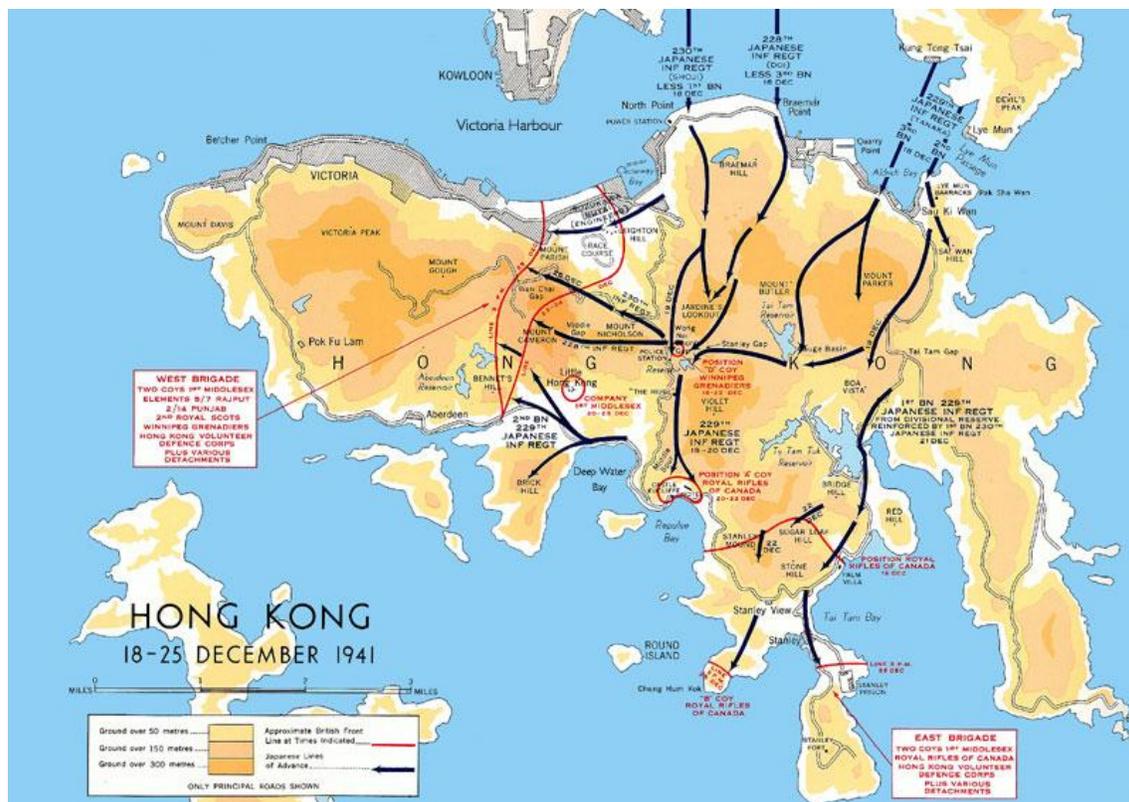


6.4 Canadian Involvement in the War

Most Canadian troops fought in the European part of the war, through the year long invasion of Italy which started in September 1943, and then in the D-day invasion of France on June 6, 1944 and the liberation of Europe. Canadians were involved in other areas of the war also;

