

Canada's Great Depression, 1929-1939



Eviction day in Montreal during the Depression. By 1933 over one-third of the city's francophones were on relief, with many simply forced into the streets.

***** NO EXAMINATION AIDS ALLOWED *****

PART 1: SHORT ANSWER

What is the meaning and/or significance of TEN of the following terms? Provide dates and other specific details where appropriate and answer in one or two sentences (ie. *not* point form). (2 MARKS EACH, 20 MARKS TOTAL). CHOOSE 10 of 15.

PART 2: IDENTIFY AND STATE THE SIGNIFICANCE

Identify and state the significance of FOUR of the following terms. The best answers will provide a single paragraph, up to one double-spaced page in length, explaining “when it happened, where it happened, who was involved, what happened, and why it is significant to this course.” (5 MARKS EACH, 20 MARKS TOTAL) CHOOSE 4 of 7.

PART 3: ESSAY QUESTION (20 MARKS)

In a well-organized essay that draws on relevant and specific examples from lectures, readings, and/or seminar discussions, discuss ONE of the following three topics: CHOOSE 1 of 3.

“In both world wars, conscription for overseas service proved to be the single most contentious issue in Canadian politics. During the Second World War, Mackenzie King’s first and foremost goal was to avoid a second conscription crisis.”

“Between 1899 and 1939, Canada’s relationship with the British Empire had underwent a shift towards greater Canadian autonomy.”

“By 1943, many Canadians feared that the end of the Second World War would mean an end to wartime prosperity and a return to the misery of the Great Depression. Instead, the postwar years marked a new era of affluence for many Canadians.”

Richard Bennett, 1930-35

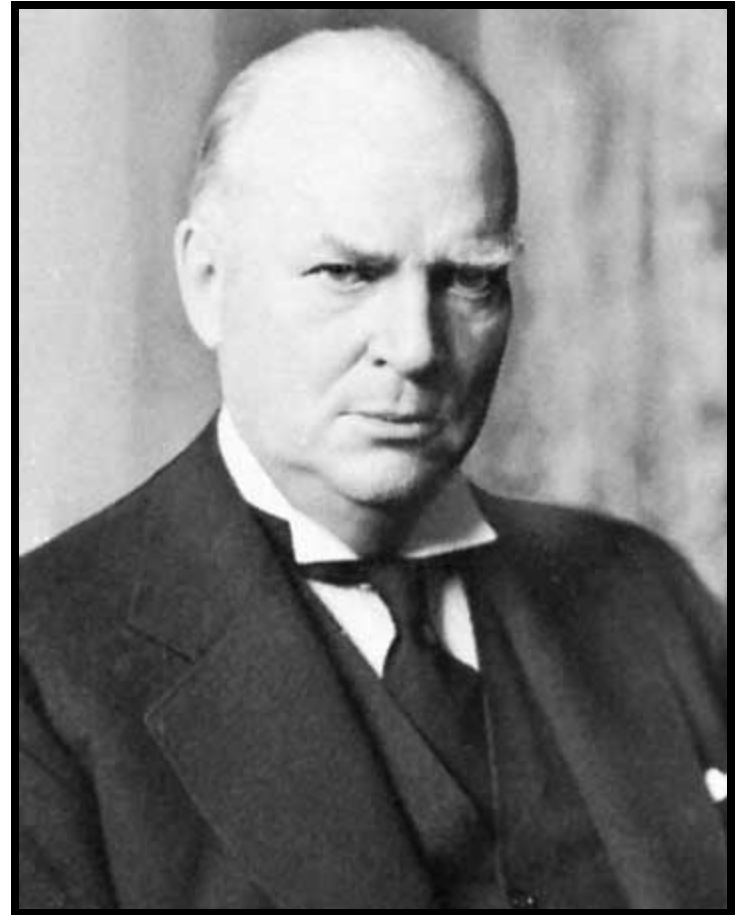
**“Destitute responsible for
their own plight”
- Food and Rent Stamps**

