

Canada and the Second World War

		Hong Kong	Dieppe	The Atlantic	D-Day
S	Who is the speaker? The voice that is speaking. Identification of the historical person who created the primary source.				
O	What is the occasion/historical event? What is the time and place? The context in which the primary source was created?				
A	Who is the audience? The readers to whom this document is directed. The audience may be one person, a small group, or a large group.				
P	What is the purpose? What is the reason behind the text? Why was it written? What goal did the author have in mind?				
S	What is the subject? What is the general topic, content, or idea contained in the text? Summarize in a few words.				

Battle of Hong Kong

1. Why were Canadian troops sent to Hong Kong when they were so badly outnumbered?
2. How did Canadian soldiers distinguish themselves at Hong Kong?

Raid on Dieppe

3. What was the purpose of the raid?
4. Was the raid successful? Explain.

Battle of the Atlantic

5. Why were the Nazis so determined to disrupt shipping in the Atlantic?
6. What role did the Canadian Navy play in this battle?

D-Day and Normandy

7. What was the purpose of the D-Day landings?
8. What role did the Canadians play during D-Day and the campaign in Normandy?

Hong Kong, December 1941

It seemed unlikely that the Pacific Ocean British colony of Hong Kong, guarded by only four battalions at the outbreak of war, could be held if the Japanese chose to mount a serious attack. Nevertheless, military leaders in London convinced themselves that the Japanese might be scared off by a show of force. They asked Canada for help. Prime Minister Mackenzie King, usually cautious but not this time, agreed. For this duty, the army staff selected the Royal Rifles of Canada, a bilingual battalion from Quebec City, and the Winnipeg Grenadiers who had served respectively in Newfoundland and Jamaica. Neither unit was adequately trained.

These units arrived in Hong Kong on November 16, 1941. The Japanese attack began three weeks later. Not even the best troops could have stopped the more numerous and better-prepared Japanese troops. Within ten days the Japanese 38th Division, helped by extra artillery and infantry, overran the defences on the mainland portion of the colony. On December 18, the Japanese landed on Hong Kong island itself. The defenders fought back as best they could, grimly holding onto their positions and counterattacking repeatedly. The Canadian commander, Brigadier J.K. Lawson, was killed fighting with a pistol in each hand when his headquarters was overrun on December 19. Company Sergeant Major John Osborn of the Grenadiers died when he threw himself on a Japanese hand grenade to save his comrades. His bravery was recognized with the Victoria Cross.

Hong Kong surrendered on Christmas Day 1941. Of the 1,975 Canadians, 290 were killed and 493 wounded. A further 260 died in the awful conditions of prison camps in Hong Kong and Japan.

1,689 of Defenders Captured by Japs As Garrison Fell

Ralston Presents Figures in Commons Based
Upon Reports From Nipponese Government;
Original Contingent Totalled 1,985 All Ranks

ALIENS TO LEAVE CANADA'S COASTS

(By WILLIAM MARCHINGTON.)
(Staff Writer, The Globe and Mail.)

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—Only 296 Canadians from the contingent that, with the British, made such a gallant fight to save Hong Kong must be considered dead and missing, according to a brief statement given to the House today by Defense Minister J. L. Ralston.

At the end of the question hour, Colonel Ralston rose to announce that, according to a message received directly from the Canadian Minister at Buenos Aires, Hon. W. F. A. Turgeon, and which had been relayed to him from the Argentine Legation at Tokyo, the Japanese Government said a total of 1,689 Canadians had been made prisoners.

It was explained by Colonel Ralston that the total original strength of the Canadian contingent sent to Hong Kong was 1,985, and that the difference between that total strength and the number taken prisoner was 296. He said he regretted to say that this figure must be accepted as representing those

to be regarded as dead and missing. He added that the information received today by the Government was exceedingly meagre. No names of those taken prisoner or of the casualties were yet available.

This reminder of the toll taken of Canadians at Hong Kong came in the same hour in the House that the Prime Minister announced further steps to safeguard British Columbia against possible destruction moves from Japanese residents of that Province. Mr. King said the Justice Minister had been given power to exclude any or all persons from "protected" areas, as defined under Defense of Canada Regulations. The new regulations, he added, corresponded closely to the proclamation issued by President Roosevelt last Friday, and it is immediately effective.

Prime Minister King explained to the House that he had made public the new regulation this morning. He said he did not think it advisable, in the present circumstances, to

withhold it until it could first be made known to Parliament. He thought it in the interests of law and order to make it known as early as possible so as to help allay apprehension in British Columbia.

It was stated today by Government officials that the heavy task of moving about 35,000 Japanese out of the protected areas of British Columbia was proceeding just as fast as accommodation could be secured. Able-bodied males are the

first to be moved to other places, while families must be dealt with later.

