



RECALLING D-DAY: CHARLES DALTON

At 0800 hours on June 6th, 1944, the brave soldiers of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division first stepped onto the sands of Juno Beach in Normandy, France. Many of these men lost their lives storming the 10km wide beach, but because of their tremendous sacrifice Operation Overlord was a remarkable success.

section of Juno Beach. Although Major Dalton has since passed away (in Toronto in 1999), he was able to leave us with a vivid image of the events through his testimony when he recounts those momentous first events on Juno Beach: "When I said, "Follow me!" and dashed down the ramp into 6 feet of water, I disappeared."

... cont'd on page 2



Soldiers of the 8th Brigade storming the beach at Bernieres, 6 June 1944 (Credit: LAC M# 3408540).

One of the brave men present that day was Major Charles Osborne Dalton who led 'B' Company of The Queen's Own Rifles Regiment. At 0812 hours that morning, the Queen's Own came ashore on NAN White

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



- **MILITARY HISTORY ARTICLE: RECALLING D-DAY: CHARLES DALTON**
- **WORD GAME**
- **HOW TO CONTRIBUTE**
- **ORGANIZATION UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS**



... cont'd from page 1

Recollections such as this were commonplace for those desperately trying to exit the landing crafts on June 6th, 1944.

Finally, after reaching the beach, Major Dalton was faced with a new fear. "We scrambled up the beach and when I looked back, I was horrified to see that there was nobody following me . . . I thought they had gone to ground, but in fact they were lying at the water's edge and Germans were firing at them as they lay wounded."

As the minutes passed, casualties continued to mount for 'B' company, as well as for the rest of the units involved in Operation Overlord that were spread across the five Normandy beaches. While trying to clear a strong fortification with firing machine gun (a pillbox), Major Dalton was struck in the head

by a shot from a German Officer's 9mm pistol. After taking the pillbox, his wound would prevent him from any further participation on D-Day. The remaining soldiers of 'B' Company continued to fight until 1200 hours.

There were enormous losses. In fact, according to Dalton "within 10 minutes, of the 120 men I had with me, we were all wounded or killed." Those numbers only account for a small fraction of the soldiers present.

In total, Canada suffered 961 casualties, a number that includes 340 fatalities, and accounts for 4% of the 24,450 Canadian soldiers taking part in Operation Overlord. Without the sacrifice made by these brave soldiers, Canada would not have been able to achieve their goals during the Normandy Invasion.

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CROSSWORD CLUES

1. (3RD) CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISION
2. NORMANDY
3. MULBERRY HARBOUR
4. CAEN
5. OMAHA BEACH
6. UTAH BEACH
7. GOLD BEACH
8. JUNO BEACH
9. SWORD BEACH
10. ARMOURED BRIGADE
11. OVERLORD
12. PARATROOPERS
13. EISENHOWER
14. KELLER
15. ROYAL WINNIPEG RIFLES
16. BENY-SUR-MER
17. CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY
18. (1ST) CANADIAN PARACHUTE BATTALION

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE



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Purpose: To support Canadian students in their post-secondary educational pursuits.

Awards: 1st Place = \$1,500
2nd Place = \$750

Topic: Visit a local Canadian war memorial or monument and analyze its historical context, significance, and current meaning. Finish with a brief discussion about the role of Canadian war memorials in the 21st century.

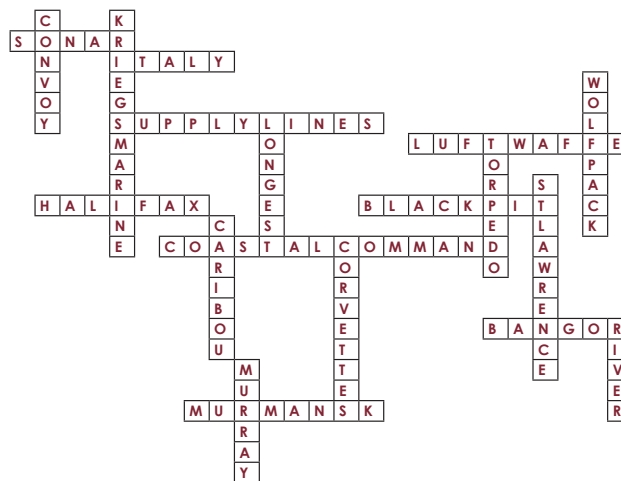
DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY JUNE 16TH

****Submissions must include an introduction, an essay and a short YouTube-compatible video. For a FULL list of requirements, and to determine eligibility, please [visit this page](#).**

EVENTS:

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our recent events - the Online Pub Quiz in March, the Vimy Ridge Talk in April, the Virtual Beer Tasting & Pub Quiz in May and the Juno Beach Online Historical Tour in June. Each event was a success, and we are so pleased you could join us! **Stay tuned for more events coming this fall!**

MAY 2020 CROSSWORD ANSWERS:



QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS?

We would love to hear from you! Please send any comments, questions or suggestions by emailing: contact@valourcanada.ca.

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