

# **Canada WWII Research Document**

Group members: Michael, Hannah, Ethan





***Interwar years and post WW1. About Canada Location, language, leaders/political parties, population, military, prevalent religions, historical turning points.***

**Post WW1:**

1.

- Some woman had the right to vote manitoba was the first in 1917 till Quebec the last 1940
- English and French relations were much worse (accusations of French traitors were not forgotten)
- The financial cost of the war was measured in hundreds of billions of dollars.  
[www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/first-world-war/canada/Canada19](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/first-world-war/canada/Canada19).
- Because of how Canadians fought in the war they had a separate signature on the Peace Treaty signifying that national status had been achieved
- In the First World War One out of ten Canadians didn't return
- By the end of the war Canada had the 4th largest airforce and 5th largest navy

Language: English, French Canadian

Interwar Years Notes

<https://opentextbc.ca/postconfederation/chapter/6-6-the-interwar-years/>

[www.britannica.com/place/Canada/The-interwar-wars](http://www.britannica.com/place/Canada/The-interwar-wars).

<https://opentextbc.ca/postconfederation/chapter/6-6-the-interwar-years/>

- 1919 Ontario's Conservative government was ousted by a farmer-labour alliance led by the United Farmers of Ontario. United Farmers governments were elected shortly afterward in Alberta (1921) and Manitoba (1922). In federal politics in 1921 the agrarian-based Progressive Party became the second largest party in the House of Commons. The agrarian revolt was marked by demands for farm price supports and regulation of the grain and transportation industries. At its core, however, the movement was aimed at curtailing the growth of the power of the cities.
- In 1919 a six-week general strike paralyzed Winnipeg and sparked sympathetic strikes across Canada.
- By 1921 the labour revolt had subsided, partly because of federal intervention and partly because of the onset of an economic downturn that brought increased unemployment and a virtual collapse of union power.
- As a result of their efforts during the war, Canada and the other dominion powers demanded separate signatures to the treaties with the defeated countries and won at least the right to sign separately as members of a British Empire panel.
- They also demanded and received—despite the doubts of the United States and France—membership in the newly organized League of Nations.
- Between World Wars I and II Canada followed an isolationist foreign policy, mainly a consequence of the return to government in 1921 of the Liberal Party, which had come to depend on French Canadian support.
- The King was primarily motivated by his desire to maintain national unity. Recognizing that a close relationship with Britain would further alienate French Canadians (who continued to be upset over the conscription crisis of World War I), he was determined not to split Canada over questions of foreign policy. Canada thus worked with the Union of South Africa and the Irish Free State to disentangle some of the formal ties of empire, and King was instrumental in restricting the authority and status of British governors general in the self-governing dominions.
- With its economy so heavily dependent on natural resource extraction, Canada was especially hard hit by the Great Depression that followed the crash of the U.S. stock market in October 1929.
- Around 1930 unemployment soared, industrial production collapsed, and prices, especially for farm commodities, fell rapidly as demand for all manner of consumer goods virtually disappeared.

- Paradoxically, during the 1930s mining expanded in northern Ontario and northwestern Quebec, particularly in newly opened goldfields.
- The depression spawned two new important political parties, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) in 1932 and the Social Credit Party in 1935.
- The Liberal government was deeply concerned with the devastation the economic depression wrought on government finances. In 1936 an official inquiry by the Bank of Canada revealed that the Prairie Provinces were near bankruptcy.

Citations:

"Legacy - The War'S Impact On Canada | Canada And The First World War." *Canada and the First World War*. N.p., 2008. Web. 9 May 2018.

Douglas, John. "6.6 The Interwar Years – Canadian History: Post-Confederation." *Opentextbc.ca*. N.p., 2018. Web. 9 May 2018.

"European History – Page 4 – All About Canadian History." *Cdnhistorybits.wordpress.com*. N.p., 2017. Web. 9 May 2018.