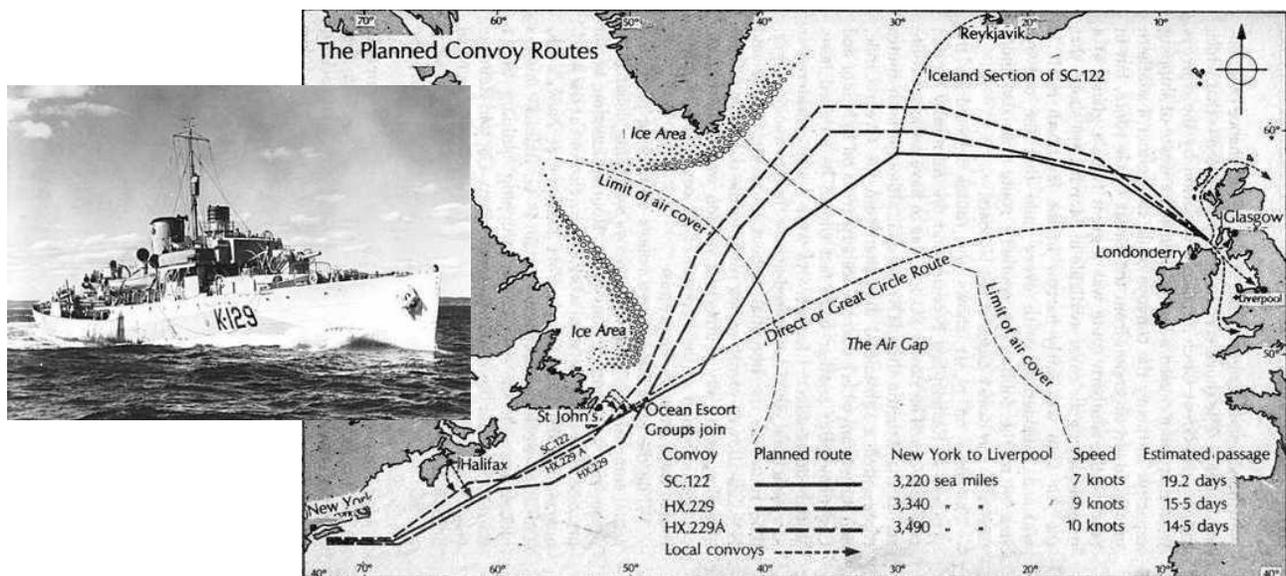
Hong Kong

- Hong Kong was a British held island that had been leased from China. It was a huge financial center and an important position as a military base. The Allies decided to try to hold it against Japanese invasion and so asked for troops from Canada.
- 1975 Canadian troops were sent to join the British and Indian forces defending Hong Kong, giving them a total of 14,000 troops.
- On the 8th of December, 1941 (one day after attacking the US) the Japanese attacked Hong Kong. The defenders held out for 14 days, until their supplies and ammunition ran out and they were forced to surrender.
- In total 250 Canadians died in the fighting and 500 were wounded. 260 would die in Japanese prison camps.



At Sea

- In 1939, **Royal Canadian Navy** had 13 ships and about 3000 sailors. They went into aggressive building and had 370 ships and about 100,000 sailors by the end of the war.
- The RCN became the escort and protection fleet to help merchant ships supply Britain to maintain the war effort. German U-boats hunted these merchant ship **Convoys** throughout the war in order to starve the Allied forces.
- The small Canadian Corvette escorts tried to protect shipping but were losing against the greater number of subs in the German **wolfpacks** until the British sent larger destroyers to help.
- The Canadian **Rear-Admiral L.W. Murray** was given full command of the forces in the North Atlantic and with better anti-sub weapons and training the wolfpacks were suffering heavy damages.
- Most of the Allied shipping was centered out of bases in Newfoundland, including St.John's, Argentia, and Stephenville. There were also many Radar stations build around the island, and telephone cables to improve communications between bases and the mainland.
- By 1943, the RCAF had long range bomber airplanes that could help protect ships until they reached British airspace, increasing the survival rates of the convoys.
- By 1945 80% of all shipping across the Atlantic were being escorted by the RCN.



- Canadian ships also helped during the D-day invasion and fought on the west coast against Japan after the attack on Pearl Harbor

In the Air

- The **Royal Canadian Air Force**, like the Navy, was small in 1939, with 4000 mechanics, support personnel, and pilots. By 1945 this grew to 250,000 men and women.
- During the war, Canadian pilots flew patrols in Canada and served over Germany, the Middle East, the Far East and Norway.
- Most Canadian airmen, about 60%, actually trained and served in the **RAF** and flew British planes. This meant that most Canadian flyers served with bomber command and flew missions to bomb German targets. Many of the Canadian pilots in the RAF formed their own group, the **242 Fighter Squadron**
- Canadian pilots were involved with ferrying planes from Canada to England. This was a dangerous non-stop flight. Bases were built in Goose Bay and Gander to be the jump off points for these flights. Over 500 men died during these ferry runs.
- At first Canadian flyers were given the oldest equipment and were put in back line positions and had a high casualty rate when they got into action. But this allowed them to get lots of training and experience and so by the end of the war they were running bombing raids deep into Germany with low casualty rates.
- Below are all examples of planes that were built in Canada for use during the War



