



1 « Wait for me daddy! » Warren Bernard, 8 years old, next to his father, Jack Bernard, just before he leaves for the war in Europe. New Westminster, BC, October 1, 1942.

‘Remember when I joined the army [...]’

Clarence Bourassa, June 12 and August 6, 1940

‘If I had only listened to you when you asked me not to join up we would still be together, because they couldn’t force me to join. [...] Remember when I joined the army [...] you and the children going short on everything [...] Now, I’ve given you security... what a terrible cost to both of us.’

Canada independently declares war on Germany on September 10, 1939. In the Second World War, over one million Canadians serve in the armed forces, 700,000 of whom are under the age of 21. Of these Canadians, more than 45,000 are to die and 55,000 will be wounded. The large majority of these soldiers are volunteers, as conscription for overseas military service is only instituted in November 1944. Indigenous Peoples, women, and African and Asian Canadians participate actively, even if several groups still face discrimination in doing so.

In Canada too, the population contributes to the war effort in order to ensure the victory of the Allies. The first battles in which Canadian soldiers participate take place in Hong Kong, and are directed against the advance of the Japanese. The resulting defeat takes the lives of 290 soldiers and the imprisonment of the survivors. 260 of them do not survive their inhumane captivity. In the course of the Second World War, approximately 9,000 Canadians are captured.



2 « Attention! Ici, papa... » Warren Bernard, 8 ans, accanto con suo papà, Jack Bernard, justo avanzi son départ pour la guerre en Europe. New Westminster, Colombie-Britannique, le 1^{er} octobre 1942.

« Souviens-toi lorsque j’ai joint l’armée [...] »

Clarence Bourassa, 12 juin et 6 août 1940

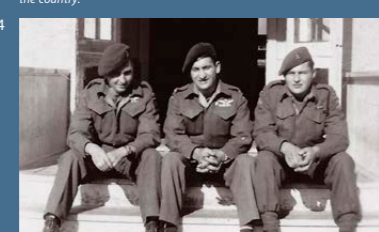
‘Si seulement je t’avais écouté quand tu me demandais de ne pas m’envoler nous serions encore ensemble, parce qu’ils ne pouvaient pas me forcer. [...] Souviens-toi lorsque j’ai joint l’armée [...] les enfants et toi manquez de tout [...] Maintenant je vous offre la sécurité... quel prix terrible pour chacun de nous.’

Le Canada déclare indépendamment la guerre à l’Allemagne le 10 septembre 1939. Durant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, plus d’un million de Canadiens et Canadiennes servent dans les forces armées dont environ 700 000 ont moins de 21 ans. Parmi ces Canadiens et Canadiennes, plus de 45 000 vont périr et 55 000 seront blessés. La grande majorité de ces militaires sont volontaires; la conscription pour le service outre-mer n’entre en fonction qu’en novembre 1944. Les peuples autochtones, les femmes et les Canadiens d’origine africaine et asiatique participent activement, même si certains groupes doivent faire face à de la discrimination.

Au Canada aussi la population participe à l’effort de guerre pour assurer la victoire des Alliés. Les premiers combats des soldats canadiens se font à Hong Kong, en Asie, contre l’avancée japonaise. Ce baptême du feu se solde par une défaite qui entraîne la mort de 290 soldats et l’emprisonnement des survivants. 260 d’entre eux ne survivront pas à leur inhumaine captivité. Durant la Seconde Guerre mondiale environ 9 000 Canadiens et Canadiennes sont faits prisonniers.



3 « Royal Wigwag » Frances Goodwin, née en 1924, participe au Royal Canadian Air Force (RCARF), une des unités militaires canadiennes en Europe pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale.



4 « Royal Wigwag » Frances Goodwin (à droite), avec sa sœur en 1942, en Asie, et sa sœur en 1942, en Asie, et sa sœur en 1942, en Asie.

5 Larry Stebbel (à droite de la seconde rangée), né en 1923 au Manitoba, est un des prisonniers de guerre canadiens capturés pendant le débarquement à Hong Kong en décembre 1941.



1 City of Vancouver Archives, LP 108, photographer Claude Delisle / City of Vancouver Archives, LP 108, photographe Claude Delisle
2 Private Collection of Trevor Sam / De la collection privée de Trevor Sam
3 Royal Wigwag (see above), The Memory Project, Historical Canada / Royal Wigwag (voir ci-dessus), Le Projet Mémoire, Historica Canada
4 Frances Goodwin, The Memory Project, Historical Canada / Frances Goodwin, Le Projet Mémoire, Historica Canada
5 Larry Edward Stebbel, The Memory Project, Historical Canada / Larry Edward Stebbel, Le Projet Mémoire, Historica Canada



1 Bodies of soldiers lying among damaged landing craft and Churchill tanks of the Calgary Regiment following Operation Jubilee.

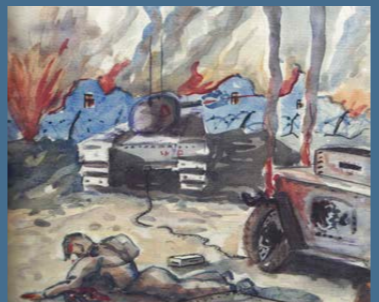
‘We saw evidence of recent battles [...]’