Poor Relief - Municipalities

**Morality: Single Women,
Never Married Women
with Dependents**

**Race: ½ for Asian-origin
residents in Vancouver**

**Bennett’s Unemployment
Relief Act, \$20 Million**



P.M. Richard B. Bennett

Prime Minister Bennett presiding over his cabinet, every face his. From the Winnipeg Free Press, 1935. During the 1930s there was a popular story that a tourist observed a solitary figure walking toward the Parliament buildings talking to himself. When he inquired who the person was, he was informed that it was the Prime Minister holding a Cabinet meeting.



“Boon Doggling”

Self-Help vs. “The Pogeys”

Declarations = Humiliation

No Car, Radio, Telephone...

**North York, 1933: \$11.60/
week vs \$28.35 Forest
Hill**

PEI: \$1.93, NB: \$1.67

**“Boon-Doggling” - Means
Test vs. “Pauperization”**

Firewood, Rocks, Weeds...



“Riding the Rods”

**Municipal Relief and
Employers vs. Single Men**

**Residency Requirements vs.
Seasonal Employment,
esp. in the West**

**B.C. End of the Line
- False Creek, Burrard
Inlet Rail - Hobo camps**

**Vancouver Chief of Police
- Internment Camps at
BC/AB Border, Sep. 1931?**



Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF)

Est. in Calgary, 1932

Forerunner of the NDP

Labour and Progressive MPs

- J.S. Woodsworth, MP

**Socialism: Rejection of both
capitalism and communism**

Regina Manifesto, 1933

**Co-op control of industry,
unemployment insurance,
medicare, right to unionize**

**“No C.C.F. Government will
rest content until it has
eradicated capitalism and
put into operation the full
programme of socialized
planning with will lead to
the establishment in Canada
of the Co-operative
Commonwealth.”**

Regina Manifesto, 1933

Alberta's Social Credit

“Bible Bill” Aberhart, 1932

Maj. C.H. Douglas

- British anti-Semite**
- Suspicion of banks**

**National banks to supply
consumers with money**

- Economic stimulus**
- Regulation of prices**

Alberta 1935: 56/63 Seats

- Moratorium on debts**

Disallowance, 1937, 1938

Social Credit A + B Theorem

**A = Wages & Salaries Paid to
Individuals**

**B = Manufacturing Costs, ie.
Raw Materials**

**A+B = Fair Price of Item,
Regulated by the State**

***The Problem:* Individuals
Receive *Only A***

***The Solution:* “National
Dividend” = Difference
Between A+B**

“The Red Menace”

**W.U.L. 1929, Communist
Party Banned, 1930-36**

**Communist Wm. Kolisnyk,
North Winnipeg, 1930**

**Estevan, SK - 3 Coal
Miners Killed, Sep. 1931**

**Tim Buck, Oct. 1932 – “just
to scare him”**

**Extreme Right: Fascist
movements in QB and
Toronto**



**Communist-organized May Day
parade in Toronto, May 1, 1934.
Note the sign, “Release Tim Buck.”**

Hard Times and Deportation

“Ethnic Radicals”

