

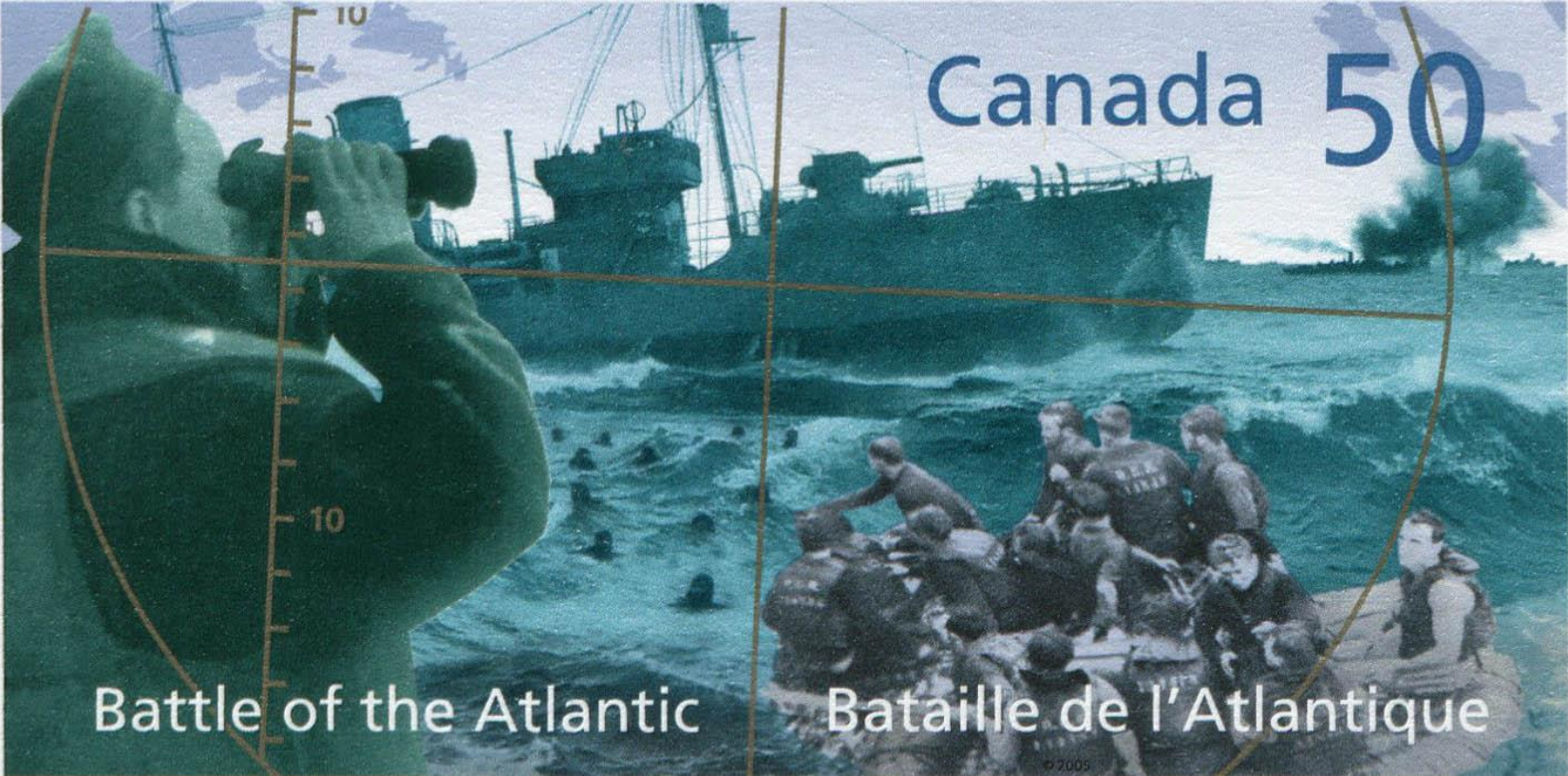


Canada's Contributions Abroad WWII



Battle of the Atlantic (1939-1945)

