

“Canada A People’s History: The Crucible”

The Crucible

- German dictator Adolf Hitler has launched his lightning war. Denmark and Norway are first to fall, then Holland, Luxembourg, Belgium. Now _____ crumbles.
- June 1940, Nazi Germany has Europe in its grip. Its forces mass at the English Channel poised to invade _____ a mere 21 miles away.
- Once Britain’s dependent colony, _____ is now its most important ally.
- In the dark summer of 1940, there is no shortage of volunteers. Women mobilize to defend the homeland. Many French-Canadians sign up, although most regiments are _____ institutions in language and tradition.
- Prime Minister Mackenzie King faces an excruciating dilemma. He has _____ French Canada he will never conscript men for overseas service. But, he must mobilize for all-out war.
- King crafts the National Resources Mobilization Act. It gives the government sweeping powers, but stops short of conscription for overseas service. Single men are called up to serve for _____ defence only. But many French-Canadians suspect it is the first step towards conscription.

The Razor’s Edge

- On August 8th 1940, Hitler unleashes the Luftwaffe to clear the way for his invasion of Britain. The Germans must destroy Allied _____ by the middle of September or winter weather and tides will delay invasion until spring. Churchill tells his island their survival is now at stake.
- A few hundred Allied fighter _____ stand in Hitler’s way.
- In their first week of battle, five Canadian planes are shot down. Canadian airmen are outgunned and _____.

- By the end of the day, Germany has lost the Battle of _____. Although British cities will be bombed nightly for the next six months, the threat of invasion is over and Canadians have proven themselves in their first battle of the war.

War Machine

- King has entrusted Howe with the task of achieving an industrial miracle, transforming a Canadian economy still crippled by the _____ into a mighty war machine. A former engineer who made a fortune building grain elevators, Howe is a man who gets things done.
- He assumes near dictatorial powers. He tells _____ what it will produce, how much, how fast and where.
- Almost half of the 7000 people who work at the aircraft plant are _____. For the first time, state-funded daycare centres are set up so mothers can work. The gates to a different life have opened and will never fully close again.
- Women leave the countryside for the cities where the giant warplants are located. They can earn as much as _____ dollars a week there – seven times the pay for a live-in domestic.
- Clarence Decatur Howe survives to build his war machine. But none of it counts unless it gets across the _____. The Canadians know it, the British know it, so do the Germans.

A Miserable, Rotten, Hopeless Life

- The seas are infested with deadly hunters. German _____ are sinking the Allied freighters that carry precious cargo across the Atlantic. They intend to strangle Britain into submission. Two years into the war, they are succeeding.

- The Canadian _____ is in the frontline of the fight against the U-boat. They must protect the giant convoys of freighters and their vital cargo. But the dock workers know many of the men and boys of the merchant ships will never come back.
- Fewer than half the _____ seamen survive the sinking of their ships. Freighters laden with iron ore, or oil, or explosives doom their entire crew. 3650 sailors and merchant seamen perish during the war.

A Rip In The Fabric

- The winter of 1942 brings bitter news. The Allies are _____ the war in Russia, North Africa, and the Pacific.
- Former Prime Minister Arthur Meighen has returned to lead the Conservative party. He heaps scorn on Prime Minister Mackenzie King's refusal to introduce _____.
- King is haunted by the conscription act of the _____ war which split the country and ruined the career of his mentor, Sir Wilfred Laurier. Meighen is the man who drafted that act. King fears and loathes him.
- 200 prominent industrialists, community leaders and clergy meet in Toronto to form the Committee for Total War. Although there is no _____ of soldiers, French-Canadians are not signing up at the same rate as English-Canadians.
- The group known as the Toronto 200 demand immediate conscription. English language newspapers, led by the Globe and Mail take up the cause. King tries to buy time; he announces a plebiscite that will ask Canadians to release his government from its no _____ promise. He hopes to diffuse his political opponents, but he has lit a fire in Quebec.

- André Laurendeau is the editor of the journal L'Action Nationale. At the age of 29 he is already one of French Canada's most important thinkers. He voices their sense of _____.
- 10,000 people rally at Saint James Market in Montreal. Labour, farm, youth, and community groups have formed La Ligue pour la defense du Canada. They are joined by Quebec's elite. The Ligue believes it is in the country's best interest to vote _____.
- In the street, loudspeakers are drowned out by passing streetcars. The crowd grows angry. When police arrive, a _____ breaks out. Some demonstrators are arrested, more are injured.
- In Quebec, many newspapers fear the loss of government advertising and do not support the no side. The publicly funded Radio Canada refuses to give the Ligue airtime. Government ads brand the no side as _____.
- The plebiscite has backfired. The country is riven by dispute. On April 27th, Canadians cast their ballots. Outside Quebec 80% vote yes to conscription. In Quebec _____ vote no. French-Canadians have lost the plebiscite, but gained a new sense of national solidarity.
- Mackenzie King does not intend to introduce conscription. He finds a way out in a phrase in a newspaper editorial, "not necessarily conscription, but conscription if _____." He adopts it as his slogan. The crisis has passed for the moment.