Louis MacDonald Cooper, August 18, 1944

‘We saw evidence of recent battles, burned-out tanks, dead farm animals rotting. Fields chewed up, trees scorched and shrubbery flattened [...] Tiny graveyards here and there by the roadside, with their rows of white crosses – some with a tin hat on top.’

Despite the actions in the Pacific, the greater part of Canada’s war effort is focused on Europe. The Dieppe Raid in France, takes place on August 19, 1942. The attack proves unsuccessful when the surprise fails. Nearly 70 per cent of the Canadian force became casualties, including 907 dead and 1,946 taken prisoner.

The Italian campaign from 1943-1945, on the other hand, is a military success. Allied forces, including some 93,000 Canadians, fight their way from the south to the north. They face German and Italian armies and severe meteorological conditions. Nonetheless, important battles are won by the Canadians, from the invasion of Sicily (1943), to the Battle of Ortona (1943) and the Battle in the Liri Valley (1944). 26,000 Canadians are wounded, and nearly 6,000 of them die. The Canadian troops do not participate in the final victory in Italy because they are transferred to northwest Europe from February 1945 onwards.



2 Paul Dumaine, né en 1927 au Québec, est engagé en France pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Il rejoint le Régiment de la Garde pendant l’opération Jubilee en août 1942. Il est blessé à la tête pendant l’attaque de la plage de Juno le 6 juin 1944.



3 Officers of the Royal 22^e Régiment de Grenadiers et de Carabiers, Ortona, Italie, January 26, 1944. Captain Paul Toupin (second from left) is seen in Ortona in 1945, receiving the Victoria Cross for his leadership in the determination in 1943.



4 « Un ancien combattant français de la Première Guerre mondiale accueille les Britanniques pendant une avancée en Normandie. »



1 Library and Archives Canada / C-011460 / Bibliothèque et Archives Canada / C-011460
2 Paul Dumaine, The Memory Project, Historical Canada / Paul Dumaine, Le Projet Mémoire, Historica Canada
3 Lionel Duggan, Dept. of National Defence / Library and Archives Canada / PA-130392 / Lionel D. Duggan, Canada, Ministère de la Défense nationale / Bibliothèque et Archives Canada / PA-130392
4 D-Day – the Assault, Painted by Ovile Norman Fisher, born in British Columbia in 1911. He became an official war painter in 1943. This painting from 1945 depicts the landing of the Allies on D-Day.
5 George A. Cooper / Canada, Dept. of National Defence / Library and Archives Canada / PA-131386 / George A. Cooper / Canada, Ministère de la Défense nationale / Bibliothèque et Archives Canada / PA-131386



1 Picture of young survivors of the Holocaust at Bergen-Belsen having a picnic in the summer of 1945, taken by Bernard Falk, born in Ontario in 1922. Such activities were organized by another member of his unit, Ted Agins.

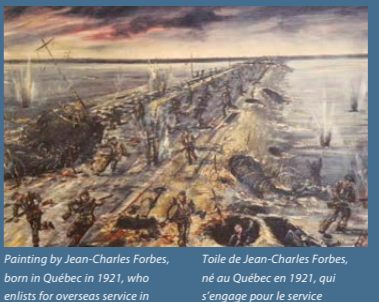
‘Are we free?’

Robert C. Jeffs, April 26, 1945

‘Each town that is cleared of Germans in Holland knows what Liberty is, [spontaneously] they sang their own national anthem. Every one of them in tears, because it was the first time the Dutch had heard their national anthem for almost six years. Every village or town we come to, the question is asked “Are we free?”’

In the course of the liberation of the Netherlands, between September 1944 and May 1945, the Germans are blocked on all sides. The First Canadian Army opens up the port of Antwerp to the Allies after fiercely fighting Nazi forces in the Scheldt estuary. From there on, they liberate the south of the Netherlands from October 1944 onwards. In early April 1945, the First Canadian Army advances into the northern Netherlands. Thanks to the Canadians and other Allied troops, the German forces occupying the Netherlands surrender on May 5, 1945, and so the whole country is liberated. Over 7,600 Canadians died fighting for the liberation of the Netherlands. The Dutch people still commemorate their liberators, and honour them with monuments and special celebrations.

During the Allied advance, some Canadians live through singular and unsettling experiences during the liberation of Nazi camps such as Westerbork (the Netherlands) and Bergen-Belsen (Germany).



2 « Young the First Canadian! » Un jeune canadien en son pays natal, le 26 avril 1945.



3 « Young the First Canadian! » Un jeune canadien en son pays natal, le 26 avril 1945.



4 Edward Sheppard, né en Saskatchewan en 1922, prend part à la libération du camp de concentration de Belsen le 12 avril 1945, ainsi qu’à la libération de la ville de Zeebe. Un homme qui fut capturé par les nazis pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale.



1 Ontario Jewish Archives, accession 2010-515, item 2-8 / Ontario Jewish Archives, accession 2010-515, article 428
2 Musée Armémémorial / Musée Armémémorial
3 Frances Goodwin, The Memory Project, Historical Canada / Frances Goodwin, Le Projet Mémoire, Historica Canada
4 Edward John “Ted” Sheppard, The Memory Project, Historical Canada / Edward John “Ted” Sheppard, Le Projet Mémoire, Historica Canada
5 Donald J. Grant / Canada, Dept. of National Defence / Library and Archives Canada / PA-136176 / Donald J. Grant / Canada, Ministère de la Défense nationale / Bibliothèque et Archives Canada / PA-136176