- Struggle between the Allied and German forces for control of the Atlantic Ocean. The Allies needed to keep the vital flow of men and supplies going between North America and Europe, where they could be used in the fighting, while the Germans wanted to cut these supply lines. To do this, German submarines, called U-boats, and other warships prowled the Atlantic Ocean sinking Allied transport ships.
- **Canada's Merchant Navy** was vital to the Allied cause during World War II; By the end of hostilities, in excess of 400 cargo ships had been built in Canada.
- More than 70 Canadian merchant vessels were lost. 1,600 merchant sailors were killed, including eight women.



Canada 50

Battle of the Atlantic

Bataille de l'Atlantique

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Battle of Britain (1940)

- Having lost its principal ally, Britain with its Dominions stood alone and awaited a German invasion.
- Enemy submarines, surface ships and aircraft threatened Britain's maritime lifelines; in the air the German Air Force outnumbered the British three to one.
- The Battle of Britain was the first battle of the Second World War fought mainly in the air. After nearly four months of anxious combat, the Royal Air Force's (RAF) Fighter Command stopped the German air force's attempt, in advance of a planned invasion, to dominate the skies over southern and eastern England. Hundreds of Canadian air and ground crew participated in the battle, most as members of the RAF.
- **Result:** Britain successfully defended!





The defence of Hong Kong (1941)

- Hong Kong was the first place Canadians fought a land battle in the Second World War.
- From 8 to 25 December 1941, almost 2,000 troops from Winnipeg and Québec City – sent to Hong Kong expecting little more than guard duty – fought bravely against the overwhelming power of an invading Japanese force.
- When the British colony surrendered on Christmas Day, 290 Canadians had been killed in the fighting. Another 264 would die over the next four years, amid the inhumane conditions of Japanese prisoner-of-war camps.







The Dieppe Raid (1942)

- Operation Jubilee was the first Canadian Army engagement in the European theatre of the war, designed to test the Allies' ability to launch amphibious assaults against Adolf Hitler's "Fortress Europe."
- Canadians made up the great majority of the attackers in the raid. Nearly 5,000 of the 6,100 troops were Canadians
- The raid was a disaster: More than 900 Canadian soldiers were killed, and thousands more were wounded and taken prisoner.
- Despite the bloodshed, the raid provided valuable lessons for subsequent Allied amphibious assaults on Africa, Italy and Normandy.

