

**AN
ABC
OF THE
BATTLE
OF THE
ATLANTIC**

A Teacher Resource By Tom Dykes (C) 2015

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC



*HMCS Waskesiu. River Class Frigate. She was the first Canadian vessel to sink a U-Boat.
Active service in the North Atlantic, the Murmansk Run and the D-day landings.*

By Tom Dykes (C) 2015

A Teacher Resource

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(C) 2015

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INTRODUCTION

As the 20th Century fades more and more into our collective memory, it is still important for educators to examine the great and violent confrontations that have made the century one of humanities bench marks for destruction, and paradoxically, the development of amazing leaps in social, cultural and technological developments.

The Battle of the Atlantic was conducted for 69 months over the reaches of millions of square miles of the Atlantic Ocean and its adjunctive seas. It was an area of conflict that was conducted from the tropics to the arctic, and was the confrontational realm that held the key to the resolution of what we call World War II. Without the free passage of strategic materiel and men from North America, Britain would not survive the Nazi onslaught.

Without that same resource and resolve, Russia, would not have received the aid that contributed to its ability to hold and finally repel the German invaders. In short, who controlled the Atlantic would ultimately dictate the outcome of the war.

An ABC of the Battle of the Atlantic seeks to provide students to the range and role of the Royal Canadian Navy in that Theatre of Operation during WWII.

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

By Tom Dykes © 2009

An ABC of the Battle of the Atlantic uses the alphabet and rhyme to provide a 26-theme introduction to this important WWII theatre of operations. The 'Alphapoetic' system has been developed by Tom Dykes and used in a variety of educational programmes. The format has received accolades from teachers in Canada, England, Australia, and the USA.

An ABC of the Battle of the Atlantic is an innovative way to introduce students to, or close a study on the longest and most critical battle of World War II. The format lends itself to a variety of levels of interpretation and application.

As a teaching resource, each Alphapoetic unit offers an opportunity for individual or group in-depth study of a specific aspect of this WWII Theatre of Operation.

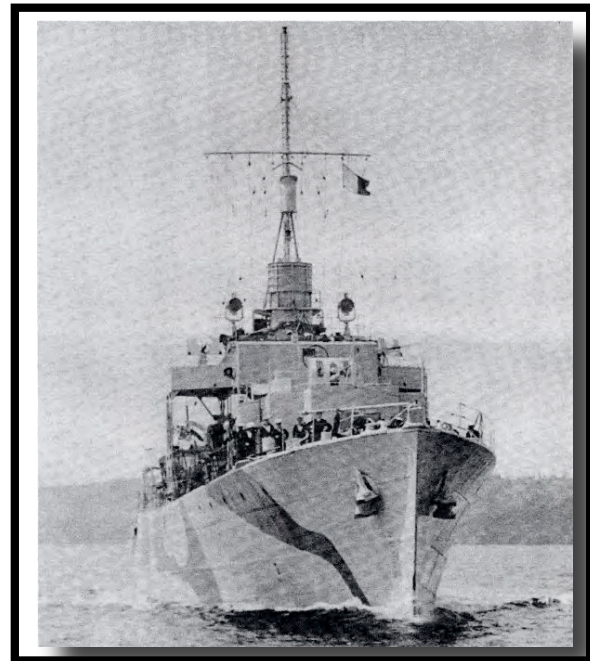
An ABC of The Battle of the Atlantic is a challenging Independent Study Unit for a class. It may also lend itself as a Summative.

An ABC of the Battle of the Atlantic teacher resource also includes a modified **Just-A-Minute** game based on a long running BBC Radio Game Show. Developed for the BBC by Ian Messiter, permission was granted to modify for school use in the ABC series of educational resources.

Just-A-Minute is an ideal companion to the **ABC of the Battle of the Atlantic**. It is a most challenging and entertaining vehicle for students to showcase their knowledge of a subject or topic. This component provides a support for public speaking skills, listening skills and teamwork.



War Poster



HMCS Waskesiu, River Class Frigate

The ABC format provides a strong support for a variety of skill developments, particularly in the areas of history, geography, world issues and language arts. A very strong writing strand has been designed and applied to all subjects.