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## 2. War begins

We

### [Military history of Canada during World War II](#)

- In World War II, Canada made its own separate declaration of war and played a critical role in supporting the Allied war effort. Again, support for the war effort to defend the United Kingdom and liberate continental Europe from Axis domination was particularly strong among English Canadians
- Canada entered the war one week after Britain did because they wanted to show their independence from Britain.
- Many Canadians were fearful of the war because due to the previous horrors of WWI
- Canada was too preoccupied with its own affairs up to 1935 to take great note of Japanese incursions into Manchuria or the growing power of Adolf Hitler in Europe.

- The Battle Dress, in its final (1949) form, would be a standard until the 1970s.
- Over the course of the war, more than 1.1 million Canadians served in the Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Navy, Royal Canadian Air Force, and in forces across the Commonwealth. More than 44,000 lost their lives and 54,000 were wounded.

Cite

Defence, National. "Major Battles And Campaigns Of The Second World War - Canada.Ca." *Canada.ca*. N.p., 2018. Web. 9 May 2018.

"Military History Of Canada During World War II." *En.wikipedia.org*. N.p., 2018. Web. 9 May 2018.

## **Battles and big events**

### **Soldier details**

<https://www.canadiansoldiers.com/uniforms/uniform.htm>

- The Battle Dress, in its final (1949) form, would be a standard until the 1970s.

## **3. Military/technology**

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/historical-sheets/science>

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/radar/>

- The Second World War was a conflict that saw a great deal of scientific and technical innovation
- The war was a battle of scientific minds as well as of bullets and bombs and the wartime research programs came up with many important developments to help give the Allies an advantage in the struggle.
- Much of the research found civilian uses after the war and has helped shape today's modern world.
- Extensive research on magnetism was conducted to learn how to degauss (or demagnetize) the hulls of ships to protect them from some types of mines and to detect submerged submarines.

- The Canadian Anti-Acoustic Torpedo (CAT) gear was developed as a countermeasure to enemy acoustic torpedoes.
- The first patent for artificial fur arose out of Canadian work in developing improved Arctic clothing for the military.
- Aiming systems were developed for artillery and anti-submarine mortars and carried out research on high velocity projectiles and their fuses. As well, he developed an anti-roll stabilizer for an anti-submarine weapon.
- Nuclear energy research initiated in Montreal led to the development of the Chalk River atomic energy facilities and the eventual development of the CANDU nuclear power generator by the Atomic Energy Commission.
- Ionospheric sounding stations, installed during the war to help predict optimum frequencies for long distance communications and for direction finding against enemy submarines.
- The National Research Council pioneered the use of nylon for parachutes.
- Electro-thermal de-icers for aircraft propellers were developed by Canadian scientists(Still used today)
- Canadian scientists developed the Plan Position Indicator. (still in use today)(Canada provided some 9,000 radar sets to the Allies)

Cite

"Science And Technology In The Second World War - Historical Sheet - Second World War - History - Veterans Affairs Canada." *Veterans.gc.ca*. N.p., 2018. Web. 9 May 2018.

Raney, R. "Radar." *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. N.p., 2002. Web. 9 May 2018.

#### **4. TimelineWW2**

<https://www.timetoast.com/timelines/canada-in-wwii>

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/timelines/second-world-war-timeline/>

[http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socstud/foundation\\_\\_gr6/blms/6-2-4d.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socstud/foundation__gr6/blms/6-2-4d.pdf)

#### **SEP 10, 1939**

Canada entered the war one week after Britain did. This proved Canada's independence.

#### **\*JUN 4, 1940**

26 May–4 June: Allied soldiers became trapped in Dunkirk when the Germans used a fighting technique called "blitzkrieg" which was an all out blitz on allied forces. These

forces were trapped. The only way to evacuate these men was by boat. Dunkirk was a miracle due to the complete lack of the English Channel's fog. This fog made it so Dunkirk couldn't be bombed by the Axis. The fog gave the Allies time to evacuate over 300,000 soldiers by boat across the English Channel.

#### **\*JUL 10, 1940**

This was when Germany decided to try and invade Britain mainly by air. The Luftwaffe (German Air Force) bombed British cities, destroying many important buildings and killing a lot of people. The Battle of Britain was fought mainly in the air. Hitler's plan was to run Britain down with air attacks then invade them. This attempt failed. This battle lasted for about 6 months.