To show that the Federal Government had been alive to the gravity of the Japanese problem in British Columbia, the Prime Minister read to the House a lengthy list of Cabinet orders sanctioning definite steps taken in recent weeks.

One of these orders provided for the establishment of a volunteer Canadian-Japanese construction corps which shall be "employed within or without Canada on projects designed to assist the war effort of Canada."

This was part of a policy to make use of Japanese labor in British Columbia, to recruit for special work Japanese who may either desire to enlist voluntarily for patriotic service, or who may be employed on work projects outside the protected area of British Columbia, confined largely to the coast country.

Dollar a Day.

For the Japanese who may volunteer to serve Canada in its war effort, the formation is authorized of a Canadian-Japanese Construction Corps, which shall enlist any Japanese of suitable physical standard. Basic pay in the corps will be a dollar a day, with dependent allowances at the rate of 50 per cent of the scale allowed in the armed forces, and a gratuity on demobilization of \$2 for every month of service.

Work camps may be established for the employment of Japanese removed from the protected area of British Columbia. The works shall be definitely outside the protected area and to be of national benefit. Japanese given employment on such projects shall be paid 25 cents per hour for unskilled labor on a basis of a forty-hour week.

A second-hand ferry now on the American Pacific Coast may be brought around through the Panama Canal as a "second string" boat for the Prince Edward Island ferry service, Munitions Minister C. D. Howe told the House, answering questions from Conservative Leader R. B. Hanson as to what was being done to remedy the serious transportation problem of the island due to the crippling of the ferry Prince Edward Island.

The Minister said that at present time it would not be possible to divert any of Canada's shipyards from urgent war work to build a new ferry, and the chances to have one constructed in United States yards had been found to be nil. But Mr. Howe assured the House that as soon as possible a new boat would be built in this country.

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CASUALTIES

Dieppe Raid, 19 August 1942

Five thousand troops of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, along with a thousand British troops, many of them commandos, attacked the French port of Dieppe on the English Channel Coast in August 1942. Led by Major-General J. M. Roberts, the force was supported by ships of the Royal Navy and aircraft of the RAF and RCAF. The purpose was to make a successful raid on German-occupied Europe over water, and then to hold Dieppe briefly. The results were disastrous.

The German defences were on the alert. The main Canadian landing on the Dieppe beach and flanking attacks at Puy and Pourville failed to reach any of their objectives. Only the commandos enjoyed any success.

After nine hours fighting ashore, the force withdrew. Over one thousand were dead and two thousand prisoners were in German hands, more prisoners than the whole Canadian Army lost in either the North West Europe or Italian campaigns. The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, largely made up of soldiers from the Hamilton area, had taken 582 soldiers into the thick of the fighting. 197 of them were killed or died as prisoners and 175 became prisoners of war. Many of the prisoners and many of those who got back to England were wounded. Two Canadians received the Victoria Cross for their bravery.

In the air above the landings, the RAF waged its most intense air battle on a single day in the whole war. The Allies lost 106 aircraft (including thirteen RCAF machines and ten pilots), and the Germans 48 aircraft.

Behind the failure lay a poor, overly complex plan, insufficient fire support from aircraft and artillery, and inadequate training of troops for their first test of battle. Yet lessons were learned for later amphibious landings in the Mediterranean and at Normandy.

FEB 12 1946

Modest Chaplain Thinks Heroism Ordinary Work

(By Jack Brayley, Canadian Press
Staff Writer)

Ottawa, Feb. 12. — (CP) — The Victoria Cross winner drew deep on his short-stemmed briar, blew out a thick curl of smoke and then replied in a quiet, slightly hesitant voice that his exploit at Dieppe was "a very ordinary piece of work."

It was Major John Weir Foote, Canada's most recent and 14th V.C. winner of the Second Great War, fidgeting under the grilling of 25 reporters in the parliamentary press gallery lounge.

Goes With Unit

"I don't think a man should be a padre of a regiment and not go where they go," he explained with his black brows knitting in deep furrows. "Our regiment went to Dieppe and I went long strictly in the line of duty."

Pressed to give some of his impressions of the battle, he said it now was pretty hazy in his mind. He recalled the first spatter of enemy fire "seemed a bit alarming but after that I didn't have much time to think."

Recalls Cool Exchanges

He remembered the reassuringly cool exchanges between Royal Navy officers picking out limping craft. He heard an officer tell the skipper of one landing craft, "You shouldn't hang about too long there, you know."

They clambered ashore and the padre said he had helped Capt. Wesley Clare, of Port Credit, Ont., and now a doctor at the Kingston, Ont., Hospital, tend to the wounded.

Men of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry were falling on all sides and most of them already had given up their field dressings and had none for themselves.

