

The War in Europe: The Battle of Britain

- The first stage was the destruction of Britain's air power
- On July 10, 1940 the _____ began a massive bombing campaign aimed at destroying harbours and shipping facilities in southern England
- In August, the bombing raids target air fields and aircraft factories; by September, the strategy had shifted to bombing civilian targets



The War in Europe: The Battle of Britain

- For fifty-five consecutive nights, German planes bombed London and other cities
- These raids became known as "the Blitz"
- Despite having more fighter aircraft than the British, the Germans were unable to defeat the RAF
- Britain had a very sophisticated radar system that gave them early warnings of German attacks
- The British also used Spitfires and Hurricanes, two extremely effective defence planes
- British joined by several commonwealth pilots including some 80 Canadians

The War in Europe: The Battle of Britain

- May 1941 - the British air force was having more and more success in shooting down German bombers, and Hitler finally gave up on his plans to invade Britain
- Although Germany lost the Battle of Britain, more than 23,000 people were killed in the Blitz, mostly British civilians



Canada – Battle of Britain

- Razor's Edge
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWpyvUpSB3o>

The War Spreads

- Hitler turned his attention eastward
- He launches “**Operation Barbarossa**” (“red beard”)



The War Spreads

- Hitler turned his attention eastward
- He launched the invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941





The War Spreads

- In 1942 – Germany launched another offensive
 - Hoped to capture the rich oil fields in the south
- This time, the German troops got as far as Stalingrad
 - But...once again stopped by the severe winter
- More than 300,000 casualties
- German army surrendered in early 1943
- Soviet army went on the offensive re-taking a lot of territory they lost earlier
- By 1944 Soviets were advancing into Eastern Europe towards Germany

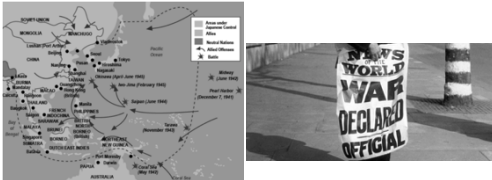
The War Spreads: War in the Pacific

- Dec 7 1941 – Japanese planes bombed the U.S. naval base in Pearl Harbour on the island in Hawaii, destroying half the fleet
- They they bombed the Philippines



The War Spreads: War in the Pacific

- Japan continued its invasion of most of Southeast Asia and Burma (Myanmar) and the Netherlands East Indies (Indonesia), heading toward Australia
- The whole world was now at war



The War Spreads: War in the Pacific

- By Christmas day 1941, Hong Kong had fallen to the Japanese
- Canada had sent troops to Hong Kong only months earlier and all 1,975 Canadians were killed or taken prisoner by the Japanese
- Of the 555 who perished, nearly 1/2 died as prisoners during the 3.5 years they were imprisoned



Canada's Role in Europe

- Middle of 1942, the Soviet Union now one of the Allied powers had lost close to a million soldiers
- Soviet leaders wanted the Allies to invade Europe from the west, a move that would weaken German army by forcing it to fight the war on 2 fronts (like WWI)



Canadian Battles: Dieppe

- 1942
- Purpose/Goal
 - To gather information about German defenses along France's coastline
- Canadian and British troops planned a "punch attack" at Dieppe (French port under German occupation)
- Called _____ the attack was a rehearsal fo a large invasion

Canadian Battles: Dieppe

- Plan
 - 4 pre-dawn attacks along the coast
 - Followed by one main attack on the town of Dieppe ½ hour later
 - Allied troops = covered by air force bombers
 - Tanks to be landed at the town

Canadian Battles: Dieppe

- Disaster from the beginning
- On August 19, 1942 - 5,000 Canadians landed on the beaches.
- One of the ships carrying Canadian soldiers to Dieppe unexpectedly met a small German convoy
- The noise of a brief sea battle alerted German troops on shore
- Canadians were to disembark before dawn, but the ships were delayed and Canadian soldiers were easily machine-gunned by waiting German soldiers in the early daylight.
- Communication between ships and troops on land was poor = commanders sent more reinforcements ashore believing the first wave of soldiers had reached the town
- Also became trapped = easy targets for German soldiers
- Allied tanks couldn't get traction on the pebbled beach

Canadian Battles: Dieppe

- Nearly 900 Canadians killed,
- 1,000 were wounded
- 1,900 were captured
- Only 2,200 returned to Britain