#### **\*JUN 22, 1941**

22 June 1941 – 5 December 1941: Operation Barbarossa was the invasion of the USSR by Germany. This was a mistake on Hitler's part because he created a two-front war which is nearly impossible to win. This also broke the allied agreement between the USSR and Germany. Operation Barbarossa was a complete failure. The German troops were driven out by the cold Soviet winter. After Hitler's troops pulled out, the Soviets fought back against Germany.

#### **\*DEC 7, 1941**

Pearl Harbor was a devastating attack on the USA. It destroyed most of their Pacific fleet. It also brought the US into the war. The Japanese used an aircraft carrier to get the planes to position. The Japanese took off and unexpectedly bombed Pearl Harbor in a surprise attack. The bombing lasted for about two hours. The Americans barely managed to fight back against the Japanese. The reason this attack was done is so the Americans couldn't respond to Japan taking over China.

#### **DEC 25, 1941\*\***

8–25 December 1941 The Japanese managed to take over Hong Kong without much resistance, so the Allies sent troops to help. Japanese troops never surrendered due to their culture. This made it more difficult for victory. In the end, the Japanese won this battle. Over 550 Canadians were killed or taken prisoner. Being taken prisoner by Japan was horrible. Many dropped dead of starvation or exhaustion.

#### **AUG 19, 1942**



This was an attack on the German occupied port of Dieppe. The Canadians were given this assignment so they could get some battle time and experience war first hand. This battle was a complete failure. The troops were delayed so they could not invade during the night. This made all troops sitting ducks for machine guns. Any vehicles sent up the beach got stuck in the loose gravel becoming immobile. There was a lack of communications so reinforcements kept getting sent. This fail helped plan D-day.

### **AUG 19, 1943**

The Royal Canadian Air Force participated in some of the most controversial missions in the war. The RCAF was involved in nightly bombing runs over Germany. These bombings killed many civilians and set fire to a lot of buildings. The bombings were specifically targeted at military bases, major cities, and other places of interest.

### **SEP 9, 1943**

3 – 16 September 1943 The Italian invasion was a hard fought battle. It reminded Canadians of the hardships during WW1. There was no tank support because of the narrow streets. Troops had to go house to house. This is how most of the battle was fought. Germans pretended to surrender then would wait for the troop to get closer, then fired their machine guns. This was one of the harder battles for Canadians especially because they were pulled out before they reached the capital.

### **JUN 6, 1944**

D-day was the largest assault on German lines. The allies practiced relentlessly and went over every aspect of the beaches. This made the operation go a little smoother than Dieppe. Canada also learned from their mistakes at Dieppe. This attack was kept a secret up until the day of attack. This time air support helped out. The beach Canada was designated to take was Juno. The German defences were not prepared for this attack because meteorologists said the weather was not good enough for an attack

### **MAY 4, 1945**

Instead of Canadians being assigned to take Germany they were assigned to liberate the Netherlands. The Canadian troops pushed German forces and soon had them surrounded. Canadians also sent food drops to the dutch because the Nazis were starving people in retaliation the the Canadians. the Dutch see Canadians as heros because of the efforts of the brave troops.

Todd, Daniel. "Canada In WWII Timeline.." *Timetoast*. N.p., 2008. Web. 9 May 2018.

Marsh, James. "Second World War Timeline - The Canadian Encyclopedia." Thecanadianencyclopedia.ca. N.p., 2002. Web. 9 May 2018.

## **After war**

[www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/first-world-war/canada/Canada19](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/first-world-war/canada/Canada19).

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## Websites

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Nicholson, Norman L., and David J. Bercuson. "Canada." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 3 Apr. 2018,

Veterans Affairs Canada. "The Aftermath." Veterans Affairs Canada, 31 Oct. 2017, Belshaw, John Douglas, et al. Canadian History: Post-Confederation, opentextbc.ca/postconfederation/chapter/6-6-the-interwar-years/.