

# The Dieppe Raid (Operation Jubilee):

## A Virtual Tour for Students

- **EDUCATION PACKAGE** (for Gr. 11 & up) -

### Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this four-part education module, students will:

- ✚ Describe the Dieppe Raid, its purpose, and its outcome, during the Second World War
- ✚ Evaluate the Canadian news media's reporting of the Dieppe Raid in its immediate aftermath (an article from the academic journal *Canadian Military History* will be used as a resource) and contrast those first accounts with the contemporary Dieppe narrative
- ✚ Craft a critical reading & thinking strategy that could be used by a reader when consuming information from any source

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- Valour Canada

## Instruction Guide for Valour Canada's "Dieppe Raid Virtual Tour"

### Program Description

Valour Canada presents an educational virtual tour (VT) of the beaches of Dieppe and the Dieppe Raid in 1942. This is a four-part program with the fourth being a culminating discussion. Students may begin by completing either part 1 or 2, but both 1 and 2 should be completed before proceeding to the journal reading (i.e., part 3).

**Setup:** Distribute the worksheet handout (see p.5) to each student. The 'answer key' is on p.4.

### **Part 1: Article Reading: "Dieppe Raid" (Canadian Encyclopedia) (5 minutes)**

Prior to completing the virtual tour, each student will read the Canadian Encyclopedia's entry for the Dieppe Raid (see [www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/dieppe-raid](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/dieppe-raid) or p.6-9 in this package) and then complete part 1 on the worksheet handout.

### **Part 2: Virtual Tour (15 minutes)**

Students will complete the virtual tour of Dieppe ([www.valourcanada.ca/vr/Dieppe/](http://www.valourcanada.ca/vr/Dieppe/)) and then will answer the question in part 2 of the worksheet. It may be useful to prompt students to read that part of the worksheet prior to navigating the tour so that they know what to watch for during the tour. Students can navigate through the VT using a virtual reality headset, laptop, or mobile device.

### **Part 3: Journal Reading: "Dieppe The Making of a Myth" (2015 CMH Journal) (20-30 minutes)**

After completing the virtual tour, each student will read the Canadian Military History journal's entry: *Dieppe The Making of a Myth* (article is downloadable via [Wilfred Laurier University](http://WilfredLaurierUniversity.com); Author: Béatrice Richard). Following the reading, students will complete the task set out in part 3 of the worksheet using a separate piece of paper or using Microsoft Word.

### **Part 4: Culminating Activity: Group Debrief (10-15 minutes)**

A discussion will occur within the group. Students should be prompted with statements like:

- What did you like/dislike about the tour?
- During completion of the tasks which piece(s) of information had the most impact on you? Explain.
- Having completed these tasks, what will you remember one month from now about \_\_\_\_\_? (e.g., the tour, the Dieppe Raid/Operation Jubilee, Dieppe veterans, the Richard article, etc.)
- What do you think would have been the most intimidating/surprising/disappointing event for the soldiers/airmen during Operation Jubilee? Explain.
- In your opinion which 'lesson learned' was most important for future successes by the Allies? Explain.

## General Information and Recommendations

- **Vocabulary:** Basic terminology is used, but young or English-as-a-second-language learners may need some additional support with some words (e.g., convoy, casino, landing craft, Luftwaffe, . . .).
- **Preparation:** Computers, tablets, headsets, and other devices should be tested prior to beginning the tour portion of the program.
- **Adaption/Scaffolding Options:** Parts 1, 3, and 4 can be adapted on the fly at the discretion of the teacher.
- **Debrief:** The primary goal is for the learning outcomes (shown on the title page) to be verbalized by the students during the culminating debrief with minimal prompting.
- **Logistical Demands and Suggestions:**
  - Space: Standard classroom size, with access to computers, tablets, and/or VR headsets
  - Group Size: Standard class size
  - Age: 16 years and up (Gr. 11 +)

**If lacking an adequate number of computers, tablets, or headsets**, the class can be divided into three groups that can then be cycled through parts 1 and 2. Then all students can be brought back together for the Culminating Debrief/Discussion Activity (i.e., Part 4).

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## Tether-points between Provincial Curricula and the Program's Content

Note: Depending on the province/territory, identical topics may be found under entirely different subjects. For example, *Canada in the First World War* is covered in MB's Gr.11 Social Studies, SK's Gr. 10 History, and ON's Gr. 10 Canadian History since WWI.

### History (and Civics)

- Conflict: World War II; Dieppe; Operation Jubilee; Fortress Europe/Atlantic Wall
- Citizenship; Heritage

### Social Studies/Sciences (and Human Geography)

- Canadian Identity; Nationalism
- International Relations, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> century; Alliances and Rivalries
- Canadian 20<sup>th</sup> century contributions to global stability

### Character (or Values) Education

- AB's *Caring, Respectful, and Safe Schools*, ON's *Finding Common Ground*, MB's *Safe and Caring Schools*, BC and YK's *Core Competencies*, NB's *Inclusive Education*, et cetera, all communicate traits held by productive citizens. These include collaboration, empathy, respect, communication, responsibility, leadership, community, appropriate behavior, fairness, and personal development.

