World War.
3. With a small group, prepare a folder on life on the Canadian home front during the Second World War. Include (a) posters, (b) pictures, (c) songs, (d) slogans, (e) brief biographies, (f) advertisements, (g) wartime regulations, and (h) ration cards.
4. Find out about one of these war figures. Write a "biocard" like the Canadian Lives feature that appears in this book:
 

a) "Buzz" Beurling	b) Anne Frank
c) Winston Churchill	d) Oskar Schindler
e) Tommy Prince	f) other
5. Design a wall chart comparing Canada's involvement in the First World War with that in the Second World War. You may consider some of these items: (a) number of soldiers fighting, (b) number of people killed, (c) important battles, and (d) types of weapons.

6. Complete a report on the search for war criminals in Canada today. For an annual report on this process, [www.cbsaafc.gc.ca/general/enforcement/annual/menu-e.html](http://www.cbsaafc.gc.ca/general/enforcement/annual/menu-e.html).

### Be Creative

1. Imagine you are a Canadian war correspondent. Give an on-the-spot news report about one of the following:
  - a) The fall of Hong Kong
  - b) The Battle of Britain
  - c) The Battle of Ortona
  - d) Juno Beach on D-Day
  - e) The liberation of the Netherlands
 Make your report as authentic as possible. You could present it as a newspaper article, a radio report, or a news film that will be shown in a movie theatre before the main feature.
2. In a group of four or five, prepare a brief play showing a scene from the life of some Japanese Canadians during the war. Present your play to the class and watch the plays of the other groups. Discuss your reactions to the plays. You might also read *Obasan* by Joy Kogawa.
3. Make a model or draw a diagram of a ship or plane used in the Second World War. Write a brief paragraph on its role in the war.

## Web Watch

**Juno Beach Centre:** [www.junobeach.org](http://www.junobeach.org)

**Department of National Defence:** [www.dnd.org](http://www.dnd.org)

**Japanese-Canadian Internment:** [www.lib.washington.edu/subject/canadian/internment/](http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/canadian/internment/)

**United States Holocaust Museum:** [www.ushmn.org](http://www.ushmn.org)

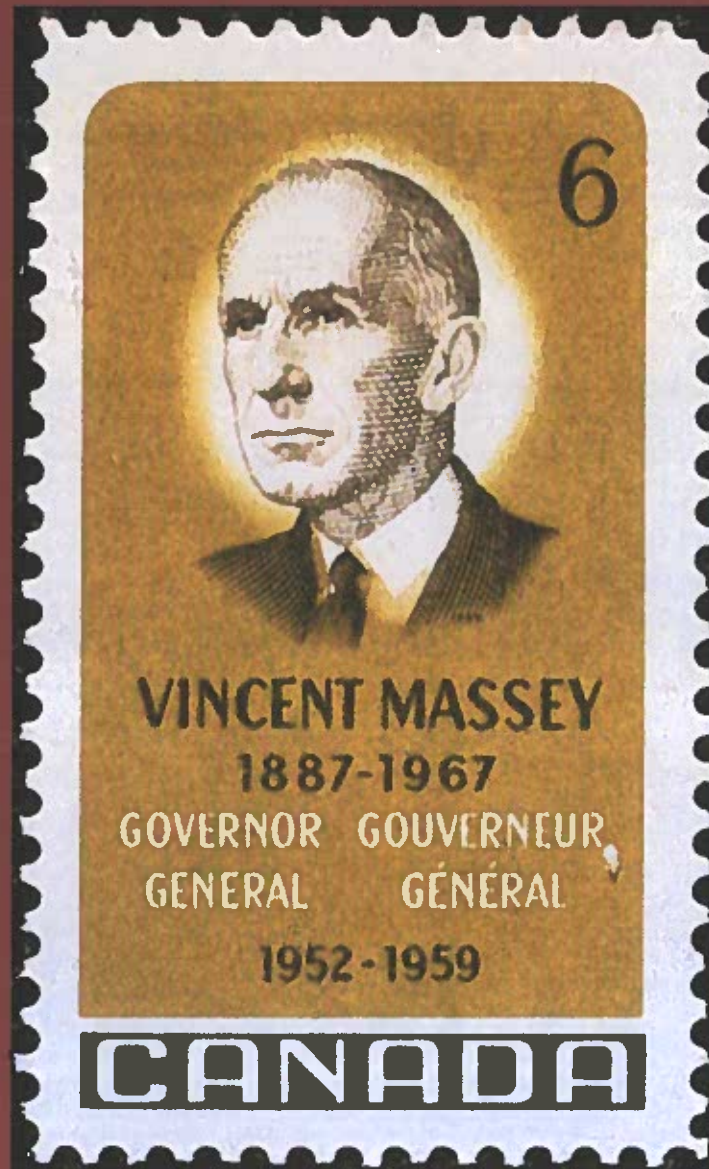
**Dieppe Raid Gallery:** [www.harrypalmergallery.ab.ca](http://www.harrypalmergallery.ab.ca)

**Imperial War Museum:** [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)

**CBC Digital Archives:** [www.cbc.ca/archives](http://www.cbc.ca/archives)

The Digital Archives are an excellent source of audiovisual stories about the war. Consider these story files: "Life After Auschwitz," "The Italian Campaign," "Shadows of Hiroshima," "Canada's Forgotten POW Camps," "D-Day: Canadians Target Juno Beach," "1939-1945: A Soldier's War," "Fleeing Justice: War Criminals in Canada," and "Victory! The End of the War in Europe."

## A SENSE OF IDENTITY



Vincent Massey was Canada's first native-born governor general—the 17 before him came from Britain. Massey travelled as far west as Haida villages in the Queen Charlotte Islands and as far east as outposts on the Newfoundland coast. When he flew over the North Pole, he wrote: "I found it an experience as humbling as it was fascinating."

***How might the role of governor general promote a sense of national community?***