-bomber



- anti-sub patrols



- training / reconnaissance



- Fighter



- bomber

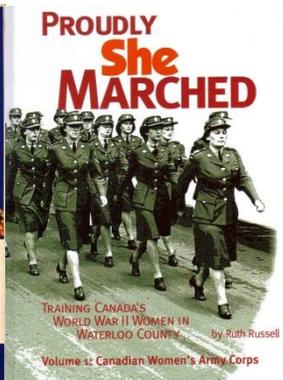


- long range bomber

6.5 Women in the War

Women were still not allowed to fight in the front lines during World War 2, but their role in the war effort was even greater than during the South African or First World Wars.

- 1941-42 Canadian forces created women's branches for the army, navy and air force. Over 46,000 women served in these branches both at home and overseas in jobs like cooks, nurses, mechanics, welders and pilots for ferry command.
- There were the CWAAF – Canadian Women's Auxillary Air Force, the CWAC – Canadian Women's Army Corps, and the WRCNS – the Women's Royal Canadian Navy Service
- As in World War One, young women were recruited to join the work force to replace men in factory jobs and on farms. The government supplied child care for young mothers to allow them to get jobs.



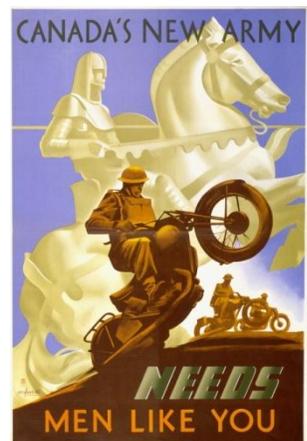
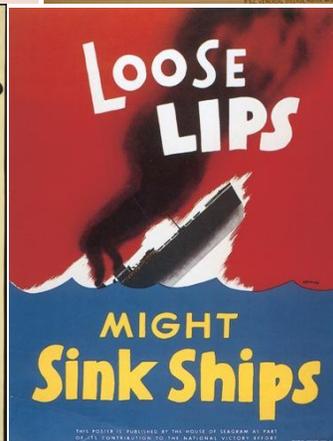
6.6 The War at Home

As in the World War I period, all Canadians became involved somehow in the war effort during World War II.

- Industries retooled in order to produce war goods such as tanks and armored cars instead of regular automobiles.
- Challenges were put out to the aircraft plants to produce planes for the war, faster than ever before.
- The government reinstated the War Measures Act to help organize the manufacturing of war goods
- The federal government ran 28 Crown Corporations which created various war goods. They assigned workers as the goods from different factories were needed overseas.
- The government carefully enforced rationing on many goods at home so that they could be focused on supplying the same goods for the fighting units. These goods included gas, coffee, tea, butter, jam, milk, sugar, meats, alcohol, and wheat.
- The government replaced strikes and negotiations at worksites with compulsory arbitration. Any group up for contract would be forced to accept the government's decisions for ending any contract
- By 1944, 40% of the country's GNP came from war industry. This was more than twice the highest figure of WWI. The government funded this effort with war bonds, taxes, and payments for munitions from Britain.
- The government began a very aggressive propaganda program to ensure that pro-Allied messages were broadcast first

- Conscription was brought back in April of 1941 for the Second World War but never became a major issue as it was only ever used to get troops for home defense, rather than overseas. By 1942 however, there came the greater need for overseas troops and the King government asked that conscripts could be sent overseas. Most English Canadians agreed but 85% of French Canada said no. The government decided that conscripts would only be sent in case of great need. In late 1944, 16000 of the home defense troops were sent overseas.