- Ukrainian, Hungarian, Czech, Jewish, Finns**
- Vancouver May Day, 1931**

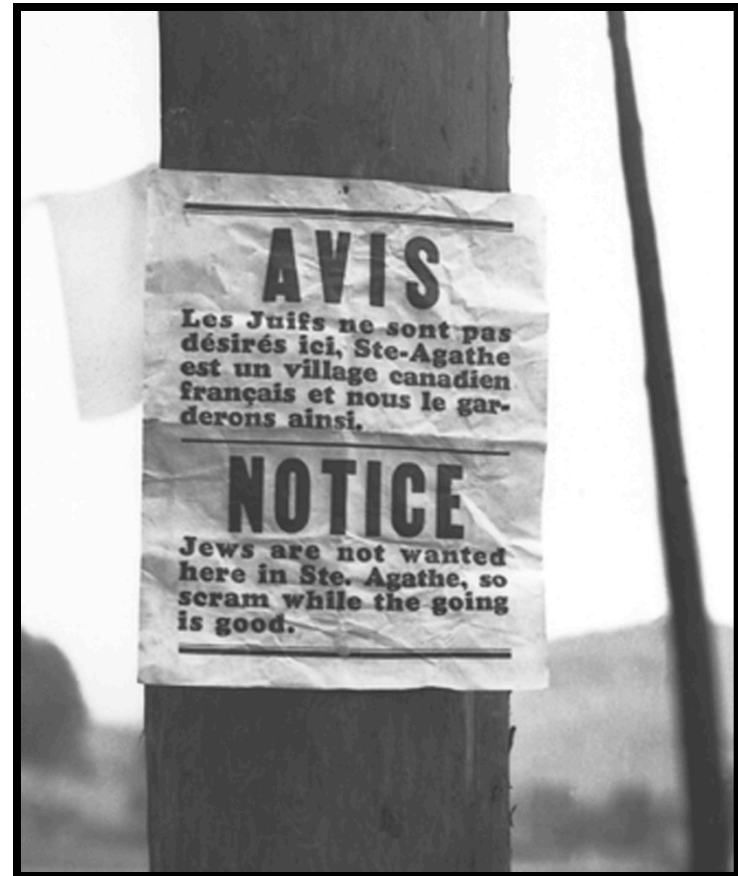
Seasonal Work

- Railway Agreement and Bush Camps**

Immigration Act, 1930

- 30,000 deported by 1935**

Communists Banned, 1931



An anti-Semitic poster at Sainte-Agathe, a resort area in the Laurentians north of Montreal, 1939.

Relief Camps

**1932: Unemployment 15%;
1.5 Million on Relief**

Soup Kitchens, Shantytowns

Gen. Andrew McNaughton

**“Royal Twenty-Centers”
- 20¢ + 3 Meals/Day**

**Highways, Airfields, Barracks
- N. Ontario bush camps**

Workers Unity League, 1929

Irene Baird, *Waste Heritage*



Road construction at Kimberly-Wasa, BC. Although they were not compulsory, relief camps were often the only alternative for single men at a time when social assistance was unavailable.

“On to Ottawa Trek”

Relief Camp Workers’

Union - WUL Sponsored

B.C. RCWU, Apr. 1935 -

7,000 workers “on strike”

Vancouver, Jun. 1935 -

1,200 on eastbound trains

Regina, SK - Co-operative

Commonwealth

Federation, Jul. 1933

Bennett calls on RCMP



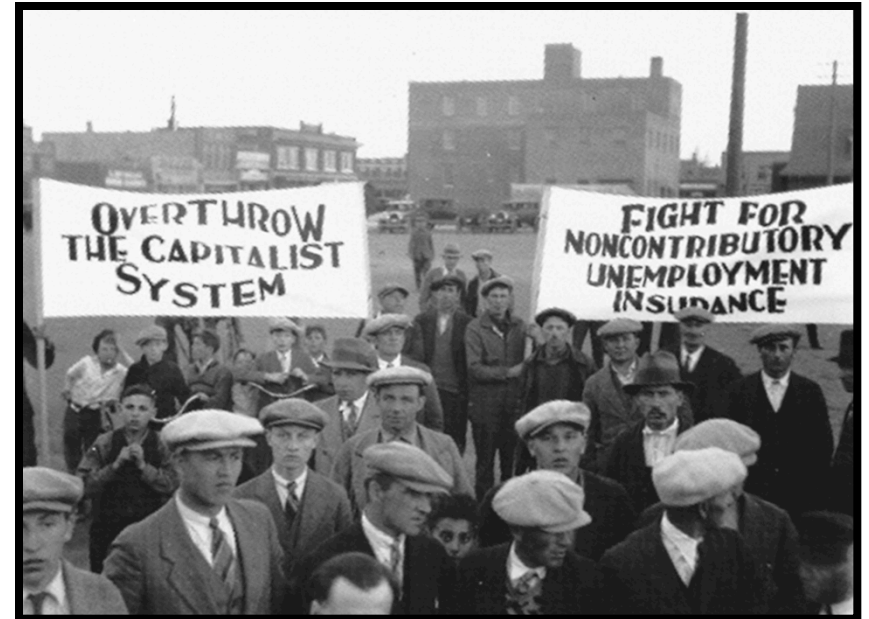
Unemployed workers ride the rails in 1935 as part of the “On To Ottawa” trek. *Toronto Star* Collection.

