

Prairie Involvement in the Second World War

Grade Level: Grade 10 to 12 History

Province: Saskatchewan – adaptable ideas for other provinces

Objectives:

To create student understanding and knowledge of two Saskatchewan regiments which included Craik and District Area individuals. Students will then examine the specific actions of the Regina Rifles at two specific times during the Second World War. Research will be completed based upon historical readings, internet information and images and personal stories. Upon completion of the lessons, Lee Windsor's simulation of "Operation Spring" will be re-enacted.

Student learning goals

- The students will examine the military crib sheet to understand and identify the unit organization of the different military groups.
- The students will access the internet sites of the Regina Rifles and the South Saskatchewan Regiment to learn about the creation of the both military groups.
- The students will complete an online activity on the types of weapons used on land
- The students will examine maps and images of the beaches and German weaponry used on the Normandy beaches.
- To examine War Intelligence documents for June 6th, 1944 from the Regina Rifles homepage.
- To compile information on the

Resources

Books:

Copp, Terry, Mike Bechthold , *The Canadian Battlefields in Normandy*, 3rd edition, LCMSDS, 2008

Copp Terry, *Fields of Fire*, University of Toronto Press, 1998

Internet:

www.reginarifles.ca

www.members.shaw.ca/junobeach/juno-4.4-htm

www.junobeach.org/e/4/can-tac-e.htm

www.vac-acc.gc.ca

www.cap.estevan.sk.ca/SSR/ South Saskatchewan Regiment

<http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/royal-regina-rifles.html> Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan

<http://warchronicle.com/units/Canadian/3rd/order-of-battle.htm> Canadian Third Division D-Day Order of Battle

<http://warchronicle.com/canadian-third-div/soldierstories-wwii/dickin.htm> Glenn Dodsworth Dicken killed on D-Day

<http://warchronicle.com/Canadian-third-div/regimentals-wwii/regina-normandy.htm>

Up the Johns

<http://www.cbc.ca/canad/saskatchewan/story/2009/06/04/d-day-regina-rifle.html> Remember the Farmer Johns

[http://warchronicle.com/canadian third div/officialrecords wwii/regina pics.htm](http://warchronicle.com/canadian%20third%20div/officialrecords%20wwii/regina%20pics.htm) Regina Rifles Picture file

[http://warchronicle.com/canadian third.../reginas normandy.htm](http://warchronicle.com/canadian%20third.../reginas%20normandy.htm) Up the Johns History of the Regina Rifles in Normandy – Abbey stories

<http://www.normandie44lamemoire.com/versionanglaise/fichesvillesus/brettputnorus2.html>
Bretteville'Orgueilleuse/Norrey/Putot-En-Bessin

Lesson One

Identify two regiments from Saskatchewan.

Students will be placed in small groups or pairs to complete this representational assignment. They will have the option of creating one of the following: a poster, a brochure, a power point, or a multimedia (adobe or mac presentation). We will be adding to our information as we examine the battles. However, lesson one involves finding out about the history of the regiment, the location of the regiment and the achievements of the regiments. Images, information and presentation will be considered for evaluation.

[http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/royal regina rifles.htm](http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/royal%20regina%20rifles.htm) Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan

[http://warchronicle.com/canadian third div/officialrecords wwii/regina pics.htm](http://warchronicle.com/canadian%20third%20div/officialrecords%20wwii/regina%20pics.htm) Regina Rifles Picture file

Lesson Two

Examining the Military Crib Sheet handout for unit organization/weapons/commanders.

See attachment: military crib sheet final. The students will read and highlight information concerning the organization /weapons/commanders. They will identify where the Regina Rifles and the South Saskatchewan Regiments were established.

Students will then proceed online to the types of weapons used on land.