### **Positive Character Traits Modeled during this Program**

Communication, Cooperation, Courage, Resilience, Responsibility, Thoughtfulness



Any questions, concerns, feedback, or suggestions are always welcome.

Contact Valour Canada at: [educator@valourcanada.ca](mailto:educator@valourcanada.ca)



## The DIEPPE RAID: Educator's Guide for the Worksheet

Educators: Please use this page as your 'answer key' for the student worksheet (see next page).

### Part 1: Read the Canadian Encyclopedia's "Dieppe Raid" entry and answer the following:

Date of the Raid: 19 August 1942 (day, month, year), during Canada's 3rd year of the war, but they had not yet fought in the European theatre of the war.

Purpose of the Raid (record at least 3):

- test the enemy's defenses
- practice an amphibious assault
- harass the enemy/draw German strength away from the Eastern Front (i.e., help Russians)
- destroy enemy ports

The Physical Geography of the Battlefield:

German forces needed only to defend the port towns (Puys, Dieppe, and Pourville) because high cliffs separated the coastal settlements and virtually ensured that any attacks originating from the English Channel would have to access the towns from the rocky beaches.

Lessons Learned (record at least 3):

- Air superiority and naval artillery support were required
- Over-reliance on tanks
- Surprising the enemy was important, but only one piece of the puzzle
- Required: Better intelligence (about the enemy and the battlefield) and communication
- Required: specialized landing craft

Cost (Canadian lives): 907 soldiers died, 1946 taken prisoner, 10 pilots were lost.

### Part 2: Complete the virtual tour of Dieppe and answer the following:

If it was your job to defend the coast against attacks from the Allies, where would you build your defensive/offensive installations? Why?

*- Students should have written an answer similar to the following: on the hills that are protected by the cliffs. This positioning is topographically strong and is noticeable during the virtual tour.*

### Part 3: Read the journal article "Dieppe The Making of a Myth" and complete the following:

Given what you have learned from the author (Béatrice Richard) about how the Dieppe Raid was communicated by the media to the Canadian public, create a 5-point "Best Practices: Critical Reading & Thinking Strategy" that would be beneficial for a person to follow when consuming information in order to more quickly identify ulterior motives of the creator.

This is an open question designed to get the student thinking about how they can be vigilant in their search for bias when they consume media. Educators should look for a mixture of the following in the student responses:

- Identify who (person, organization, etc.) has created/presented the content.
- Establish whether the content was paid (if so, who paid and who received compensation) and whether this might impact the content in any way.
- Determine the age of the content and where the reader could go to check accuracy.
- Ascertain whether there are any red herrings, omissions, or inconsistencies.
- Evaluate whether the created message has a purpose and whether certain aims were promoted and/or detracted.



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# The DIEPPE RAID: Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 1: Read the Canadian Encyclopedia’s “Dieppe Raid” entry and answer the following:

Date of the Raid: \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_, during Canada’s \_\_rd year of the war, but they had not yet fought in the \_\_\_\_\_ theatre of the war.

Purpose of the Raid (record at least 3):

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

The Physical Geography of the Battlefield:

German forces needed only to defend the port towns (Puys, Dieppe, and Pourville) because \_\_\_\_\_ separated the coastal settlements and virtually ensured that any attacks originating from the \_\_\_\_\_ Channel would have to access the towns from the rocky \_\_\_\_\_.

Lessons Learned (record at least 3):

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Cost (Canadian lives): \_\_\_\_ soldiers died, \_\_\_\_ taken prisoner, \_\_\_\_ pilots were lost.

## Part 2: Complete the virtual tour of Dieppe and answer the following:

If it was your job to defend the coast against attacks from the Allies, where would you build your defensive/offensive installations? Why?

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## Part 3: Read the journal article “Dieppe The Making of a Myth” and complete the following:

Given what you have learned from the author (Béatrice Richard) about how the Dieppe Raid was communicated to the Canadian public by the mainstream media, create a 5-point “Best Practices: Critical Reading & Thinking Strategy” that would be beneficial for a person to follow when consuming information in order to more quickly identify any potential ulterior motives of the creator.

## The Dieppe Raid

Alex Herd, from <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/dieppe-raid>

During the Second World War, on 19 August 1942, the Allies launched a major raid on the French coastal port of Dieppe. 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." 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.



### Testing Fortress Europe

By the summer of 1942, Canada had been at war with Germany for nearly three years, but its army had yet to see any action, except during the failed defence of Hong Kong. Thousands of fresh Canadian soldiers waiting in Britain were eager to get involved in the fight against Germany.