The Regina Riot, 1 July 1935

2,000 Trekkers - Discipline!

**Popular Support - “I
expected them to swarm
across the tracks like a
mob” - “Platoons”
- Golden, BC - Women
- Moose Jaw, SK - Police**

**Communist leadership;
1,200 waiting in W’peg
500 RCMP in Regina - 1
killed**



A demonstration of strikers at Market Square on the eve of the Regina Riot on Dominion Day, 1935. During the riot, one plainclothes policeman was killed and numerous strikers and police officers were injured.

“Bennett Buggies”

**“Bennett Buggies” –
Decommissioned cars
towed by horses**

**“Bennett Blankets” –
Newspapers**

R.B. Bennett - \$150,000/yr

**Letters to the PM –
Responded to every
letter, often with \$5 bill**

**Defeated in 1935 by
Mackenzie King**





Despite the fact that the Bennett government had spent over \$100 million on farm and unemployment relief, in 1935 Mackenzie King and the Liberals returned to power with the largest majority in his political career. Above: Mackenzie King sitting in a Bennett Buggy, LAC C-087860.

“King or Chaos,” Election 1935

Bennett’s New Deal splits

Conservatives

**- Some still opposed to Fed.
gov’t intervention or
raising constitutional issue**

**Votes for King, or Rejection
of Bennett? - 25% of
Popular Vote to 3rd Parties**

**Privy Council rules against
the New Deal - Mackenzie
King calls a Royal
Commission, 1937**



**Mackenzie King drives his
“Bennett Buggy” during the 1935
election, where his Liberal party
won the largest majority
government of his career. LAC
C-087860.**

King and Chaos?

The Depression Continues

**Mackenzie King's Royal
Commission delays difficult
decisions**

**Great Depression continues to
the outbreak of war in 1939**

**Unemployment Insurance not
introduced in Canada until
7 Aug 1940**

**“Lost Generation” of 1930s
- Post-WWII demand for
consumer goods**



From Hong Kong to Dieppe:
Canada's Second World War to
1942



Okanagan College

3 August 2017

Hitler and German Rearmament

Hitler in power, 1933

Withdrawal from League of Nations and Disarmament Conference, 1933

March 1935: Rebuild

“Defensive” *Luftwaffe*; one week later announced conscription

By 1935, German unemployment had fallen from 6 million to only 2 million.



The 1936 Berlin Olympics were as much a sporting event as a chance to showcase German rearmament. “Everything was put in the shop window,” but it was still unclear whether Germany had rearmed in enough depth to fight a lengthy war.

The International “Lunatic Asylum”

Hitler's Germany, 1933

- Rejection of Versailles**
- Rhineland, 1936**

Imperial Japan, 1931

- Kwantung Army**
- Invasion of Manchuria**

Fascist Italy - Mussolini

- “New Roman Empire”**
- Abyssinia, Oct. 1935**

Spirit of appeasement

- “Never again!”**
- Canada opposes Art. 10**



Canada and Appeasement

Hitler's Germany: Rhineland (1936), *Anschluss* (1938), Munich (1938), Czechoslovakia (1939)