"These were the brave ones who all did as much and more than I did," he said.

Never Ceases to Wonder

Moving about the beach, "I wondered why I wasn't hit and I have never ceased to wonder why I am alive to-day."

The front-line Germans at Dieppe had been correct in their treatment when the Canadians were taken prisoner, but as the Canadians moved inland treatment became brutal.

He disclosed for the first time that during the period when the Canadian prisoners were shackled, British prisoners slipped in past the guards and took over the shackles to relieve the manacled Canadians. The prisoners found they could undo the old-type shackles with sardine tin keys.

Great Food Getter

Describing his 30-day forced march from the eastern front before the Russian onslaught, Major Foote told of the work of Spr. Maurice Gauthier, a Quebec native who had worked in the mines at Timmins, Ont.

"This French-Canadian practically kept us from starving. He somehow managed to scrounge a pocket full of grain. Walking past a hen house he would lay a trail of grain to a spot where the guards weren't watching. Then he'd kill the unsuspecting chicken and that night we would all be given a leg or a wing or a piece of breast. How he managed it we never knew. His greatest feat was the theft of a pig."

Major Foote said that at one stage of the journey a group of Canadians broke into a bake shop and stole the entire night's production. But on the last seven days of their journey 50 of them were crowded in standing positions into one box car and were allowed only one loaf of bread. At one point the train stopped beside a station pump, but the guards refused to let them get water, even though Canadians inside the car were dying of dysentery.

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The Battle of the Atlantic

The Battle of the Atlantic was the struggle between the Allied and Axis powers for control of the sea routes between the Americas and Europe and Africa. It began on the first day of the war in Europe in September 1939 and continued until May 1945. It was the longest campaign of the Second World War, an extremely bloody one, and the single battle on which the whole outcome of the war depended. Only with delivery of massive North American resources to Britain and Europe could the Allies defeat Hitler's Germany, the most powerful of the Axis nations.

Britain always depended upon ship-carried imports of oil, food, and industrial products from the Americas, and especially the United States and Canada. German naval and maritime air forces, later with help from Italy, attempted to break this vital supply line. Britain's large fleet of surface warships defeated Germany's powerful, but not numerous, surface warships. Allied defences against submarines, by contrast, were not well developed. Britain sailed merchant ships in groups ("convoys") between Britain and Canada's east coast ports under the protection of anti-submarine warships. Germany's rapidly expanding "U-boat" fleet, however, was able to overwhelm the small number of anti-submarine warships available in the first years of the war. Canada assisted greatly by expanding its own navy with large numbers of Canadian-built anti-submarine warships (see Shipping and Shipbuilding), and also expanding its air force with long-range anti-submarine aircraft. With this help, and with further assistance from the United States, in May 1943 Britain was able to concentrate its most powerful anti-submarine warships and aircraft to force the Germans away from the principal convoys. This turning point was crucial. It allowed the buildup of US and Canadian supplies, armies and air forces in Britain for the liberation of Europe. Nevertheless, U-boats, with new equipment, were able to evade Allied forces and inflict shipping losses right until the defeat of Germany in May 1945.

During the six years of the Battle of the Atlantic, the Axis powers lost over 700 U-boats and 32,000 seamen, and the Allied powers lost more than 3,000 ships, and 40,000 seamen. The vast majority of the Allied losses were merchant ships and the civilian seamen and passengers who sailed in them.

Wolf-Pack U-Boat Tactics Being Employed By Hitler In Battle of the Atlantic

Washington, Nov. 5.—(AP)—Germany intends to make the waters west of Iceland a major theatre in the Battle of the Atlantic, informed sources concluded to-day, and battle for a decision there with wolf-pack U-boat tactics.

The record of the past two months, as far as United States interests are concerned, all points in that direction, they said, and the intensification of the sea war in recent weeks may well herald even greater Nazi efforts as turbulent wintry seas give submarines their safest hunting.

Until the Atlantic fleet began policing the sea lanes with shoot-on-sight orders, the gravest under-seas threat to Britain's life-line was

concededly in the immediate approaches to her ports, whose proximity to U-boat bases on the Continent facilitated pack operations.

Reports on recent sinkings, however, show that the packs are raiding farther westward, particularly in the few hundred square miles of ocean that lie south and west of Iceland, the easternmost of United States defence bastions.

It has been in that limited area that U-boats have sunk four American-owned ships of Panamanian registry and the destroyer Reuben James. In those waters the destroyer Greer and the navy oiler Salinas were damaged by torpedo attacks, and a submarine tried three times without success to send the destroyer Greer to the bottom.

