

The Home Front

Not everything was about battles

Today's Agenda

- We have looked at some of the early battles of World War II. We will now begin to see how Canada looked during the war.
- To begin, we will have an introduction activity (What's in the box?)
- We will be examining inventions, contributions and efforts on the Home Front
 - This is important because not all of the major war efforts were in battles. As you already know from World War I, someone has to keep the war machine going.

Recap: Timeline from beginning of the War

- The Invasion of Poland: September 1st, 1939 – October 6th
- September 10th: Canada declares war
- The Phoney War: October 1939 – May 1940
- Invasion of France: May 10th 1940 – June 25th (Britain stayed for about 3 weeks before retreating, Italians also invaded France)
- Retreat from Dunkirk: 26th of May 1940 – June 4th
- Battle of Britain: August 1940, last major air raid May 1941
- Battle of the Atlantic: 1939 - 1943

What's in the box?

- Some of these items represent inventions of the era. For example, Slinkys were made by engineer Richard James (U.S.) on the home front who was trying to make springs better on ships. He accidentally knocked the spring over and saw that it 'stepped' down from the shelf and 'slinkied' around his lab.
- M&M's were first distributed in the U.S. in 1941 to Allied soldiers exclusively. These were made to help prevent chocolate from melting in soldier's meal packs.
- Although it was made before the war, spam was an alternative to buying meat during rationing.
- Putty was also made since rubber needed to be conserved. It was made in 1943 by James Wright.

What's in the box? Part II

- Canadian's made an "Anti-G-Suit" (flight suits in aircraft), improvements to oxygen masks and other aircraft research.
- Canadians also helped to create some medications to help with air and seasickness. We also developed and improved Penicillin production.
- Canadians researched ways of how to improve powdered milk, powdered eggs and preserved bacon to help Britain during their food shortage.

How could all Canadians help the war effort?

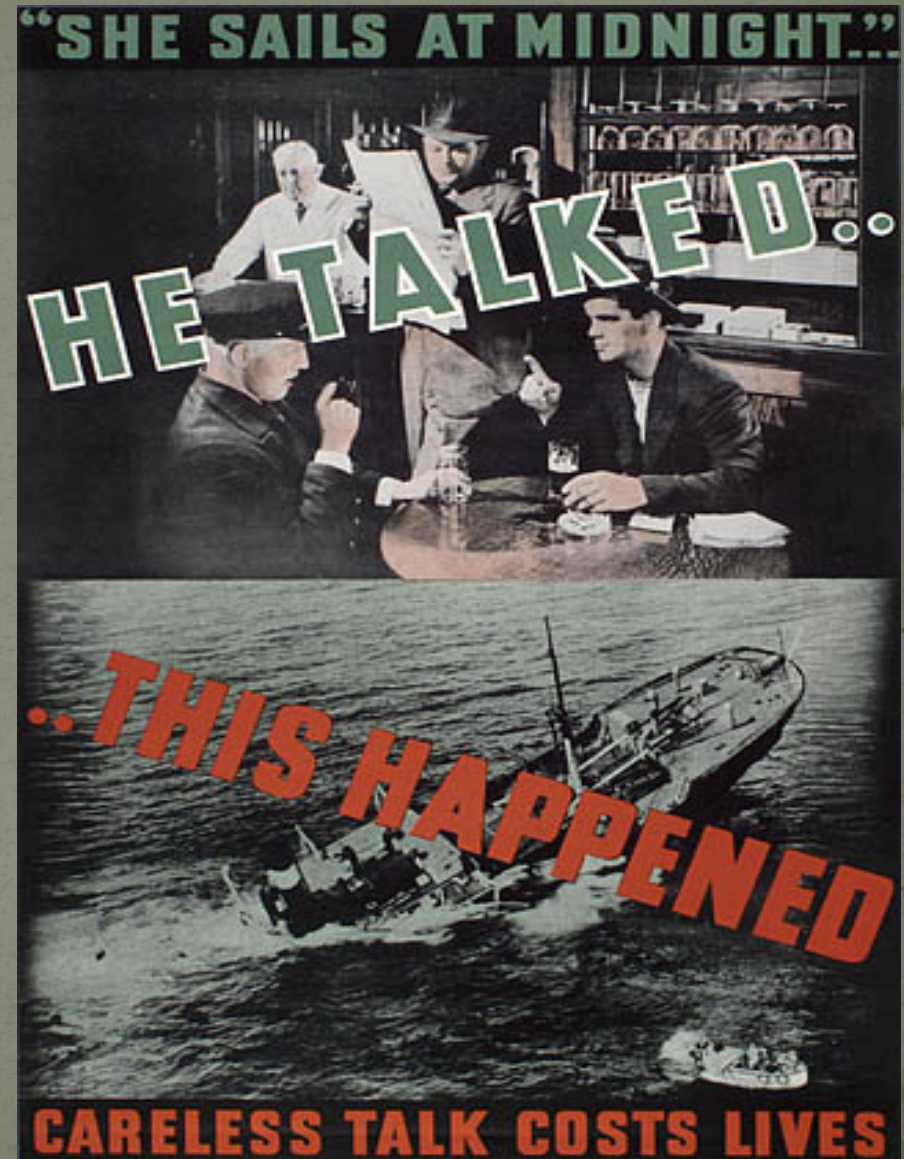
- Rationing was practiced during World War II. Not only did Canada have to supply their military (army, navy and air force) we also sent supplies to Britain and our other allies.
- We rationed: food, clothes, gasoline, precious metals (such as tin – we made our cans of soup smaller!).
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvjCy_VT_mk



How could all Canadians help the war effort?

- Canadians were also asked to buy victory bonds (just like World War I, you could cash your bonds in at the end of the war).
- Canadians were also asked to keep quiet about military plans.
- Out of 11 million Canadians, over 1 million worked in war industry.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8hmG2ElkuE>



Canadians worked hard in the factories

- Canadian industry produced more than 800,000 military transport vehicles, 50,000 tanks, 40,000 field, naval and anti-aircraft guns and 1,700,000 small arms (guns).
- We built 348 (ten thousand-ton merchant ships) during the war. They usually took a year to build, but we cut that down to half a year by 1942.



Canadians worked hard in the factories

- Canada also assembled 16,000 aircraft, which were given to Britain, the United States or stayed in Canada to be used in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.



Canadians Recover from the Great Depression

- Since the Canadian Government needed things like: raw materials, military equipment, vehicles, uniforms and medical supplies, the Government was paying industries to produce. This helped the economy to boom. The Government had to regulate the economy.
- Some factories were crown controlled (operated by the government), but some work was given to private companies (Tip Top Tailors made some uniforms).