Dieppe

- By the summer of 1942 Canadian troops have been in England for almost three years waiting to go to war. But Allied high command has secret plans for them, a raid on _____. It will placate their Soviet allies, test German defences, and it will give the Canadian boys a taste of battle.

- On August 19th 1942, 5000 Canadian soldiers are heading for a small resort town on the French coast, its name is _____.
- 19 year old able seaman Albert Kirby from Woodstock Ontario pilots one of the landing crafts. The raid`s success depends on perfect execution and complete _____. As they approach France, Kirby sees the sky light up with tracer paths. “It appeared the enemy was awake and at action stations. Our hope of a surprise landing was dashed.” The plan has already gone awry.
- Dieppe is a German fortress flanked by towering cliffs. Sea and air bombardments have done only minor damage. The Germans are _____ for them.
- On the command ship out in the English Channel, Major-General Hamilton Roberts thinks his troops have penetrated German defences. He orders his reserves to land. It is a fateful mistake. The 600 men of Montreal`s Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal and their 29 year old commander Lieutenant-Colonel Dollard Menard have been sent into _____.
- Three hours later the order to _____ is finally given.
- Fewer than _____ of the Canadian soldiers who embarked for France return to England.
- At home, headlines proclaim the success of Dieppe. But casualty lists provide a telling rebuke. In one morning on a French beach 907 Canadians have died, 586 have been wounded, 1856 will spend the rest of the war in German _____ camps.

On The Attack

- After three desperate years, the Allies are on the attack in North Africa, in Russia, and in the air. British and Canadian _____ groups launch massive nighttime air assaults on German cities.

They are the most deadly of all Canada`s battles. Almost half a million civilians are killed in the immense firestorms. And almost 10,000 Canadian airmen die on the bombing runs.

- For the first time since Dieppe, Canadian land forces go into battle. In the summer of 1943 the Allies invade _____, Germany`s ally. That December the Canadians are ordered to take the Adriatic port that opens the way to Rome. Ortona will be a brutal testing ground for Canadian soldiers.
- The Canadians enter _____ four days before Christmas. Hitler orders his elite German paratroopers to defend the town at any cost and they do. It is a kind of fighting Canadian soldiers have never before experienced.
- Every street is a trap, every corner an _____. The Canadians blast their way forward through the houses of the town. They take Ortona room by room.
- Christmas day offers only a brief respite from the killing... Two days later the Canadians have beaten the best of the German army. But glory has its cost. Almost _____ men have died, battle exhaustion has rendered 1600 more incapable of fighting.

The Cauldron

- As the spring of 1944 turns to summer, the waiting ends. In the south of England 156,000 Allied troops prepare for battle, 15,000 _____ soldiers are among them.
- Operation Overlord is the largest invasion in human history. On Monday June 6th 1944, the Allies cross the English Channel. Canada`s soldiers are bound for the beaches of _____ and the liberation of a continent.

- D-Day is a triumph for Canadian soldiers. They _____ farther than any other Allied force. It is triumph won in blood. During the first six days on French soil almost 3000 Canadians are killed or wounded.
- During the summer of _____ the Germans have lost 400,000 men. Of 20,000 Hitler youth who marched into Normandy only 300 are left. The German army in Normandy has been decimated.
- More than _____ Canadians have died on the killing grounds of Normandy. Half of Charlie Martin`s regiment is among them. But they have helped bring a Nazi army to ruin.

The Diligent Tailor

- In September 1944 Canadian troops have reached Holland`s Scheldt Estuary. They are in their fourth month of fighting. The grim campaign through northwest Europe is taking longer and costing the lives of many more Canadians than expected. At home, support is growing for conscription. But Prime Minister Mackenzie King fears it will _____ the country.
- King announces he will send 16,000 of the men trained for _____ defence to fight overseas. Some protest the decision, others desert. 2400 of them reach the frontline. By the time they get there they are no longer really needed. The crisis has almost destroyed the government, but King and the country have survived.

The Price Of Victory

- The spring of 1945 brings freedom to the people of Europe. The _____ embrace their Canadian liberators with overwhelming joy and gratitude. War`s long agony is almost over.
- As Allied armies march through a vanquished _____ they find unimagined evil.
- The Nazis have taken the lives of six million _____.

- During the war only 450 Jews fleeing the _____ are given asylum in Canada.
- Three months after the defeat of Germany, the end of the Second World War is heralded with indescribable horror in _____. On August 6th the Americans drop the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. The war has scarred the world like no other and stolen the innocence from an entire generation.