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D-Day and the Normandy Campaign

On June 6, 1944, the "Second Front" became reality. Anglo-American-Canadian forces landed on the open beaches of Normandy, north and west of the city of Caen. In the weeks before that, the Allied air forces had attacked the transportation network used to move German troops and equipment. On D-Day itself, delayed one day by bad weather in the English Channel, powerful air and naval support as well as ground-breaking specialized armoured vehicles, such as tanks capable of "swimming", helped the infantry to get ashore on five beaches - two each for the American and British and one for the Canadians. At the end of the first day, the Allies held a thin beachhead, but had suffered fewer casualties than they expected.

Hard battles followed. At last, west of St.Lô, the Americans broke through the German lines in August 1944. An armoured counterattack ordered by Hitler was broken up by British rocket-firing Typhoon fighter-bombers and American tanks. As the Germans retreated west, they were trapped in the "Falaise Pocket" between the British and Canadians to the north and the onrushing Americans to the south. Although the Canadians were slow to close the gap at the east end of the pocket, some 50,000 German soldiers were killed and 200,000 taken prisoner. The German army lost most of its armour and vehicles in France.

3rd Canadian Infantry Division and 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade formed the Canadian assault force on D-Day, while 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion jumped as part of the great airborne force protecting the flanks of the landings. Canadian destroyers, corvettes, minesweepers, landing ships and landing craft supported the landings, as did the many RCAF squadrons overhead. At first, the Canadians came ashore under British command, but with the arrival of 2nd Canadian Infantry Division and 4th Canadian Armoured Division in July, all came under the command of their own leaders in the First Canadian Army.

This Crowded Hour

Freedom's hour has struck and the moat defensive becomes the moat offensive. The Nazi beast is being tackled at last in his lair as British, American and Canadian forces are led by General Sir Bernard Montgomery and pour into France between Cherbourg and Le Havre.

Air-borne troops have been landed behind the enemy lines; two beach-heads have been won and tanks landed at one point; penetrations are being made inland into the Fortress of Europe. Allied casualties are reported to have been light in the first crucial stages, and a favourable circumstance is that the heavy German shore batteries, with which Hitler was going to achieve so much, were largely quelled by the hundreds of naval guns which bombarded the coast. Equally surprising was the feeble air resistance offered by the enemy; the invaders were supported by thousands of aircraft which control the skies.

Thus has the "impregnable Atlantic Wall" been breached at what was conceded to have been one of its strongest areas. No vaunting comes from Berlin this day. Four years after the last chapter of Dunkirk was written in a courage born of despair, the hosts of liberty cross those same waters and storm the beaches. They are armed with every weapon that military science can give them; their spirit is steeled with high purpose, and their goal, in the words of General Eisenhower, is: "We will accept nothing less than full victory."

Prime Minister Churchill, in announcing the invasion to the British House of Commons to-day, stated that four thousand ships and several thousand smaller craft formed the vast armada which attacked the foe's citadel. Air support comes from eleven thousand first-line aircraft, and the naval units mustered 640 guns ranging from four-inch to sixteen-inch. Everything has gone off according to plan, Mr. Churchill stated. There were many factors involved, not the least of them being wind, waves and visibility. The British Prime Minister assured his hearers that a succession of

surprises is in store for the foe. The battle will rise in scale, and he stresses that complete unity prevails throughout the Allied armies. A genuine brotherhood of arms links the British and American troops. Prime Minister King also reminds the Canadian people that hard battles lie ahead; but the war has now entered upon its decisive phase, and there will be no pause until Nazidom is crushed.

Landings have been made on the Channel Islands, and Jersey and Guernsey occupied. General Eisenhower calls upon the underground patriots of Europe, "and all who love freedom, to stand with us now." But he warns them to do nothing premature, only to hold themselves in readiness for the word that will be given at the right hour. Cherbourg and Le Havre are evidently to be the chief invasion ports at this stage of the battle, for it is at those points that Allied ships are unloading weapons and supplies.

The great hope that rises from this successful attack is found in the absence of heavy casualties among the forces striving for beach-heads. Berlin does report that one regiment of parachute troops was wiped out, but London denies

it. The Fuehrer and his henchmen have been boasting for months that the first attempt at an invasion would end swiftly in another Dieppe. But that, happily, has not occurred as yet. Nor does the foe appear to have been able to muster his mobile forces and overwhelm the liberators as they set foot on his fortress, bristling with guns and troops. The Allied air raids have evidently brought the results planned for, and the Nazi system of rail communications is so demoralized that counter-blows lacked the punch expected of them.

What is happening to-day is only the first round, and heavier Allied blows are certain. The main thing is that landings have been made and beach-heads won. Those sectors will be widened, and further incursions can be looked for elsewhere. With Russia on the East, probably waiting until this event gathers momentum, Hitler will soon be faced with a two-front war which may bring shattering results.

Those on the home fronts should pray for the good fortune of their valiant manhood in this ordeal of battle. "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour."

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