World War II Propaganda Campaigns



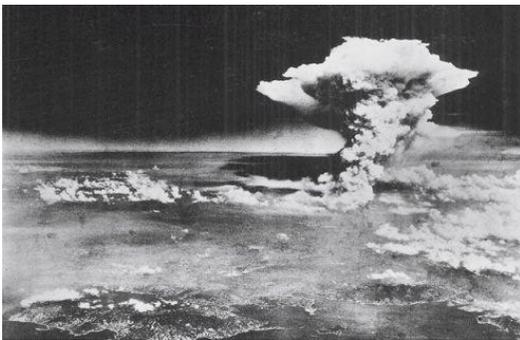
6.7 Wartime Measures

Security was a major concern in Canada during the war. It was known that German U-boats patrolled right up to the coasts of Canada and the US, and spys and saboteurs could easily get into and out of the country this way. After attacking Pearl Harbor, everyone was afraid that the Japanese Navy could attack anywhere along the Canadian or American west coast. No one wanted a disruption of war goods production or to give away information important to victory. Because of this, many restrictions and rules were put in place during the war period.

- Enemy Aliens were required to register with the government. This mainly involved Japanese Canadians (mostly living in British Columbia), who were the targets of attacks and heavy discrimination.
- At first there was no internment, but in Feb 1942 any Japanese Canadians living within 62 km of the coast in British Columbia were taken and moved inland. Internment Camps were housed in abandoned mining towns or ones to the Prairies to help man farms. Most of these people lost their homes and businesses and received little or no compensation or restitution.
- Political movements who supported the enemy were restricted. The National Union Party was Canada's version of the Nazi Party. Many of these were arrested by the RCMP. Both them and the Canadian Communist Party were outlawed during the war period. The Communist leaders did get released from prison once Russia entered the war to help the Allies.
- Some people refused to be involved with the war. These pacifists were called **conscientious objectors**. There were about 12,000 in all in Canada, many of which were discriminated against by society, including some losing their jobs because they were 'not supporting their country'. J.S.Woodsworth was one of these. He resigned his leadership of the CCF because he was the only member of the party to object to the war. He did keep his seat in parliament however.
- Religious groups often took anti-war stance. These included the Hutterites, Mennonites and Doukhobors, who had all immigrated to Canada to avoid wars in Europe. The Jehovah Witnesses were also persecuted during the war because of their anti-fighting stance. Their group was outlawed and their property seized for a time.
- The war became an important force for civil rights. Groups like Black Canadians and Native Canadians proclaimed that if they were able to fight and die for their country, they should also be able to have equal rights. This led to the passing of Canada's first anti discrimination law in Ontario in 1944.
- Discrimination didn't end with the war. Most Japanese were not allowed to return to their homes west of the Rockies and were not allowed to vote until 1949.

6.8 The Legacy of War

- For most Canadians, the war ended with the surrender of the Germans on May 8, 1945. Our country had always been focused on the Nazis as the main enemy and most of our Canadian forces had been involved only in the battles in Europe. This is called V-E Day: Victory in Europe.
- The war against the Japanese continued in the Far East for three more months, until August 14, 1945. There were still Canadians involved as part of the Allied forces on the ground and in the air. The final Canadian to die in the Second World War was Lt. Robert Gray, a pilot who was shot down while attacking a Japanese ship off Japan.



The war was finally ended when Japan surrendered following the dropping of atomic bombs on two Japanese cities: Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Over 130,000 people were killed instantly and in the radiation that followed and Japan knew it had no other choice but to surrender or face total destruction.

- The war was costly for Canada. We had sent over a million men and women into service, of which 42,042 had died in action. We spent \$18 billion on war supplies and operations, of which the country now carried a \$10 billion debt. But the country emerged from the war as one of the new big industrialized nations of the world, without the need to deal with the devastation of having a war fought across its territory.
- Around the world approximately 72,000,000 people were killed during the war. The Soviet Union alone lost 25 million lives (either soldiers or civilians), and nearly 6 million Jews were killed, mostly as a result of Hitler's imprisonment and extermination policies.