Canadian Battles: Dieppe

- Reverend John Foote, Chaplain (minister) of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry helped many wounded men into retreating boats
- As the last boat headed for England, Foote returned to the beach and was taken prisoner
- Foote later wrote, "...the men ashore would need me more in captivity than any of those going home."
- Foote was awarded the Victoria Cross



Canadian Battles: Dieppe

- The question is, was this wasteful or essential? (remember it was a "practice run" for a larger attack)
- There is much debate about whether it was a valuable learning experience or just a disaster (both?)
- Lessons learned:
 - Enemy must remain ignorant of the proposed landing site
 - Enemy must be prevented from bringing up reinforcements quickly once Allies landed
 - Complete Allied air and naval superiority in the English Channel
 - Local defence must largely be destroyed by air and sea bombardment

Canadian Battles: Dieppe

- Video: Dieppe
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwyqAiv4goo>

Canadian Battles: Italian Campaign

- 1943
- Purpose/Goal
 - To take pressure off the Russian Front and steal German troops from Western Europe an assault of Italy was planned
- Italians hung fascist dictator Mussolini but Hitler sent German troops into Italy to defend the southern front
- July 10 1943 – Canadian forces supported by British and American troops attacked Sicily
- British PM Winston Churchill felt the best way to recapture Europe was with what was called *Husky* (the soft underbelly of Europe) = Italy and Sicily
- Canadian troops were well trained and equipped
- After 2 weeks of fighting – Allies were successful

Canadian Battles: Italian Campaign

- Video: On the Attack
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5stHwpdysYo>

Canadian Battles: At Sea (Battle of the Atlantic)

- Britain and Russia needed supplies
- German submarines were sinking 20 Canadian and USA supply ships per WEEK
- Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) had only 11 ships and 20,000 sailors at the start of WWII
 - By the end of the war, Canada had the third largest navy in the world with nearly 400 warships and 113,000 sailors
 - The RCN Corvettes escorted supply ships across the Atlantic in Convoys = ensured some supplies reached Europe



Canadian Battles: At Sea (Battle of the Atlantic)

- Supply ships were called the "Merchant Marine"
- These were the main targets for German submarines
- When a supply ship was torpedoed, survivors were often left in the Atlantic by the convoy because it was too dangerous to slow down



A convoy of merchant ships preparing to sail to Britain from Halifax, Nova Scotia
(Image courtesy of merchantships.tripod.com)

Canadian Battles: At Sea (Battle of the Atlantic)

- The 1942 German submarines entered the Gulf of St. Lawrence
- They sank 19 supply ships, two naval escorts and a ferry
- BUT things turned around
- By May 1942, British had cracked the German naval code = Allies could track German submarine movements more easily
- Many historians believe that getting supplies to Britain was Canada's most decisive contribution to the WWII effort



Canadian Battles: War in the Atlantic

- Video: A Miserable Rotten Hopeless Life
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sM47oGM4T8w>

Canadian Battles: At Sea

- The Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service was created in 1942
- Most "WRENS" were limited to shore-based jobs working as wireless operators, coders, drivers, and operational plotters



Canadian Battles: In the Air

- At the beginning of the war - Canada's air force was small
- At the end it was the fourth largest in the world



Canadian Battles: In the Air

- The
- Joint British, Canadian, Australian & New Zealand action to destroy key dams on the Mohne River that provided power to German industry
- To destroy the damns, a _____ was used
- When dropped from a plane at high speed & low angle, the bomb skipped across the water like a stone
- *Jumping* over nets placed in front of dams to prevent a torpedo attack

Canadian Battles: In the Air

- September 1939 – The British Commonwealth Air Training Program (BCATP)
- By 1942 – Allied forces began to bomb German cities
- Goal (at first): destroy industries, railways, oil refineries and other vital sites
- Changed to civilian targets to destroy the fighting spirit of the Germans
- Thousands of civilians were killed



Canadian Battles: In the Air

- 1941 – RCAF formed the Women's Division (WD) to support the war effort
- Women were trained as clerks, cooks, hospital assistants, drivers, telephone operators, welders, instrument mechanics, engine mechanics
- Women pilots in Canada were frustrated by the RCAF's refusal to let them fly
- Only later in the war were women allowed to fly bomber planes on flights to deliver them to Britain
- Women never took part in combat



