



### Women of the “Bombes”

Read about the [Women of the “Bombes”](https://valourcanada.ca/military-history-library/women-of-the-bombes/) (<https://valourcanada.ca/military-history-library/women-of-the-bombes/>) on Valour Canada’s military history library online and answer the following:

#### For young learners (Grades 4 to 7)

1. What was the enigma machine? What does the word “enigma” mean? Which nation used the enigma machine?
2. What was a “bombe”? Which nations contributed to the breaking of the code?
3. How were the two Canadian women in the article involved in the breaking of the Enigma Code? Why was their work at Bletchley Park important?
4. Create a list of advantages and disadvantages to working on covert secrets during the war. What kind of tension could this have created between families and friends?

#### For advanced learners (Grade 8 and up)

5. The activities that occurred at Bletchley Park and the events that led to the breaking of the Enigma Code were classified until the 1970s. Create a list of reasons for this and arrange them in order from most important to least.
6. Research women’s military intelligence contributions during the Second World War. Pay attention to diary entries or interviews conducted with women who served by working in intelligence. How did their work differ from their male counterparts? Why was their work important – keeping in mind the historical context of women in the public vs. private sphere. Compose your answer in paragraph form.