

MONUMENTAL CANADIANS LESSON PLANS & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT NAVIGATOR TERRY TAERUM, DFC



NAME: Torger Harlo “Terry” Taerum

BORN: 22 May 1920

DECEASED: 16 Sept 1943

EPIC BATTLE: Operation Chastise

RANK: Flight Lieutenant Navigator

HONOURS: Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC)

LESSON OUTCOMES:

- Learn about Flight Lieutenant Navigator Terry Taerum and the 1943 Dambusters raid
- Practice research and historical thinking skills

ACTIVITY:

After watching Valour Canada’s [Terry Taerum and the Dambusters video](#), research and answer the following questions based on the historical thinking skills outlined in *Teaching Historical Thinking Revised and expanded* edition.

Historical Significance:

What was the significance of the Dambusters raid to the Second World War?

Evidence and Interpretation:

Assess Valour Canada’s account of this historical event using various other sources. Do other sources corroborate or contradict this account?

Continuity and Change:

Identify whether or not the Dambusters raid was a turning point in the war.

Cause and Consequence:

What were the direct and indirect consequences of the Dambusters raid?

Historical Perspective:

What was the rationale for the Dambusters raid?

Ethical Judgement:

Determine whether the Dambusters raid was ethical. Consider whether the raid was a reasonable action to achieve the desired ends, and if the rights and interests of affected parties were adequately considered.

“Their mission, Operation Chastise, was to breach three major hydro dams on the heavily defended Ruhr River that powered Germany’s industrial heartland. If the bombs worked and the dams crumbled, they hoped to permanently cripple German war production and shorten the war. The odds were long.”

-From Valour Canada’s *Terry Taerum and the Dambusters*
(Image credit: Neilhooting, <https://flickr.com/photos/86507786@N00/1425070838>, cc-by-2.0)

Objectives:

Our Intention is to educate Canadian Citizens so that they:

- » Appreciate the role of our military heritage in protecting Canadian interests, values and beliefs.
- » Understand the role our military history has had in shaping our country and the world.
- » Are inspired to be engaged and well-informed participatory citizens of Canada.

Intended Student Body:
Intermediate & Advanced
Grades

Resource Required:

- Valour Canada’s Terry Taerum video clip (6m:38) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12aIXaRIFd4>

Credit:

- Stipp, Stefan, Gibson Lindsay, Denos Mike, Case Roland, and Miles James. *Teaching Historical Thinking Revised and expanded edition*. Vancouver, BC: The Critical Thinking Consortium, 2017.