- 1. Red Scare: Hitler viewed as anti-communist; Archbishop of QB: "dictatorship is better than revolution" - Anti-Semitism - Adrien Arcand**
- 2. N. American Isolationism: "all these European troubles are not worth the bones of a Toronto grenadier"; FDR in Kingston 1938**
- 3. Back Seat in the Lunatic Asylum: "Canada is not an important member of the League. Our military prowess in the next war is of little concern."**

German Invasion of Poland

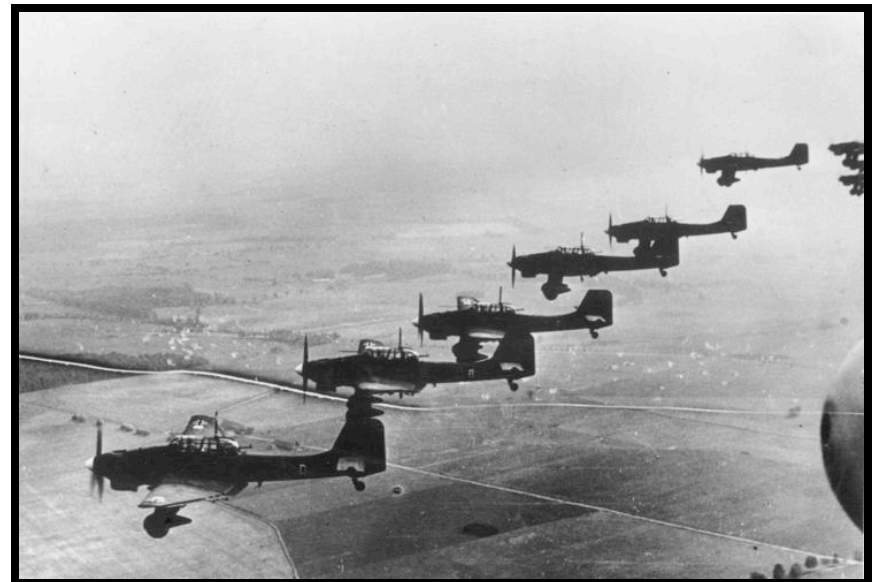
Nazi-Soviet Pact, Aug. 1939

Invasion begins, 1 Sep. 1939

**Anglo-French Guarantee of
Poland: British
Declaration of War, 3 Sep.**

**Canadian Declaration on
10 Sep. - 1 Week Delay
- Cross-border shopping!**

**RCN: 6 destroyers, 3,000
Army: 4,000 regular
troops RCAF: forestry,
75% cut '31**



Canada's "Phoney War", 1939-40

Mackenzie King and WWI

- QB Conscription Crisis**
- Eager to avoid casualties**

Voluntary Enlistment

- 58,337 by Oct. 1939**
- Incl. 4,000 WWI vets**
- John MacGregor, VC**

British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, 1939

- "At home" participation**
- BCATP 130,000 aviators**
- \$2 billion on airfields, etc**



**"This is not our war."
Mackenzie King, 1939.**

“McNaughton’s Flying Circus”

2nd British Expeditionary Force

- Canadians land in Brest, 13 June 1940 - Move by rail toward Le Mans**

Collapse of French Lines, 10 Jun.

- “Seeking an Armistice”**
- Mussolini invades on 10 Jun.**

German troops enter Paris, 14 Jun.

- 2nd BEF begins withdrawal**

Canadian evacuated from Brest and St. Malo by 18 Jun.

- Save artillery but lost vehicles**
- 5 missing, 1 killed**



As France collapsed, Canadian troops were evacuated by sea from the port of Brest, which later became a major German U-boat base for the duration of the war.