The British and Americans were fighting in North Africa, but the Soviet Union was pressuring the Allies to invade Nazi-occupied western Europe, to ease the burden on the Red Army struggling against Germany's invasion of Russia.

The Allies were not yet ready for a full-scale assault on mainland Europe. Instead, Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister, wanted to mount commando-style raids against occupied France as a way of harassing the enemy. Churchill and Royal Air Force commanders also believed that such raids, supported by Allied aircraft, would draw the Luftwaffe, the German air force, into battle — thus wearing down the Luftwaffe and drawing its planes and pilots away from the Russian front.

Louis Mountbatten, a senior British naval officer and relative of the Royal Family, had been appointed to advise British commanders on the relatively new military tactic of using co-ordinated naval, air and land forces in "combined operations" attacks. Mountbatten proposed a raid on the town of Dieppe — to probe German defences on the coast of France, and to test the Allies' ability to mount an amphibious assault, using combined forces, against Adolf Hitler's "Fortress Europe." The plan was to take Dieppe, hold a perimeter around the town, destroy the harbour facilities, and then withdraw by sea.

### 2nd Canadian Division

Lieutenant-General Harry Crerar and other senior Canadian army commanders endorsed the plan and offered up troops for the raid. Not only were Canadian soldiers stationed in Britain itching for a taste of combat, but domestic opinion at home was eager to see the Canadian Army finally involved in the European war.

Launched across the English Channel from southern England, Operation Jubilee (as the raid was called) involved more than 6,000 soldiers — 4,963 of them Canadian, plus 1,075 British troops, 15 French nationals and hundreds of airmen and sailors from Canada, Britain, and the United States.

The 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, led by Major-General J.H. Roberts, formed the bulk of the infantry assault force. As Roberts told his troops before the raid — "Don't worry men, it'll be a piece of cake," — a comment that would haunt him for years afterwards.





## Tragedy on the Beaches

In the early morning hours of 19 August, the Allies arrived off the French coast on a naval task force of 237 ships and landing craft. Although the shoreline of Dieppe itself is relatively flat, the town is bookended on both sides by high, chalky-white cliffs rising directly from the beaches. From these cliffs, heavy German guns and machine guns situated inside concrete bunkers guarded the port and its surrounding beaches.

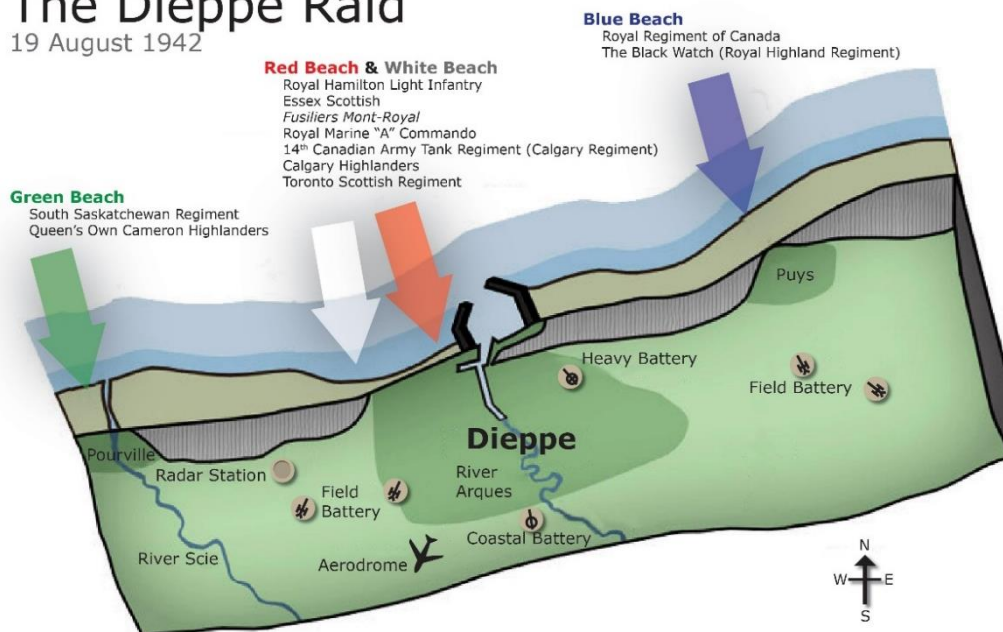
The Canadians assaulted Dieppe at four designated sections. At Blue Beach, below the village of Puys (1.6 km east of Dieppe), troops of The Royal Regiment of Canada and The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada arrived late in their bid to take out enemy artillery and machine. From the start the enemy pinned down the Canadians and shot them up until the raid was over.

