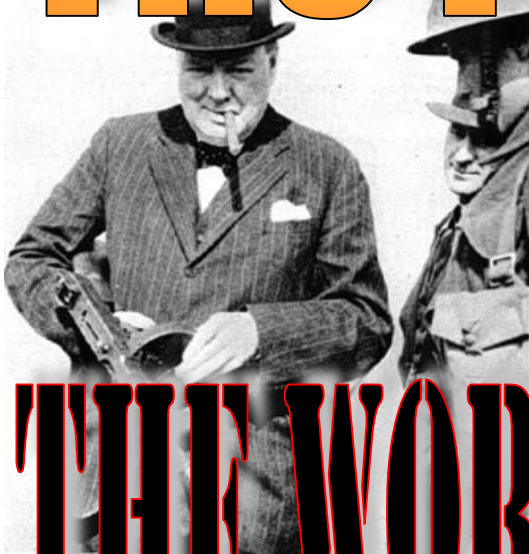


# The Forties



## THE WORLD AT WAR



## Lyrics & Lessons

By Tom Dykes © 2015

# WORLD AT WAR

The Forties came in,  
we were all in a trance.  
The Battle of Britain  
after the fall of France.  
And then came Pearl Harbor  
on that 7th day.  
The Axis would now feel  
the wrath of the U.S. of A.

In the Battle of Britain,  
there were those who just knew  
that our Island's future  
was in the hands of a few.  
Churchill's words to the nation  
gave us strength and the power.  
Generations will remember,  
it was our "Finest Hour."

Across the Atlantic,  
from Halifax to Liverpool,  
RCN protected convoys  
In a battle where U-Boats rule.  
The longest battle of the war  
is won, but with many regrets,  
by brave sailors in merchantmen,  
destroyers and corvettes.

Bomber Command and USAAF,  
Over German skies they flew.  
The task was full of dangers  
For the pilots and the crew.  
In a raid on Dieppe, Canadians lost  
the surprise and many brave men.  
A lesson was learned, and soon  
Allies were preparing to go in again.

Stalingrad, Alamein, Normandy,  
brought closure in the west.  
In the islands of the Pacific  
US marines met the test.  
The world finally found peace  
one August day.  
Through awesome atomic power  
delivered by Enola Gay.

At Nuremburg, full accounting  
of Germany's Nazi evolution,  
which introduced mankind to  
its Master Race and Final Solution.  
But, with memories short,  
and a world to rebuild,  
we paid only token homage  
to the millions who were killed.

World War II now was over,  
but the future, uncertain.  
Because 'cross this world  
would fall an Iron Curtain.  
Yesterday's enemy now was a friend  
Soviet power wanted much more.  
Eye to eye with America,  
the world is faced with Cold war.

The decline of the Empires  
of Britain and France begin.  
"Home rule for the people",  
say Gandhi and Ho Chi Mihn.  
A global body giving voice  
to international aspirations  
was born in San Francisco,  
called The United Nations.

# WORLD AT WAR

Verse 1

**The Forties came in,  
we were all in a trance.  
The Battle of Britain  
after the fall of France.**

**And then came Pearl  
Harbor  
on that 7th day.  
The Axis would now feel  
the wrath of the U.S. of A.**



## Research Topics

Choose one topic.

- Research and report on the “Phony War” period.
- Research and report on the role of the B.E.F. in France.
- Research and report on the first deployment of Canadian troops in Europe.
- Research and report on the Fall of France.
- Research and report on the retreat from Dunkirk.
- Research and report the Japanese expansion after Pearl Harbor.
- Research and report on the American decision to make Europe a first priority.

Research Assistant

[www.bbc.net.uk/history/wwtwo/launch\\_ani\\_fall\\_france\\_campaign.shtml](http://www.bbc.net.uk/history/wwtwo/launch_ani_fall_france_campaign.shtml)

[www.winstonchurchill.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=338](http://www.winstonchurchill.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=338)

# WORLD AT WAR

## Verse 2

**In the Battle of Britain,  
there were those who just  
knew  
that our Island's future  
was in the hands of a few.**

**Churchill's words to the  
nation  
gave us strength and the  
power.  
Generations will remember,  
it was our “Finest Hour.”**



