



142 Mimico 'Determination' Squadron

Established July 2nd, 1942

Royal Canadian Air Cadets

Ex Canadian Invasion 2018 – Old Blighty Educational Pre-Requisite Essay Assignment

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Cadet candidates are to write diary entries putting their minds to being a teenager living in Canada during either the First or Second World War. Explain the "hardships" they encounter, sense of "doing one's part at home", or the "dream of adventure and heroism in battle off in Europe" when they are able to enlist. The Cadet is to describe their observations of their family, especially if they had a family member away serving; the feeling of their community at large; and finally, reflect upon the "personal" impact the war is having on them as they are growing up during either WWI (July 28 1914 – 11 November 1918) or WWII (1 September 1939 – 2 September 1945).

Each diary is to be 1,500 – 2,000 words in length, written in a "diary" format in the "first person" covering a period of six months between either period. Only type written diaries will be accepted.

PURPOSE

To identify and learn about the impact that war had upon those who were teenagers growing up in Canada during WWI or WWII.

REFERENCE RESOURCE SITES (Provided as sample locations only)

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/historical-sheets/youth>
http://www.richardgilbert.ca/achart/public_html/articles/publications/cdn_boy_soldiers.htm
<http://www.beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/what-life-in-canada-was-like-before-the-first-world-war/article19342310/?ref=http://theglobeandmail.com&>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-29934965>
<http://cbc.ca/news/canada/no-job-for-a-boy-ww-i-through-eyes-of-a-canadian-teen-soldier-1.2827448>
<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/first-world-war>
<http://wartimecanada.ca/essay/learning/education-during-second-world-war>

INTRODUCTION

The Cadet is to describe how they "feel" growing up during one of these periods. How they could contribute to the war effort as an individual or as part of the community. Was there a desire to enlist? How did they feel when the war was finally over?

The essay is due to be submitted by Thursday, 23 November 2017, by 19h00. Late submissions will not be accepted and may exclude the Cadet candidate from the selection process.

**142 Mimico 'Determination' Squadron
Fort York Armoury**

**660 Fleet Street, Room 104, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5V 1A9
Telephone: 416.203.4673 – www.142.ca
Canadian Charitable Registration Number 130387665RR0064**

Cadet candidates will participate in a discussion and interview session to be held on Saturday, 2 December 2017, 13h00 – 1700hrs, at Fort York Armoury, 660 Fleet Street, Toronto. This is a mandatory activity for all Cadet candidates, to be hosted by the Training Officer and Veterans. Cadets will be required to be in full uniform for this activity. Cadet candidates will discuss how they feel when the event and its aftermath result in feelings significantly different from what they expected.

THE TASK

Cadet candidates should browse the First and/or Second World War topics on websites for instances which show the life of a teenager at home in Canada. What, if any, was the impact of having a family member overseas serving? What hardships did they endure? Rationing? Travel restrictions? Worries about the enemy landing or already living in Canada? Cadet candidates should detail the changes in the mood of their family and/or community during different periods of the war, answering the following questions may help Cadets identify these factors:

- What indicators of excitement were present at the outset of the war?
- What was the "send-off" for men from your home community like?
- When bad news struck, what things affected the day to day life of the writer and his/her family/community?
- What hardships, if any, did you go through to support the "war effort" at home?
- What was it like when the war ended?

By answering these questions Cadet candidates will create a series of diary entries that chronicle observations and the evolution of their personal thoughts and emotions throughout the period of the war they are documenting. Entries must cover a six month period from WWI (July 28 1914 – 11 November 1918) or WWII (1 September 1939 – 2 September 1945).

NOTE: All dates, locations and military units listed in the journal must be historically correct. Verify your information for accuracy. Your success in this assignment depends upon the historic accuracy of your diary.

THE PROCESS

Cadet candidates will share their entries amongst the group. Through a discussion session, candidates will relate their findings, explaining their interpretation of what life may have been like during these times. Determine if there are consistencies the communities they choose to write about, such as growing up in a rural community versus a town or a city, and, speculate why what was different and what they shared in common. Cadet candidates will also discuss how they consider to what extent their own perspective on living through a war has been changed as a result of writing these entries.

CONCLUSION

Through the discussion session Cadet candidates and the discussion panel will compare the thoughts and feelings of the entries, and those of the discussion panel who served.

Cadet candidates will be presented with the following question to close the discussion session:

“Through the knowledge of history we have repeatedly learned of the horrors and savagery of war. Why, when a new war has begun, do people flock to the banner expecting honour and glory for all?”

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