The information can be found on the Juno Beach Centre website at: www.junobeach.org

On the upper far right click on Canada in WWII. Follow the Links

- a) "Arms & Weapons" to
- b) "On Land" to
- c) "Infantry"

See attachment for questions that were prepared by Patrick Easton, Ottawa Catholic Schools. You have his permission to use them. Attachment "Arms and Weapons on Land"

Lesson Three

D-Day

Having completed lecture notes, maps and readings on D-Day – Juno Beach, students will read segments of the Regina Rifles participation at Courseulles-sur-Mer. (The Canadian Battlefields in Normandy - A Visitor's Guide 3rd edition – pages 19-23)

(The 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade – Regina Rifles – Battalion Commander F.M. Matheson "worked hard to train junior leaders and maintain high morale. The Canscots and Reginas proved to be two of the

most effective battalions involved in the Normandy campaign in any army.” Pg 24, Fields of Fire –Terry Copps Pg 49-51)



CBC News - In-depth Backgrounder D-Day.url

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2009/06/02/f-dday-history.html> or attachment **cbc juno**

Read excerpts of the day from the War Diary accessible on www.reginarifles.ca

Students will now add information to their representational project work.

Maps of the beaches clearly identifying where the Regina Rifles landed and what they accomplished.

The Canadian Battlefields in Normandy, 3rd edition, LCMSDS, 2008 (pages 15 -23)

Additional search: Awards: Who won a DSO www.reginarifles.ca

D-Day Highlights – Veteran Affairs Canada - www.vac-acc.gc.ca/.../Normandy/norm_report/dday - 25k

Heroes Remembered – John Hall – Veteran Affairs Canada

http://warchronicle.com/units/Canadian/3rd/order_of_battle.htm Canadian Third Division D-Day Order of Battle

http://warchronicle.com/canadian_third_div/soldierstories_wwii/dickin.htm Glenn Dodsworth Dicken killed on D-Day

http://warchronicle.com/Canadian_third_div/regimentals_wwii/regina.normandy.htm

Up the Johns

<http://www.cbc.ca/canad/saskatchewan/story/2009/06/04/d-day-regina-rifle.html> Remember the Farmer Johns

Lesson Four

My soldier’s presentation for the Battlefields Tour was at the Abbey D’Ardenne. Therefore, I will use my soldier presentation, including the archive documents, with my students and display the charcoal sketch of the Trooper George Vincent Gill’s headstone. The students will then complete readings on the Regina Rifles involvement in the capturing of the abbey. The Battle for Caen, Chapter 5, Fields of Fire and *The Canadian Battlefields in Normandy* (pgs 60-66)

Soldier Reading from Gordon Brown (can’t find the excerpt again – I have a hard copy of “The Capture of the Abbaye D’Ardenne by the Regina Rifles, 8 July 1944”

Students will complete their project work and prepare for presenting.

http://warchronicle.com/canadian_third.../reginas_normandy.htm Up the Johns History of the Regina Rifles in Normandy – Abbey stories

Lesson Five

A trip to the Craik Cenotaph

Students will list and research names of the World War Two casualties and then locate where they are buried.

www.cwgc.org Commonwealth War Graves Commission

www.virtualmemorial.gc.ca/ Canadian Virtual War Memorial Website

<http://www.normandie44lamemoire.com/versionanglaise/fichesvillesus/brettputnorus2.html>

Bretteville’Orgueilleuse/Norrey/Putot-En-Bessin

Lesson Five

A simulation: Living in a small prairie town allows me to have students re-enact Lee Windsor's, "Operation Spring", An Historical TEWT – Royal Hamilton Light Infantry. The students know the organization/ weapons/commanders from the information already given and from Lee's handouts. We will travel out to the field shown and do our best to decide how to attack the Germans.



There is a major highway and railway tracks and in the distance would be the German headquarters.

Please note that selected I did not select a South Saskatchewan situation, but I could easily switch up the research. The Dieppe Raid would be excellent. Please do not think I am teaching only about the prairie regiments. It is in addition to the history given. I want the students to have a sense of our prairie involvement. Teachers could easily do regiments close to them.