“Their Finest Hour”

Battle of Britain, Jul.-Oct. 1940

- \$3 billion Cdn aid to Britain**
- UK gold reserves to Canada**

Cdn homes for British children

- 253 in 1939; 5,500 in 1940**
- Liner *Volendam* torpedoed**

8 August: Airfields, air industry

- Home turf advantage**
- Luftwaffe 1,882, RAF 1,265**
- No. 1 Sqdn, RCAF + RAF units**

**London bombed for 57 nights,
beginning Sep. 1940**



**German bombers over the
English Channel, 1940.**



Canada's NRMA, 1940

**National Resources Mobilization
Act (NRMA), 21 Jun. 1940**

- Home service, unmarried men**
- King: no conscription**

Mayor Camillien Houde, Montreal
- Vocal supporter of Mussolini
and Vichy France - Catholicism

Urges non-compliance, 2 Aug. 1940
- Arrest for sedition, 5 Aug. 1940
- Released 18 Aug. 1944 - 50,000
supporters in Montreal

“Zombies” - Pierre Trudeau?



**Mayor Camillien
Houde of Montreal
was jailed for his
vocal opposition to
conscription.**

Force “C” to Hong Kong

**Rising US-Japanese tensions
and Oil Embargo, Jun. 1941**

**Force “C” - 1,975 green troops
- Winnipeg Grenadiers,
Royal Rifles of Canada**

**Pearl Harbor, 7 Dec. 1941;
Singapore - HMS *Prince of
Wales* and HMS *Repulse***

**Surrender of Hong Kong,
Christmas Day, 1941
- Brigadier John K. Lawson
- 1,418 Survivors by 1945**

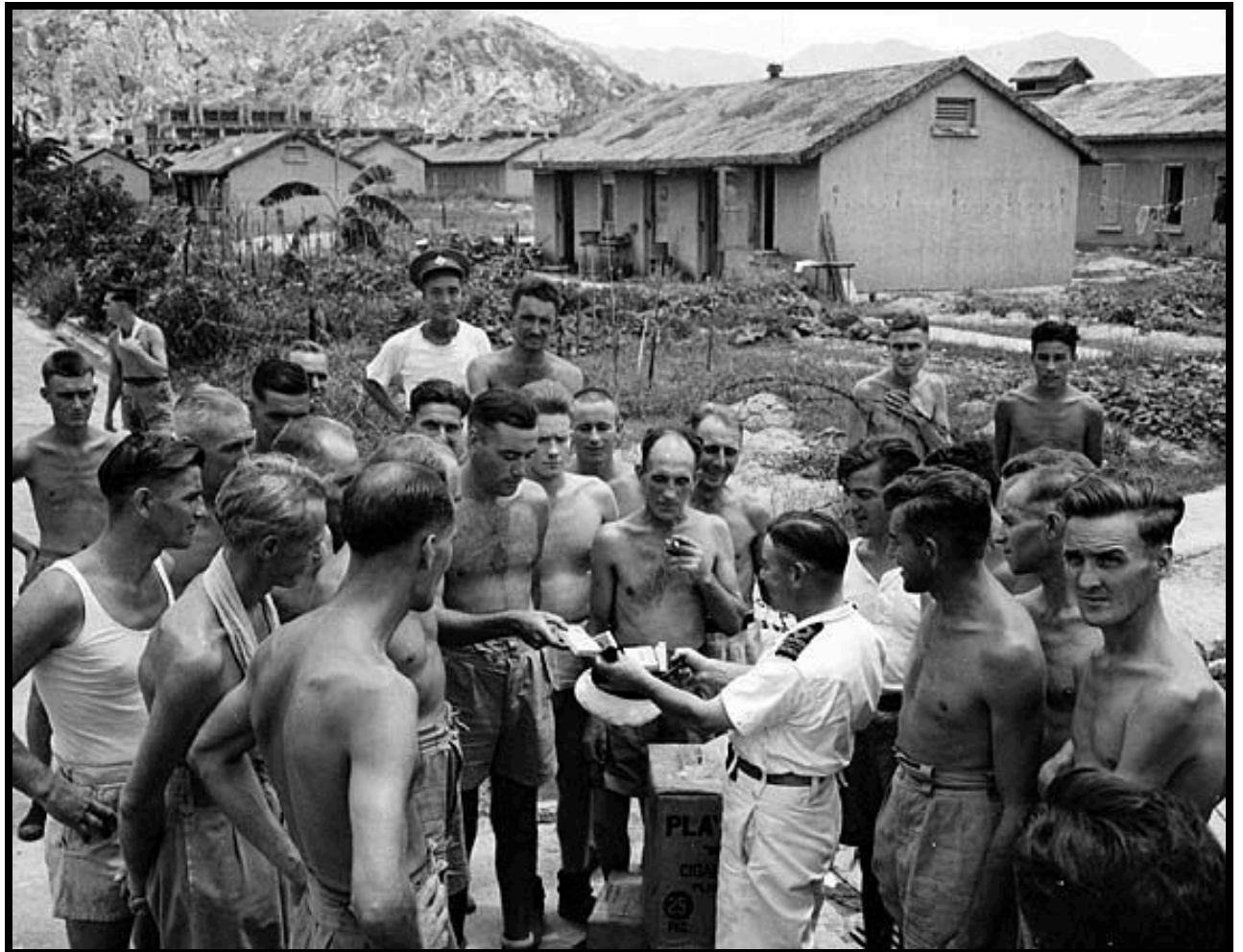


**Graves of Pvt. J. Maltese of the
Winnipeg Grenadiers and
Rifleman A.M. Moir of the
Royal Rifles of Canada. Both
battalions were sent to Hong
Kong in November, 1941, just
three weeks before the
invasion.**



Above: Force C departs from Vancouver. Some 550 would never return, including 267 who died in Japanese captivity.

Below: Canadian survivors of Hong Kong liberated from Japanese camps in 1945.



Japanese Evacuations, 1942-45

Aleutian Islands, Alaska - US
“Evacuations” 19 Feb. 1942

RCMP and Armed Forces:

- “Japanese pose no threat”**
- 7th and 8th Infantry Divs**
- Estevan Point Lighthouse,**
