



Québec and the Second World War Lesson Plan

“It’s been difficult my entire life since I have never forgotten my friends who fell in battle. I think about them everyday.”

-Louis Antoine Tremblay, Régiment de la Chaudière

During the Second World War, many people from Québec enlisted in the four branches of service. Close to 55,000 served overseas as volunteers. The testimonies of these historical witnesses provide a unique perspective on often overlooked aspects of the history of the Second World War, including the emerging issue of human rights.

Learning Outcomes:

Use first-person stories to better understand historical facts.
Understand Québec’s contribution during the Second World War.
Analyse reports from service personnel and civilians, both allies and enemies.
Understand the effects of the war on those who experienced it.

Listen to the audio clips online (www.thememoryproject.com) and formulate your arguments:

Raymond Bérubé - *Telegraph Operator, Royal Canadian Navy, Battle of the Atlantic*

Why are the sailors covered in oil, and why must the convoy continue on, leaving them behind?

Louis-Antoine Tremblay - *Sergeant, Régiment de la Chaudière, D-Day, Normandy Campaign*

How did Louis - Antoine and the French civilians interact? Did he feel like he won the war when he returned to France 40 years later?

Roger Proulx - *Private, Régiment de la Chaudière, Occupation of Germany*

Although he did not see combat, Roger Proulx witnessed the effects of the war. Describe how the relationship between the Canadian troops and the German civilians changed.

Paul Mimeault - *Corporal, Royal 22nd Regiment, Italian Campaign*

How does he describe the moral and physical effects of combat?

Gilles Boulanger - *Air Gunner, No. 425 (Alouette) Squadron, Bomber Command, Royal Canadian Air Force*

With what attitude does he decide to enlist, and how does he feel at the end of the war?

Georges Bélanger - *Sailor, Merchant Navy, Gulf of St.Lawrence, Newfoundland and North Atlantic*

How did he enlist in the Merchant Navy? What were the dangers of the St. Lawrence River?

Analysis and Synthesis Questions:

Based on the stories, and by providing excerpts from each one, write a brief essay or create a group presentation based on the following question: Is it possible to measure who is the winner or loser in an armed conflict?