Arms and Weapons on Land

Instructions: 1. You are to go to the Juno Beach Centre website at:

www.junobeach.org<<http://www.junobeach.org>>

2. On the upper far right Click on Canada in WWII

3. Follow the Links: a) "Arms & Weapons" to

b) "On Land" to

c) "Infantry"

4. Answer the following questions:

Infantry

1. What is the role of the infantry? /1

2. Why is the foot soldier important to armies? /1

3. What is an "O Group"? /1

4. What are "fire and movement tactics"? /2

5. What happens once an objective is secured? /3

6. What was the use of the "reserve force"? /2

7. Describe what British (and Canadian) defensive tactics were during the Second World War. /2

8. What is the smallest infantry unit that can arrange for a concentration of support weapons of different kinds? How many men would be in this unit? /2

9. What is in a "Support Company"? What do Pioneers do? /5

10. What was the most recognized part of the Canadian soldier's kit? /1

11. According to Charlie Martin what was the number one priority of a soldier? Why? /2

12. What were the following: /6

a) Lee Enfield _____ b) Bren _____ c) Sten _____

d) Mortars _____ e) Vickers _____ f) PIAT _____

13. What were the two types of radios that were carried by soldiers on their backs? /2

14. How many _____ are a _____? /4

A) Men in a section _____

B) Sections in a Platoon _____

C) Platoons in a Company _____

D) Companies in a Battalion _____

Instructions: 1. You are to go to the Juno Beach Centre website at:
www.junobeach.org<<http://www.junobeach.org>>

2. Click on "Canada in World War Two:

3. Follow the Links: a) "Arms & Weapons" to

b) "On Land" to

c) "Artillery"

4. Answer the following questions:

1. How many guns were in an artillery regiment? How was an artillery regiment organized? /2

2. Who were the "eyes" of the artillery? /1

3. What enabled artillery regiments to spread out their officers? /1

4. How many artillery regiments were there in a division? Armoured? /2
5. What does CRA stand for? /1
6. What does AGRA stand for? What was it? /2
7. What was the chief principle of the Royal Canadian Artillery? /1
8. What were "Mike" , "Uncle" and "Victor" targets? /3
9. What was the chief weapon of the Royal Canadian Artillery? Why was this weapon preferred by the gunners? /2
10. What was the main type of ammunition used by the artillery? /1
11. How did George Blackburn describe the effect of heavy fire on the guns? /1
12. What was the elevation of a 25 pounder? /1
13. What was self-propelled artillery used for? What were the two types of self propelled guns? /3
14. What was a "Kangaroo"? /1
15. What is a mortar? How many types of mortars were used by the Canadians? /2
16. What was the most feared German artillery piece of World War Two? Why was it feared? /2
17. What was the maximum range that a "88" could fire? /1
18. What was the other German weapon that allied troops respected? What was its' nickname? /2
19. The artillery used three categories of weapons, name them. /3
20. There are two methods of engaging targets, what are they? /2

Instructions: 1. You are to go to the Juno Beach Centre website at:

www.junobeach.org<<http://www.junobeach.org>>

2. Click on "Canada in World War Two:

3. Follow the Links: a) "Arms & Weapons" to

b) "On Land" to

c) "Armoured Fighting Vehicles"

4. Answer the following questions:

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

1. What was the first tank built in Canada? How many were built? /2

2. What is the significance of the "Ram" tank? Was it ever used in battle? /2

3. What is an AFV? /1

4. How many roles did the British see for tanks on the battlefield? How did this differ from the American view of tanks? /5

5. What was the standard battle tank of the allied armies? /1

6. What is a "DD" tank? What was it used for? /2

7. What problems were discovered when the main allied battle tank went into battle against the Germans? /2

8. There was one modification that allowed some Shermans to fight effectively against the German tanks. What was it? /1

9. What were the main advantages that the Sherman had over the Germans? /2

10. How many machine guns did a Sherman tank have? /1

11. There were two main German tanks in Normandy. What were they? /2

12. What is the main difference between the two tanks? Which one was more effective? /3
Which one was more feared?

13. Who was Michael Wittman? What did he do? /2

Military Crib Sheet

Unit Organization/Weapons/Commanders

Army: Several Corps commanded by a full **General**. 200,000 men. Contains all arms (artillery, infantry, engineers, cavalry).