On the other side of the town at Green Beach, by the village of Pourville (4 km west of Dieppe), the South Saskatchewan Regiment arrived on time and in the dark. Unfortunately, the part of the unit tasked with reaching a radar station and anti-aircraft guns to the east of Pourville landed on the west side of the River Scie, which ran through the village. These troops had to cross the river on Pourville's only bridge, which the Germans ferociously defended. Ultimately, both the South Saskatchewans and Cameron Highlanders of Canada were pushed back.

At Red and White Beaches directly in front of the main port, the Essex Scottish and Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (RHLI) regiments landed without their armoured support, the 14th Canadian Army Tank Regiment (the Calgary Tanks), which was late. The enemy, from higher ground and in the town's beachfront casino, hit these units hard. Some infantry managed to get off the beach and enter Dieppe, but the Canadians also failed to achieve their objectives here.

## The Dieppe Raid

19 August 1942



On a ship offshore, Maj.-Gen. Roberts, believing that more troops had made their way into Dieppe than was true, sent his reserve unit, the Fusiliers Mont-Royal, to take advantage. This regiment was also destroyed.

Meanwhile, the Calgary Tanks that did arrive onshore were restricted in their movement, many becoming bogged down by the shingle beach (consisting of large pebbles, known as chert). Some tanks made it into the town, but their guns were unable to destroy the enemy's concrete barriers that lay in their path. Those tanks that survived the assault provided covering fire for the force's evacuation.



### High Costs

The raid was over by mid-day. In nine hours, 907 Canadian soldiers were killed, 2,460 were wounded, and 1,946 were taken prisoner. That is more prisoners than the Canadian Army would lose in 11 months of fighting during the Northwest Europe campaign of 1944-1945. Fewer than half the Canadians who departed for Dieppe made it back to England.

The British lost 300 men killed, wounded, and taken prisoner, and there were 550 Allied naval casualties. In the air battle overhead, the Royal Canadian Air Force lost 13 planes and 10 pilots, out of 106 Allied aircraft and 81 airmen lost overall.

Only British commandos, assigned to subdue coast artillery batteries to the east and west of Dieppe, enjoyed some success. And for the Canadians, the day was not without heroism. Honorary Captain J.W. Foote of the RHLI, and Lieutenant-Colonel C.C.I. Merritt of the South Saskatchewan both received the Victoria Cross, the British Empire's highest award for military valour. Foote, a chaplain, helped care for wounded troops under fire. Merritt bravely led his men over the Pourville bridge and later commanded a rearguard that allowed some troops to escape. Both were taken prisoner.

German casualties were light, other than the 48 aircraft lost after the Luftwaffe was drawn into battle.

### Critical Lessons

Allied commanders knew the raid was risky. But none imagined it would be such a terrible failure, with so much loss of life. The planners believed the element of surprise would allow landing troops to overcome German defenders and occupy the town, before withdrawing. Little thought was given to the importance of air superiority and the need for overwhelming firepower, including artillery support from naval warships. The assaulting infantry had only light destroyers firing at the Germans from offshore; no battleships or cruisers were made available for the raid, nor heavy bombers overhead.

Instead, strategists put their faith in the power of tanks. Tanks had spearheaded the German blitzkrieg across Europe in 1940. Two years later, tanks were seen as providing a crucial advantage in modern warfare. More than two dozen tanks would land on Dieppe's beaches beside the infantry, and this, planners said, would make all the difference. However, of the 29 tanks that attempted to land, only 15 made it off the beaches and reached the town's promenade. Their guns were not powerful enough to knock out German fortifications.

Said Second World War historian Terry Copp: "Army planners were still mesmerized by the vision of tanks as the decisive weapon of war, and surprise as a substitute for overwhelming firepower."

Despite its failure, the raid provided valuable lessons for the Allies. It erased the idea that surprise and tanks were enough to succeed in an amphibious assault against occupied France. Two years later, the D-Day landings would be backed up by massive naval artillery support, dominance over the skies, and heavy firepower — three essential factors missing at Dieppe.

Dieppe also made clear the difficulties of assaulting a well-defended port, as well as the need for better intelligence on beach conditions and German defences, better communication between infantry on the beach and commanders offshore, and the need for specialized landing craft and tanks able to overcome beach obstacles. These lessons would be implemented in later amphibious assaults in North Africa, Italy, and Normandy.



## Memory

The sacrifices of Canadians at Dieppe are well remembered. Few Canadian military engagements have been as attentively researched and documented by historians.

Today, the town of Dieppe is filled with maple leaf flags and Canadian symbols, and its seafront promenade holds a park and several memorials to the regiments that came ashore in 1942. The Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery also holds the graves of 944 Allied servicemen and women, including 707 Canadians.

Perhaps the finest tribute to the men who fought and died at Dieppe is the official report on the battle in 1942 by the German army: "The enemy, almost entirely Canadian soldiers, fought — so far as he was able to fight at all — well and bravely."