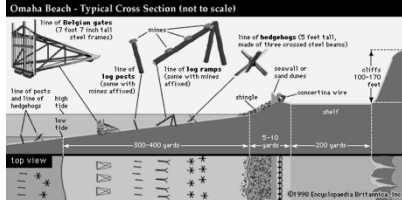
Canadian Battles: D-Day

- The Atlantic Wall
 - Was an extensive system of coastal fortifications built by the Germans between 1942 and 1944
 - Built along the western coast of Europe to defend against an anticipated Anglo-American led Allied invasion of the continent from Great Britain



Canadian Battles: D-Day

- Early in 1944, Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was assigned to improve the defenses of the ATLANTIC WALL
- A string of reinforced concrete pillboxes were built along the beaches to house machine guns, antitank guns, and light artillery
- Minefields and antitank obstacles were planted on the beaches and underwater obstacles and mines were planted in the waters just off shore to destroy incoming craft
- By the time of the invasion, the Germans had laid almost 6million mines in northern France



Canadian Battles: D-Day

- Normandy invasion the “Day of Deliverance” or D-Day began on June 6 1944
- At 02:00, paratroopers were dropped behind the coast to protect the landing forces. At 03:15 2,000 Allied bombers began to pound German beach defenses.
- At 05:30, the air raid was joined by the guns of the Allied war ships
- 06:30 the first troops landed on the beaches
- This was Canada’s largest military operation
- The Canadian troops landed at Juno Beach
- It was the second most heavily defended Normandy landing site

Canadian Battles: D-Day

- “D-Day” (June 6, 1944) – the Allies launched “Operation Overlord”
- Purpose/Goal:
- Full scale invasion of Europe
- There were to be 5 landing points along an 80km stretch of beach in Normandy in N. France
- Code named “Sword” “Juno” “Gold” “Omaha” and “Utah” (map p.117)



Canadian Battles: D-Day

- Attacks on the beaches were preceded by massive air attacks and paratroopers were parachuted in behind the German lines
- On the morning of June 6 over 30,000 Canadian soldiers arrived at “Juno” Beach as part of the first wave of attacks
- They had to make their way past the concrete barriers the Germans had erected, through barbed wire and other obstacles, in order to work their way inland



Canadian Battles: D-Day

- Allied Troops had 2 advantages
 - They had a massive air and naval support with the ability to land more than a million troops within 2 or 3 weeks of initial landing
 - They had managed to keep the details of the attack a secret from the Germans.
- Weather had been stormy and Germans were expecting an attack but they did not think the Allies would attempt a landing in bad weather and therefore their defence was poorly organized
- 359 Canadians died and 715 were wounded, but numbers were lower than expected

Canadian Battles: D-Day

- Remember the lessons from Dieppe?
- Lessons learned:
 - Enemy must remain ignorant of the proposed landing site
 - Enemy must be prevented from bringing up reinforcements quickly once Allies landed
 - Complete Allied air and naval superiority in the English Channel
 - Local defence must largely be destroyed by air and sea bombardment
- Reasons for Success at D-Day
 - Element of surprise (date, location)
 - Attack at low tide/first light
 - Massive air and naval support (paratroopers)
 - Dividing of beaches (different objectives based on geography, location, German defences)
 - Breaking of German defences with Allied tanks (pincers) and troops encircling Nazis

Canadian Battles: D-Day

- Videos: The Cauldron Part I and II
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB3nCz982Nw>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4snDSp3-FGg>

Canadian Battles: Liberation of Europe

- The Allies began an 11-month advance through France and Belgium
- Canadian lost 1,000 men for each month of fighting
- Canadians had to clear the channel ports. They entered Dieppe as returning heroes (only 2 years earlier they had suffered a terrible defeat)
- They would then be assigned to **Netherlands**
- In Holland, the retreating Germans flooded the lowlands
- There was no food and the people ate tulip bulbs to survive
- On May 5 1944 the Germans surrendered and Canadian troops turned to feeding the starving people

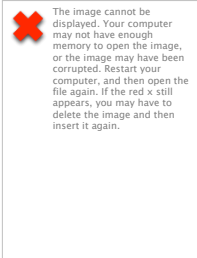
The War in Europe Ends

- Germany surrenders its forces on May 7 1945
- Hitler commits suicide before being captured (or did he...?)
- On May 8 1945 Nazi Germany ceased to exist
- *Victory in Europe Day (VE Day)* had arrived
- Now if only the War in the Pacific would end?