Corps: Commanded by a **Lieutenant-General** it consisted of between 50,000 to 100,000 men. All arms.

Division: Commanded by a **Major-General**. Approximately 12,000 - 20,000 men. All Arms.

Brigade: Infantry brigades were commanded by a **Brigadier-General**. Infantry 4,000 men (3-4 Battalions). Artillery brigades during the first world war were commanded by a **Lieutenant-Colonel**, and contained 500 men & 24 artillery pieces.

Regiment: German/French: Commanded by a **Colonel**. 3 Battalions, 4,500 men.

British/Canadian: Parent Unit of several battalions, no actual commander. Since the First World War artillery, armoured and engineer battalions are always referred to as Regiments.

Battalion: Commanded by a **Lieutenant-Colonel**. Approximately 1,000 men. Mostly riflemen. Some machine guns and mortars.

Company/Battery: Commanded by a **Captain** or **Major**. Approximately 250 men during WWI and 150 since that time. Mostly riflemen. A Battery is a company of artillery, 6-8 guns or howitzers.

Platoon/Troop: Commanded by a **Lieutenant**. Approximately 50-60 men during WWI and 35 since that time. Artillery Troops were usually half of a Battery.

Section: Commanded by a **Sergeant** or even a **Lance Corporal**, 10-15 men.

Units/Regiments:

World War One: World War One formations were often numbered, therefore 1st Bde CFA was the 1st Brigade Canadian, Field Artillery; 14th Bn CEF was the 14th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

World War Two:

1st CAHQ: 1st Canadian Army Headquarters

1,2,3, CID: 1st Canadian Infantry Division (etc)

4, 5 CAD: 4th, 5th Canadian Armoured Division

1,2,4,5 CAB: 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade (etc)

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 CIB: 1st, 2nd, 3rd (etc) Canadian Infantry Brigade

1st APCR: 1st Armoured Personnel Carrier Regiment (1st CAHQ)

1st CSR: 1st Battalion, Canadian Scottish Regiment (3 CID)

1st H: 1st Hussars (2 CAB)

4th PLDG: 4th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards (1 CID/ 5th CAD)

8th H: 8th Princess Louise's (New Brunswick) Hussars. (5th CAD)

12th MD: 12th Manitoba Dragoons (1st CAHQ)

14th H: 14th Hussars (2CID)

17th DYRCH: 17th Duke of York Royal Canadian Hussars (3 CID)

48th: 48th Highlanders of Canada (1 CID)

AR: Algonquin Regiment (4th CAD)

ASHC: Argyll & Sutherland Regiment of Canada (4th CAD)

BCD: British Columbia Dragoons (5th CAD)

BCR: British Columbia Regiment (4th CAD)

CGG: Canadian Grenadier Guards (4th CAD)

CBH: Cape Breton Highlanders (5th CAD)

CH of O: Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (3rd CID)

CHR: Calgary Highlanders Regiment (2CID)

CTR: Calgary Tank Regiment (1CAB)

CYR: Carleton & York Regiment (1 CID)

ESR: Essex Scottish Regiment (2nd CID)

FGH: Fort Garry Horse (2 CAB)

FMR: Les Fusiliers de Mont-Royal (2CID)

GGFG: Governor General's Foot Guards (4th CAD)

GGHG: Governor General's Horse Guards (5th CAD)

HLI of C: Highland Light Infantry of Canada (3rd CID)

HPER: Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment (1 CID)

IRC: Irish Regiment of Canada (5th CAD)

L&RS: Lanark & Renfrew Scottish Regiment (1st LAA, RCA) (5th CAD)

LSHR: Lord Strathcona's Horse Regiment (Royal Canadians) (5th CAD)

LER: Loyal Edmonton Regiment (1 CID)