Gander was posthumously awarded the Dickin Medal for his sacrifice in Hong Kong





THE CANADIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

DIEPPE RAID



The Dieppe Raid

19 August 1942

Green Beach

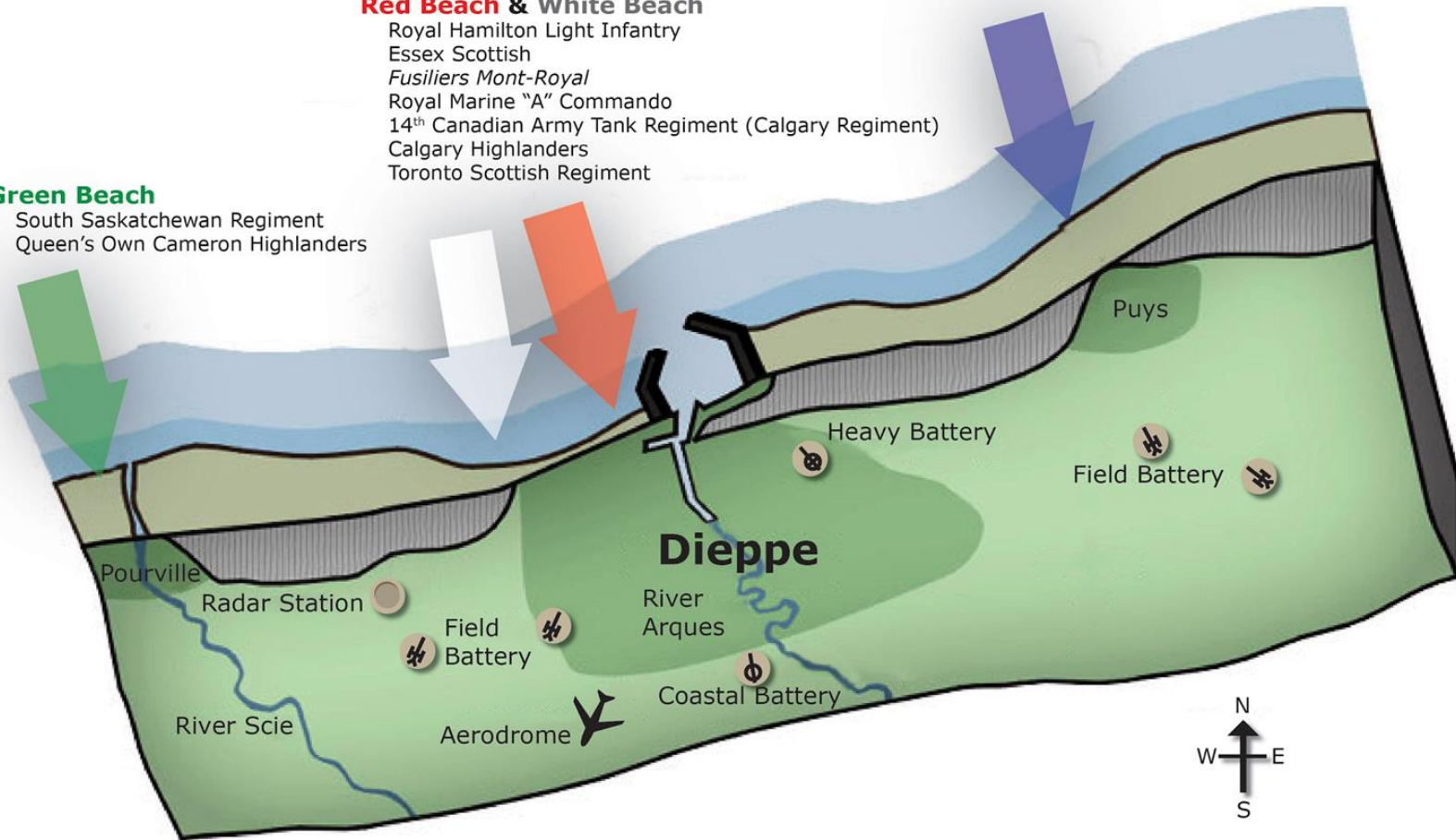
South Saskatchewan Regiment
Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

Red Beach & White Beach

Royal Hamilton Light Infantry
Essex Scottish
Fusiliers Mont-Royal
Royal Marine "A" Commando
14th Canadian Army Tank Regiment (Calgary Regiment)
Calgary Highlanders
Toronto Scottish Regiment

Blue Beach

Royal Regiment of Canada
The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)





The Italian Campaign (1943-1945)

- Canada's longest Second World War army campaign was in Italy.
- In July 1943, following the Allied invasion of Sicily, Benito Mussolini was arrested by order of King Victor Emmanuel III, provoking a civil war. Italy's military outside of the peninsula itself collapsed, its occupied and annexed territories falling under German control.
- Canadian forces served in the heat, snow and mud of the grinding, nearly two-year Allied battle across Sicily and up the Italian peninsula — facing difficult battles against some of the German army's best troops.
- Canadian casualties in the Italian Campaign totalled more than 26,000, nearly 6,000 of which were fatal.

