

Canada entered the Second World War on the 10th of September 1939, to show the world what we stand for as a country. Edward Hollaman, my grandfather, was 17 years and 6 months old when the Second World War ended. Even though he did not fight, the impact of the war was still present.

In this essay I will explain how life before the war, during the war and after the war comes together and creates the impacts of the Second World War.

Life before the war

Life before the war wasn't great in Canada, the Stock Market crash just happened, people lost their homes, it was too dry to farm and Canada hit a depression. This time was also referred to as the "Dirty 30`s". In this time income wasn't great for my grandfather's family (being his father was the only one working); his father was a bookkeeper and worked hard to provide for his large family of 7 people. My grandfather the eldest of 5 children, helped take care of his sibling (Wenda), who very early on was diagnosed with spinal meningitis, was deaf and had difficulty walking. Medical bills were expensive and special schooling for Wenda was also not cheap. My grandfather took her to school across Toronto every day using 3 street cars. One day on their travels, while changing street cars they saw something at the Canadian National exhibition that they had never seen before. It was an electronic message board crowded with shocked and excited people all trying to read the words saying "Canada has declared war on Germany."

Life during the war

The war brought Canada out of the depression. War was exciting! People all over wanted to fight for their country and be heroes, which opened up jobs for women. It was the new beginning for everyone. The war sounded better than it was. My grandfather explained that they were a victim of late news. They didn't get told things till months after they happened, leaving war to be a mystery. Soon enough people got word of what was really happening on the battlefield. Leaving the government to enforce anyone from the ages of 18-50 to join. My grandfather being 17 at the time was scared to join but tried not to think about it. He was training as a Cadet when the news came that Germany raised the white flag.

Life after the war

On the day that they heard the good news all the schools and work closed down so they could go to the city and celebrate, my grandfather remembers all the screaming and people throwing their hats and being so excited that we had won. It was truly an exciting moment. All the soldiers back home and telling their heroic stories. Once the excitement died down everyone was extremely thankful of people's courage and sacrifice. My grandpa knew so many people in the war; friends, Uncles, classmates and many more brave individuals. The impact of loss affected everyone. Life after the war was different,

so many people were back but also so many people not. My grandfather could remember seeing empty desks at school that people in his class use to fill and being so heartbroken. But Canada was in a better place now that the war was over and peace was restored in the world.

(Conclusion)

The war ended in 1945. Canada had fought for freedom and justice! Although war is the worst it brought Canada out of a depression and into a brighter future. Anyone who participated in the war is truly a Canadian hero. I am proud to live in a country that is as brave as we are. The impact on Canada and its citizens from the war was huge but we are forever grateful.