LSR: Lake Superior Regiment (4th CAD)

LWR: Lincoln & Welland Regiment (4th CAD)

NBR: New Brunswick Rangers (4th CAD)

NNSH: North Nova Scotia Highlanders (3rd CID)

NS(NB)R: North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment (3rd CID)

OR: Ontario Regiment (1CAB)

PR: Perth Regiment (5th CAD)

PPCLI: Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (1 CID)

QOCH of C: Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada (2CID)

QOR: Queen's Own Rifles (3rd CID)

R de la C: Le Regiment de la Chaudière (3rd CID)

R de M: Le Regiment de Maissonneuve (2CID)

R22eR: Royal 22nd Régiment (Régiment Canadienne Français) (1 CID)

RCA: Royal Canadian Artillery

RCASC: Royal Canadian Army Service Corps

RCD: Royal Canadian Dragoons (1 CID)

RCE: Royal Canadian Engineers

RCEME: Royal Canadian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

RCHA: Royal Canadian Horse Artillery

RCOC: Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps

RCR: Royal Canadian Regiment (1 CID)

RCSC: Royal Canadian Signal Corps

RHC: Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) of Canada (2CID)

RHLI: Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (2CID)

RMR: Royal Montreal Regiment (1st CAHQ)

RRC: Royal Regiment of Canada (2CID)

RRR: Regina Rifle Regiment (3rd CID)

RWR: Royal Winnipeg Rifles (3rd CID)

SALH: South Alberta Light Horse (4th CAD)

SFR: Sherbrooke Fusiliers Regiment (2 CAB)

SHC: Seaforth Highlanders of Canada (1 CID)

SLI: Saskatoon Light Infantry (1 CID)

SSR: South Saskatchewan Regiment (2CID)

SD&G: Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders (3rd CID)

TRR: Three Rivers Regiment (1CAB)

TS: Toronto Scottish (2CID)

WR: Westminster Regiment (5th CAD)

WNSR: West Nova Scotia Regiment (1 CID)

Canadian Army Units:

World War One:

Canadian Corps

1st Canadian Division:

1st Brigade: 1-4th Canadian Infantry Battalions (Ontario)

2nd Brigade: 5, 7, 8, 10th Canadian Infantry Battalions (Western Canada)

3rd Brigade: 13-16th Canadian Infantry Battalions (Quebec & Maritimes)

2nd Canadian Division:

4th Brigade: 18-21st Canadian Infantry Battalions (Ontario)

5th Brigade: 22, 24-26th Canadian Infantry Battalions (Quebec & Maritimes)

6th Brigade: 27-29, 31st Canadian Infantry Battalions (Western Canada)

3rd Canadian Division:

7th Brigade: RCR, PPCLI, 42nd (RHC), 49th (Edmonton) Canadian Infantry Battalions

8th Brigade: 1, 2, 4, 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles

9th Brigade: 43rd, 52nd, 58th, 116th Canadian Infantry Battalions (Ontario)

4th Canadian Division:

10th Brigade: 44th, 46th, 47th, 50th Canadian Infantry Battalions (Western Canada)

11th Brigade: 54th (Kootenay), 75th (Mississauga), 87th (Canadian Grenadier Guards), 102nd (Northern B.C.) Canadian Infantry Battalions

12th Brigade: 38th (Ottawa), 72nd (Seaforths), 73rd (Royal Highlanders of Canada) 85th (North Nova Scotia Highlanders) Canadian Infantry Battalions

Canadian Cavalry Brigade: Royal Canadian Dragoons; Canadian Light Horse; Lord Strathcona's Horse; Royal Canadian Horse Artillery; Canadian Cavalry Brigade Machine Gun Squadron; Royal Northwest Mounted Police

Canadian Independent Force: 1st & 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigades, Canadian Motor Machine Gun Transport Company; Cyclist Battalion; 5th Canadian Trench Mortar Battery; Canadian Light Horse; 101st Machine Gun Battalion; Wireless Section; 10th Royal Hussars

World War Two:

1st Canadian Army: Attached Formations: 1st British Corps (6th Airborne, 49th West Riding, 51st Highland Division, 33rd Armoured Brigade), 30th British Corps (11th & 7th Armoured), 1st Polish Armoured Division, Czech, Belgian & Dutch Brigades

1st Canadian Corps

1st Canadian Infantry Division: Saskatoon Light Infantry(SLI), 4th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards (4 PLDG), 1-3 Field Regiments, 1st Anti-Tank, 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiments, Royal Canadian Artillery,

1st Canadian Infantry Brigade: Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR); Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment (HPER); 48th Highlanders of Canada (48th HC)

2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade: Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI); Loyal Edmonton Regiment (LER); Seaforth Highlanders of Canada (SHC)

3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade: Royal 22nd Regiment (Canadien-Francais) (R22eR); West Nova Scotia Regiment (WNSR); Carleton & York Regiment (CYR)

1st Canadian Armoured Brigade: Calgary Tank Regiment (CTR); Three Rivers Regiment (TRR); Ontario Regiment (OR)

5th Canadian Armoured Division: 8 & 17 Field Regiments, 4th Anti-Tank, 5th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiments, Royal Canadian Artillery

11th Canadian Infantry Brigade: Perth Regiment (PR), Cape Breton Highlanders (CBH), Irish Regiment of Canada (IRC)

12th Canadian Infantry Brigade: Westminster Regiment (Motor) (WR), 4th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards (4PLDG), Lanark & Renfrew Scottish Regiment (LRSR)

5th Canadian Armoured Brigade: Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) (LSHR), 8th Princess Louise (New Brunswick) Hussars (8th H), British Columbia Dragoons (BCD)

2nd Canadian Corps

2nd Canadian Infantry Division: Toronto Scottish Regiment (MG) (TSR), 14th Canadian Hussars (14th H); 4-6 Field Regiments, 2nd Anti-tank, 3rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiments, Royal Canadian Artillery

4th Canadian Infantry Brigade: Royal Regiment of Canada (RRC), Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (RHLI), Essex & Kent Scottish Regiment (EKSR),

5th Canadian Infantry Brigade: Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) of Canada (BWC), Calgary Highlanders (CH), Regiment de Maissoneuve (RdeM)

6th Canadian Infantry Brigade: Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada (QCHC), South Saskatchewan Regiment (SSR), Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal (FMR)

3rd Canadian Infantry Division: Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (MG) (CHO), 7th Recce Regiment; 12-14 Field Regiments, 3rd Anti-Tank, 4th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiments, Royal Canadian Artillery

7th Canadian Infantry Brigade: Royal Winnipeg Rifles (RWR), Regina Rifle Regiment (RRR), 1st Bn. Canadian Scottish Regiment (1st CSR)

8th Canadian Infantry Brigade: Queens Own Rifles (QOR), Le Regiment de la Chaudiere (RdelaC), North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment (NSR)

9th Canadian Infantry Brigade: Highland Light Infantry of Canada (HLIC), Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders (SDG), North Nova Scotia Highlanders (NNSH)

2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade: Sherbrooke Fusiliers (SF), 1st Hussars (1st H), Fort Garry Horse (FGH)

4th Canadian Armoured Division: 29th Recce Regiment (South Alberta Light Horse) (SALH), Lake Superior Regiment (Motor) (LSR); 15 & 23rd Field Regiments, 5th Anti-Tank, 8th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiments, Royal Canadian Artillery

10th Canadian Infantry Brigade: Lincoln & Welland Regiment (L&WR), Algonquin Regiment (AR), Argyll & Sutherland Regiment (ASR),

4th Canadian Armoured Brigade: Governor General's Foot Guards (GGFG), Canadian Grenadier Guards (CGG), British Columbia Regiment (BCR),

1st Battalion, Canadian Parachute Regiment (serving with 3rd Brigade, 6th British Airborne Division)

2nd Battalion, Canadian Parachute Regiment (serving with 1st Special Service Force)