### Research Topics

**Choose one topic.**

- **Research and report on the Battle of Britain.**
- **Research and report on Churchill's “Few” speech.**
- **Compare the Spitfire and Me.109.**
- **Research and report on the role of the British radar and observers.**
- **Profile Sir Hugh Dowding.**
- **Profile Hermann Goering.**
- **Research and report on the 100+ Canadians who fought in the RAF during the Battle of Britain.**
- **Profile an RAF fighter pilot.**

Research Assistance

[www.raf.mod.uk/bob1940/bobhome.html](http://www.raf.mod.uk/bob1940/bobhome.html)

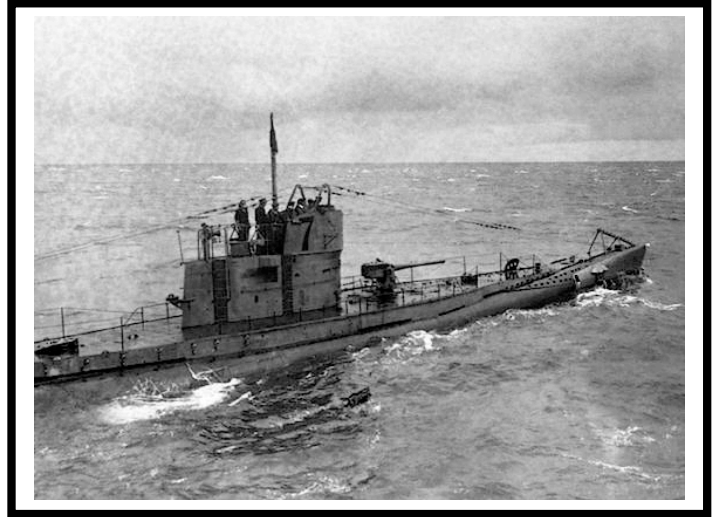
[www.airforce.forces.gc.ca/hist/battle\\_of\\_Britain/battle\\_e.asp](http://www.airforce.forces.gc.ca/hist/battle_of_Britain/battle_e.asp)

# WORLD AT WAR

## Verse 3

**Across the Atlantic,  
from Halifax to Liverpool,  
RCN protected convoys  
In a battle where U-Boats  
rule.**

**The longest battle of the war  
is won, but with many  
regrets,  
by brave sailors in  
merchantmen,  
destroyers and corvettes.**



### Research Topics

**Choose one topic.**

- **Research and report on the role of Halifax NS in the Battle of the Atlantic.**
- **Research and report on the role of Liverpool, England and the Battle of the Atlantic.**
- **Profile a U-Boat commander.**
- **Profile a Corvette Captain.**
- **Research and report on the role of the RCN in the North Atlantic.**
- **Research and report on the Convoy system.**
- **Research and prepare a statistical analysis of allied shipping losses during the battle of the Atlantic.**

**Research Assistant**

[www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=history/secondwar/atlantic](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=history/secondwar/atlantic)

[www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/exhibitions/boa/home.asp](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/exhibitions/boa/home.asp)



# WORLD AT WAR

Verse 4

**Bomber Command and  
USAAF,  
Over German skies they  
flew.  
The task was full of dangers  
for the pilots and the crew.**

**In a raid on Dieppe,  
Canadians lost the surprise  
and many brave men.  
A lesson was learned, and  
soon  
Allies were preparing to go  
in again.**



## Research Topics

Choose one topic.

- Research and report on British Bomber Command.
- Research and report on the Canadians in Bomber Command.
- Research and report on the Commonwealth Air Training program.
- Research and report on the USAAF. 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force.
- Profile “Bomber” Harris.
- Research and report on the Dieppe Raid.
- Profile a Lancaster Bomber Crew.