Total War Deaths

Soviet Union: 25,000,000
China: 15,000,000
Germany: 8,000,000
Poland: 5,720,000
Dutch East Indies: 3,500,000
Japan: 2,870,000
British India: 2,087,000
French Indochina: 1,600,000
Yugoslavia: 1,363,500
Philippines: 807,000
Romania: 800,000
Hungary: 580,000
France: 550,000
Italy: 454,600
United Kingdom: 450,900
United States: 418,500
Korea: 430,500
Lithuania: 350,000
Czechoslovakia: 325,000
Greece: 563,500
Netherlands: 301,000
British Burma: 272,000
Latvia: 230,000
Austria: 120,000
Ethiopia: 100,000
British Malaya: 100,000
Finland: 97,000
Belgium: 88,000
Estonia: 50,000
Singapore: 50,000
Canada: 45,400
Australia: 40,400
Albania: 30,000
Bulgaria: 25,000
New Zealand: 11,900
South Africa: 11,900
Norway: 9,500
Thailand: 7,600
Denmark: 3,200
Brazil: 2,000
Luxembourg: 2,000
Iraq: 500
Ireland: 200
Iran: 200
Turkey: 200
Iceland: 200
Mexico: 100
Switzerland: 100
Total: 72,468,900

Military Deaths

Soviet Union: 9,750,000
Germany: 5,533,000
China: 3,500,000
Japan: 2,120,000
Yugoslavia: 446,000
United States: 416,800
Great Britain: 382,700
Italy: 301,400
Romania: 300,000
Poland: 240,000
France: 217,600
Finland: 95,000
British India: 87,000
Philippines: 57,000
Canada: 45,300
Australia: 39,800
Bulgaria: 22,000
Netherlands: 21,000
Belgium: 12,100
New Zealand: 11,900
South Africa: 11,900
Spain: 4,500
Norway: 3,000
Denmark: 2,100
Total: 23,620,100

Civilian Deaths

Soviet Union: 13,204,000
China: 11,500,000
Poland: 2,400,000
Germany: 2,035,000
India: 2,000,000
Philippines: 750,000
Japan: 580,000
Yugoslavia: 514,000
France: 267,000
Netherlands: 176,000
Italy: 145,100
Great Britain: 67,100
Romania: 64,000
Austria: 58,700
Belgium: 49,600
Spain: 10,000
Norway: 5,800
Bulgaria: 3,000
Finland: 2,000
United States: 1,700
Total: 33,833,000

Jewish Deaths by Nation

Poland: 3,000,000
Ukraine: 900,000
Hungary: 450,000
Russia: 352,000
Romania: 300,000
Baltic Countires: 228,000
Germany/Austria: 210,000
Netherlands: 105,000
France: 90,000
Slovakia: 75,000
Greece: 54,000
Belgium: 40,000
Yugoslavia: 26,000
Bulgaria: 14,000
Italy: 8,000
Luxembourg: 1,000
Norway: 900
Total: 5,907,900

- At the end of the war, all three women's branches of the service were discontinued and most of the 439 000 women workers in Canada lost their jobs. However, the example was set and the struggle for equal rights for women took a huge step forward. Veteran's programs helped pay for women to go to college or university and train for better jobs.
- The civil rights movement, looking for equality for minorities such as blacks and aboriginal groups, also got a huge lift from the efforts of their soldiers during the war. By the end of the war, Ontario and Alberta had introduced anti discrimination laws to protect all members of society.
- As a result of good planning by the Federal Government during the war, most Canadians felt that the federal government should have more control over issues in the country. Issues such as Universal Health Care and Unemployment Insurance were becoming federal policy, rather than just the goal of the CCF.
- Europe was no longer the power center of the world, seeing it now lay in ruins. After the war, the United States became the most powerful and thus most important western nation. Only the USSR could compete, and this set the two "superpowers" against each other for influence in the world. This was the beginning of the 'Cold War'era.
- After the war Canada became much closer to the United States. They become each other's closest trading partners. They make agreements to share in the defense of North America (ex: NORAD)
- Canada also takes on a more active world leadership role after WWII. We had the world's 3rd largest navy, and 4th largest air force. Canada took this on as a member of the newly formed United Nations.