

War Memories across Canada Conversation Kit:

Mobilizing for War The Lincoln and Welland Regiment St. Catharines and Niagara- on-the-Lake, Ontario



St. Catharines Museum/S1940.29.4.1

In the late-1930s, the Lincoln and Welland Regiment of St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake consisted of part-time soldiers who trained a few days a year. By 1939, when Canada joined the Second World War, the regiment needed several hundred more soldiers. It began recruiting in earnest. Men from all walks of life, with a variety of work experience and levels of education volunteered to join the regiment.

In late-1943, the first members of the regiment were shipped overseas. In 1944, they joined other Canadian troops in a series of battles in Europe, including a war-changing mission in the Netherlands at Kapelsche Veer.

Discussion Questions:

Before conscription, or mandatory military service, hundreds of Canadian men volunteered to join the war effort. What do you think would compel people to volunteer to fight in the Second World War? What about today: what would compel you to join to fight in a war?

At the end of this vignette, there is an image of men marching away. A woman watching them turns to look back toward the camera. How would you describe her perspective in this story?

Many places in Canada were sites of military activity before and during the Second World War. List places in your town that could tell a story about the war. To what extent have these sites changed, or remained the same since the Second World War?

The Lincoln and Welland Regiment is part of the part-time reserve force. What reserve units – army, navy, air force – exist where you live? What was their involvement in the war? What is the value of ‘citizen soldiers’ to society?

Activities:

Is there a military museum or armoury museum in your community? Organize a visit and select an artifact that is particularly poignant or interesting to you. Consider it as a primary source: what can we learn about the war from the particular artifact?

Sign up to the [Lincoln and Welland Regiment Museum's Facebook page](#) or find your local reserve unit's Facebook page. To what extent has our perception of the military continued or changed from the Second World War?

What were the consequences of Canadians fighting in the Netherlands in terms of the war and, after the war, memorialization?



Bibliothèque et Archives Canada – Library and Archives Canada/PA-142421

Resources:

Websites

Butler's Barracks National Historic Site – Parks Canada

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/natcul/natcul2d.aspx>

Butler's Barracks was the Lincoln and Welland Regiment's former training grounds. Available in [French](#).

The Lincoln and Welland Regiment – Canadian Army

<http://www.army-armee.forces.gc.ca/en/lincoln-welland-regiment/history.page>

The official history of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. Available in [French](#).

The Lincoln and Welland Regiment Museum

<http://www.lwmuseum.ca/>

Videos

Counter Attack At Kapelsche Veer (Canadian Army Newsreel, No. 59 1945)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnkV5o9UhtI>

Beginning at the 7 minute mark is a description of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment attack at Kapelsche Veer.

Canada Remembers, The Liberators, directed by Terence Macartney-Filgate. National Film Board, 1995.

https://www.nfb.ca/film/canada_remembers_part_two_the_liberators/

Books

Canada and the liberation of the Netherlands, May 1945, by Lance Goddard. Dundurn, 2005.

On to victory : the Canadian liberation of the Netherlands, March 23 - May 5, 1945, by Mark Zuehike. Douglas & McIntyre, 2010.

The Lincs: a history of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment at war, by Geoffrey Hayes. Wilfrid Laurier University, 2007.

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