Jun. 20, 1942

24 Feb. 1942 - 20,866 “Evacuees”
- Hastings Park, Vancouver;
BC Interior, Lk. Superior, AB
Sugar Beet Farms

Mutual Hostages? Democracy.

NOTICE TO ALL JAPANESE PERSONS AND PERSONS OF JAPANESE RACIAL ORIGIN

TAKE NOTICE that under Orders Nos. 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the British Columbia Security Commission, the following areas were made prohibited areas to all persons of the Japanese race:—

LULU ISLAND
(including Steveston)
SEA ISLAND
EBURNE
MARPOLE
DISTRICT OF
QUEENSBOROUGH
CITY OF
NEW WESTMINSTER

SAPPERTON
BURQUITLAM
PORT MOODY
IOCO
PORT COQUITLAM
MAILLARDVILLE
FRASER MILLS

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that any person of the Japanese race found within any of the said prohibited areas without a written permit from the British Columbia Security Commission or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police shall be liable to the penalties provided under Order in Council P.C. 1665.

AUSTIN C. TAYLOR,
Chairman,
British Columbia Security Commission

Origins of the Dieppe Raid

The War in mid-1942:

- Soviet demands for a *Second Front in Europe*
- British campaign in North Africa - OP Torch, Nov. '42
- Canadian morale?

Surprise Raid on Dieppe

- Seize and hold a port city
- 2nd Canadian Div.
- Royal Navy, RAF Bomber Command fire support?

Operation *Jubilee*, 19 August



American troops on board a landing craft going in to land in North Africa. Nov. 1942. Imperial War Museum.

Dieppe, 19 August 1942

**Accidents: German coastal
convoys; Royal Regiment of
Canada at Blue Beach
- Sunrise = 209 killed**

**Miscalculations: Canadian
tanks on chert beaches**

**Bad luck: German anti-
invasion exercises**

**Tragedy: 907 / 4,963 Killed,
1,946 Captured; German
Propaganda Films; *D-Day?***



Dieppe's chert beach immediately following the raid on 19 August 1942. A Canadian armoured car has been abandoned. German Federal Archive.