Enter the Atomic Age

- Manhattan Project
 - Since march 1943, the US government had been funding a project to develop an atomic bomb
 - In 1945, the new President Truman learned that an atomic test in New Mexico had been successful
 - It cost \$2 Billion and 120,000 jobs to develop the bomb
 - After the test, the Americans had two working bombs, they were called "Fat Man" and "Little Boy"



Potsdam Declaration

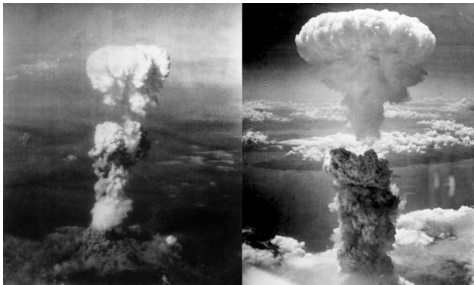
- Truman's first attempt at negotiating with Japan
- Called for Japan's unconditional surrender and an end to Militarism in Japan
- Issued on July 26



Atom Bomb

- Japan refused the Declaration
- Reasoning for using the A-Bomb
 - The USA did not want to invade Japan
 - They reasoned that using the A-Bomb would hit Japan hard in one shot
 - This would save the lives of hundreds of thousands of American troops

Atom Bomb – Regret?



Special Delivery

- A B-29 Superfortress bomber named the *Enola Gay* was chosen to drop the first bomb on Hiroshima
- On August 6, 1945, Paul W. Tibbets and his crew dropped the Uranium-based Atomic bomb on Hiroshima



Aftermath

- An estimated total of 237,000 related deaths resulted from the explosion
- Most deaths and injuries occurred when people were trapped in their burning houses or struck by debris
- Hundreds of thousands more would die from cancers and exposure to radiation



Atomic Bomb

- Another B-29 named the *Bockscar* dropped the “Fat Man” on Nagasaki



World War II Ends

- Japan surrendered to the Allied Powers on August 14, 1945
- Emperor Hirohito accepted the Potsdam Declaration (did he have a choice?)
- VJ day is declared (Victory over Japan)



Fighting the Good Fight?

Challenging the traditional "Good vs. Evil" narrative of World War II

"The Good Fight"

- World War II is seen in the western countries as a just and moral battle
- The Allies deserved to win because they were standing up to evil
- This narrative begins with the war itself (common technique in propaganda)
- Easy to support because the Axis' atrocities are well documented



The Big Questions

- Is there such a thing as a moral war???
- Even by wartime standards, do the Allies really deserve to be considered morally righteous?



Allied “Black Marks”

- Atomic Bombs
- Stalin’s Crimes
- The Japanese Internment
 - Racism
 - Firebombings
- Civilian Casualties

Review – The Atomic Bombs

- Dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan; August 6 & 8, 1945
- Directly caused (at the ABSOLUTE minimum) 225,000 deaths plus countless mutations and other wide reaching health effects
- Justification offered: Alternative was invasion of Japan which would have cost 2 million+ lives
- Also used as a statement towards the USSR – post-war posturing

Stalin's Soviet Union: Full of Evil

- Stalin's "Great Purge" in the late 1930s involved the executions of as many as 700,000 political opponents
- The Purge also involved over a million others being exiled to "gulags" (prison camps) in Siberia (30,000 Jews)
- Stalin fabricated the "Doctor's Plot" in 1952
- Dies before it can be turned into a genocide



Our Own Prison Camps: The Japanese Internment


NOTICE TO ALL JAPANESE PERSONS AND PERSONS OF JAPANESE RACIAL ORIGIN

TAKE NOTICE that under Orders Nos. 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:

LILU ISLAND (including Steveston)	SEA ISLAND	EBURNE	DISTRICT OF QUEENSBOROUGH	CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER
SAPPERTON	WAGWAGAN	PORT HOODY	HOOD	PORT COQUITLAM
MAILLARDVILLE	FRASER HILLS			