Research Assistant

[www.raf.mod.uk/bombercommand/index.html](http://www.raf.mod.uk/bombercommand/index.html)  
[www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=history/secondwar/dieppe](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=history/secondwar/dieppe)  
[www.8thairforce.com](http://www.8thairforce.com)

# WORLD AT WAR

Verse 5

**Stalingrad, Alamein,  
Normandy,  
brought closure in the west.  
In the islands of the Pacific  
US marines met the test.**

**The world finally found  
peace  
one August day.  
Through awesome atomic  
power  
delivered by Enola Gay.**



## Research Topics

**Choose one topic.**

- **Research and report on one of the following battles and indicate the significance of the result. Stalingrad. El Alamein. Normandy.**
- **Research and report on the Island Hopping strategy of the US Marines.**
- **Profile one of the following Island Battles: Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Guadalcanal, Saipan.**
- **Research and report on the Manhattan Project.**
- **Research and report on the dropping of the Atomic Bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima.**

**Research Assistant**

[www.worldwar2history.info/pacific](http://www.worldwar2history.info/pacific)

[www.trumanlibrary.org/teacher/abomb](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/teacher/abomb)

[www.paperlessarchives.com/wwii\\_marine\\_hist.html](http://www.paperlessarchives.com/wwii_marine_hist.html)

# WORLD AT WAR

Verse 6

**At Nuremburg, full  
accounting  
of Germany's Nazi  
evolution,  
which introduced mankind  
to  
its Master Race and Final  
Solution.**

**But, with memories short,  
and a world to rebuild,  
we paid only token homage  
to the millions who were  
killed.**



## Research Topics

Choose one topic.

- Research and report on the significance of Nuremberg as the site for the trial of Nazi War Criminals.
- Research and report on the Allies prosecution and the Nazi defence during the trial. Who were the main counsels for both sides?
- Research and report on the principal Nazi defendants, the charges and the outcomes.
- Research and report on the new terminology that emerged from the trials such as crimes against humanity.
- Research and report on the trials held against the Japanese after they surrendered.

### Research Assistant

[www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/nuremberg.html](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/nuremberg.html)

[www.mtsu.edu/~baustin/trials3.html](http://www.mtsu.edu/~baustin/trials3.html)

[www.histroyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/nurem.htm](http://www.histroyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/nurem.htm)

[www.cnd.org/mirror/nanjing/NMTT.html](http://www.cnd.org/mirror/nanjing/NMTT.html)



# WORLD AT WAR

## Verse 7

**World War II now was over,  
but the future, uncertain.  
Because 'cross this world  
would fall an “Iron  
Curtain.”**

**Yesterday's enemy now was  
a friend  
Soviet power wanted much  
more.  
Eye to eye with America,  
the world is faced with Cold  
war.**



### Research Topics

**Choose one topic.**

- **Research and report on Churchill's “Iron Curtain” speech at Westminster College, Missouri, March 5, 1946.**
- **Research and report on the importance of Churchill's observations to an America that considered the war to be over.**
- **Research and prepare a map to show the disposition of the two main political/military “camps” that evolved after WWII.**
- **Research and report on the establishment of Soviet rule over countries “liberated” by the Russians during WWII.**
- **Research and report on the term Cold War. Why was it called so? How cold was it?**
- **Research and report on the Berlin Airlift, the first ‘conflict’ of the Cold War.**

#### Research Assistant

[www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/churchill-iron.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/churchill-iron.html)

[www.konnections.com/airlift/berlin.html](http://www.konnections.com/airlift/berlin.html)

[www.ibiblio.org/expo/soviet.exhibit/coldwar.html](http://www.ibiblio.org/expo/soviet.exhibit/coldwar.html)

# WORLD AT WAR

Verse 8

**The decline of the Empires  
of Britain and France begin.  
"Home rule for the people",  
say Gandhi and Ho Chi  
Mihn.**

**A global body giving voice  
to international aspirations  
was born in San Francisco,  
called The United Nations.**



## Research Topics

Choose one topic.

- **Research and report on the decline of one of the following:  
the British, French, or Dutch Empires.**
- **Profile one of the following anti-colonial leaders:  
Ho Chi Mihn, Gandhi, Sukarno, Jomo Kenyatta, Nkruma.**
- **Research and report on the establishment of the United Nations.**
- **Research and report on the UN Charter.**
- **Research and report on the structure of the Permanent Security Council.**
- **Research and report on the first UN sanctioned military action.**
- **Research and report on the Secretaries General of the UN from founding to  
date. Identify a major achievement or failure during their tenure.**

**Research Assistant**

[www.un.org/aboutun/unhistory](http://www.un.org/aboutun/unhistory)

[www.una-sf.org](http://www.una-sf.org)

[www.un.org/sc/](http://www.un.org/sc/)

[www.un.org/aboutun/charter/chapter7.html](http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/chapter7.html)