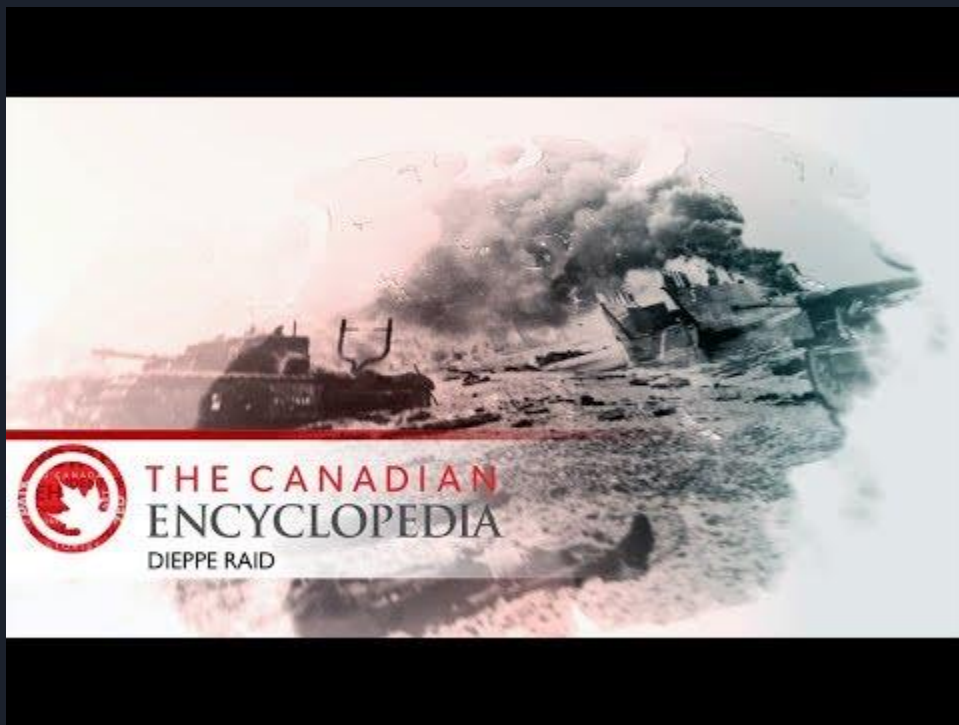






D-day and the Battle of Normandy (1944)

- Canadian sailors, soldiers and airmen played a critical role in the Allied *invasion of Normandy*, also called *Operation Overlord*, beginning the bloody campaign to liberate Western Europe from Nazi occupation
- Early 150,000 Allied troops landed or parachuted into the invasion area on *D-Day (or Operation Neptune)*, including 14,000 Canadians at *Juno Beach*. The Royal Canadian Navy contributed 110 ships and 10,000 sailors and the RCAF contributed 15 fighter and fighter-bomber squadrons to the assault.
- Total Allied casualties on D-Day reached more than 10,000, including 1,074 Canadians, of whom 359 were killed. By the end of the Battle of Normandy, the Allies had suffered 209,000 casualties, including more than 18,700 Canadians. Over 5,000 Canadian soldiers died.



THE CANADIAN
ENCYCLOPEDIA
DIEPPE RAID







The Newfoundland Regiment

- 22 000 volunteers from Newfoundland and Labrador served at sea, on land, and in the air during the Second World War. Some defended the home front, others fought on the front lines in Europe, North Africa, and the Far East.
- Others worked as merchant mariners transporting much-needed goods to Allied countries, or as loggers supplying timber products vital to the war effort.
- Newfoundland and Labrador would be vital strategically to the US; the first American troops arrived at St. John's in January 1941.
- In the months following, Newfoundland and Labrador became one of the most highly militarized places in North America as the United States spent more than \$100 million to build military bases in St. John's, Argentia, and Stephenville.





End of the War

- *WW2 ended with the unconditional surrender of the Axis forces.*
- *The Germans first surrendered on 29 April 1945 in Italy after Hitler's death and total, unconditional surrender was signed on the 7th of May.*
- *By the 8th of May, Winston Churchill announced that the War had come to an end in Europe by announcing Victory in Europe, a date that is still celebrated today.*
- *While people were celebrating in Europe, however, Japan still kept fighting. **The atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively on the 6th and the 9th of August, however forced the Japanese Emperor to also surrender.***