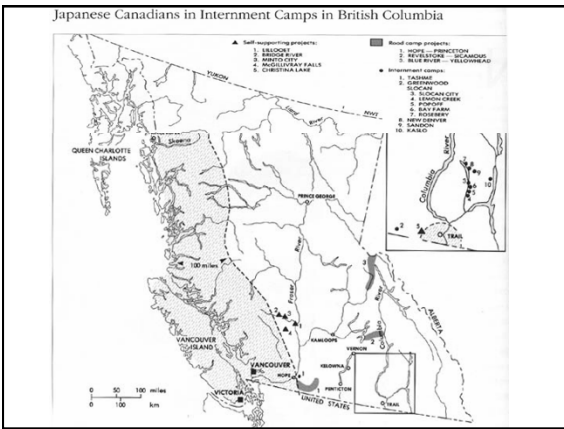
TAKE NOTICE that any person of the Japanese race found within any of the said prohibited areas without a written permit from the British Columbia Security Commission or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police shall be liable to the penalties provided under Order in Council P.C. 1865.

AUSTIN C. TAYLOR,
Chairman,
British Columbia Security Commission



- Civilians of Japanese descent were forced to relocate to internment camps in both Canada and the United States
- Forced to evacuate on short notice
- Government re-sold houses and belongings and kept profits
- In Canada, people of Japanese descent were not allowed west of the Rockies until 1950 (five full years after war ends)
- In total, ~30,000 Japanese-Canadians and ~110,000 Japanese Americans were interned





Racism in Propaganda

- Racism was widespread against the Japanese in the war
- The internment reflects this
- We also see very strong racism in American propaganda towards the Japanese
- Often portrayed as subhuman
- Imitations of “English”
- Comical looking caricatures



Terror Bombings

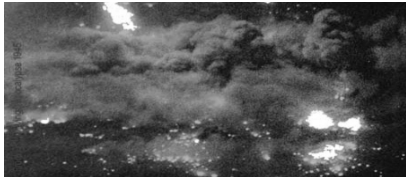
- The British Bomber Command was launched to carry out bombing attacks on German cities in retaliation for the bombing of London
- Very controversial, targeted cities (i.e. civilian areas)
- Notable attacks on Hamburg (1943) and Dresden (1945)
- Often used incendiary bombs to maximize damage
- Later used as a demonstration of power to the USSR

Dresden (February 1945)

- Dresden was a medieval cultural center known for its architecture and the arts
- Became a major refugee haven with the Soviets advancing
- No targets of any strategic value
- War is already all but over
- City's population: 350,000 + countless refugees

The Firestorm

- RAF and RCAF Lancaster bombers
- USAF B-17 Flying Fortresses (Heavy bombers)
- Over 3,300 tonnes of bombs dropped
- 1,300 bombs total, mostly incendiary
- Created a "firestorm" in the city



Description of the Firestorm

“Many of the bombs that were dropped were incendiary bombs. These created so much fire that a firestorm developed. The more the city burned, the more oxygen was sucked in – and the greater the firestorm became. It is thought that the temperature peaked at 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit. The surface of roads melted and fleeing people found that their feet were burned as they ran. Some jumped into reservoirs built in the city centre to assist firefighters. However, these were ten feet deep, smooth-sided and had no ladders - many drowned. Very few of those in the city centre survived.”

- (Source)

Survivor Account

- "Apart from the fire risk, it was becoming increasingly impossible to breath in the cellar because the air was being pulled out by the increasing strength of the blaze."
- "We could not stand up, we were on all fours, crawling. the wind was full of sparks and carrying bits of blazing furniture, debris and burning bits of bodies."
- "There were charred bodies everywhere."

Results

- Over 100,000 dead (almost entirely civilians)
- Disposal of the bodies took almost 2 weeks to complete
- The entire city centre flattened (not rebuilt until almost 20 years later)

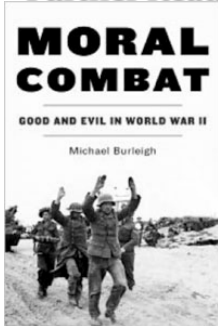


Civilian Casualties

- WWII became the war of civilian casualties. While Hitler is largely blamed for this becoming a theme, the Allies inflicted their share as well (Allied civ. Casualties: 25.4M)

Country	Civilian Casualties
Germany	3,810,000
Austria	80,000
Italy	85,000
Romania	465,000
Hungary	280,000
Japan	360,000
TOTAL	5,087,000

Further Reading on Topic



- “Moral Combat” – by Michael Burleigh
- Addresses the debate of the moral high ground in the war
- Review available online