The 26 thematic units of the ABC introduction to the Battle of the Atlantic enable the teacher to offer students an opportunity for individual or group research activity. It is a format that can be provide an introduction to the role of Canada in the Battle of the Atlantic, or as a means of a comprehensive wrap-up of a unit on the battle.

The ABC structure provides individual or group activity with a comprehensive range of challenges: cooperative learning, research, discussion and debate, brainstorming, decision making and problem solving.

The use of the BBC radio game, *Just A Minute*, is a valuable tool for reinforcing public speaking skills as well as listening skills. This established game format is provided with the permission of the originator for the expressed use as an educational tool. Every element of the ABC unit has the potential for innovative research and presentation. As a class activity, the collective research, findings and presentation can provide a uniquely presented study on the theatre of World War II in which Canada played a principal role. It provides for study of the strategies, the vessels, the challenges and the lives of those who served.



Rear Admiral Percy Nelles, RCN



Battle of the Atlantic Memorial

THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

AN OVERVIEW

This was the longest and probably most crucial campaign of the Second World War. As Winston Churchill wrote: 'The Battle of the Atlantic was the dominating factor all through the war ... '

Britain, an island nation, depended for her survival upon maritime trade and her 3,000 ocean-going merchant ships, along with 1,000 coastal vessels, formed the largest merchant fleet in the world. As well as exports, Britain imported all of her oil, half of her food, and many raw materials by sea.

In 1939 the German navy was not strong enough to risk a major battle with the Royal Navy, which was still the largest navy in the world. Germany instead aimed to defeat Britain by attacking merchant shipping. The campaign was worldwide but at its most relentless in the North Atlantic where, during the course of the war, over 3,000 British and allied merchant ships were sunk – well over 13 million tonnes. Most were sunk by U-boats. More than 30,000 British merchant navy crew were lost at sea. Canada also lost 2,600 naval and 1,146 merchant personnel. 175 Allied naval vessels were also lost, including 24 RCN and 67 Canadian merchantmen.

The U-boat threat was the deadliest. Winston Churchill wrote that '... the only thing that ever really frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril'.

After the fall of France in June 1940, Germany was able to use the French Atlantic ports as bases. U-boat wolf-pack attacks were used with devastating effect. The Type VII U-boat was highly manoeuvrable, hard to locate, had a fast surface speed, and could submerge in 30 seconds. The average range was 4,000 miles. The U-boats were remarkably successful up to 1943 but



'Maison des Sardines' HQ of Admiral Donitz and the German U-Boats. Lorient, Brittany, France.



A U-boat pen at Lorient, Brittany.

from then onwards never regained the upper hand. This was thanks to more escort ships, better air cover, new tactics and equipment, and accurate naval intelligence. Out of 830 operational U-boats, 793 were eventually lost and most of these were sunk in the last two years of the war.

The main means of defence developed against U-boats was the convoy system – groups of merchant ships in close formation under the protection of one or more escort war ships.

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

A for the ATLANTIC longest battle of World War II.

When did the Battle of the Atlantic start?

When did the battle officially end?

What was the importance of the Atlantic to the Allies and the Germans?

What was the Canadian role?

Why was Canada's role important?

Where were Canadian naval facilities located?

Who were the RCN commanders?



North and South Atlantic area of RCN operations in WWII

Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a Time Line that encompasses the events of significance that occurred during the Battle of the Atlantic from the start to the conclusion.
- Research and profile Rear Admiral Leonard Warren Murray, C.B., C.B.E., RCN.
- Research and report on the state of the RCN upon the outbreak of World War II.
- Research and prepare a Time Line to show the evolution of the Canadian naval forces from war's outbreak to the war's end.

Research Assistance

www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/battle_atlantic_01.shtml

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev2.htm

www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev.htm

www.uboataces.com/

The Canadian naval Chronicle 1939 – 45 by Fraser McKee & Robert Darlington

In Great Waters by Spencer Dunmore

Bitter Ocean by David White

Canada's Navy: The First Century by Marc Milner

Battle of the Atlantic by Marc Milner

Corvettes of the RCN 1939-1945 by Marc Johnston

North Atlantic Run: The RCN and the Battle for the Convoys by Marc Milner

The U-boat Hunters: The RCN and the offensive against Germany's Submarines by Marc Milner

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

B is for BRITAIN

Island nation, supplies must get through.

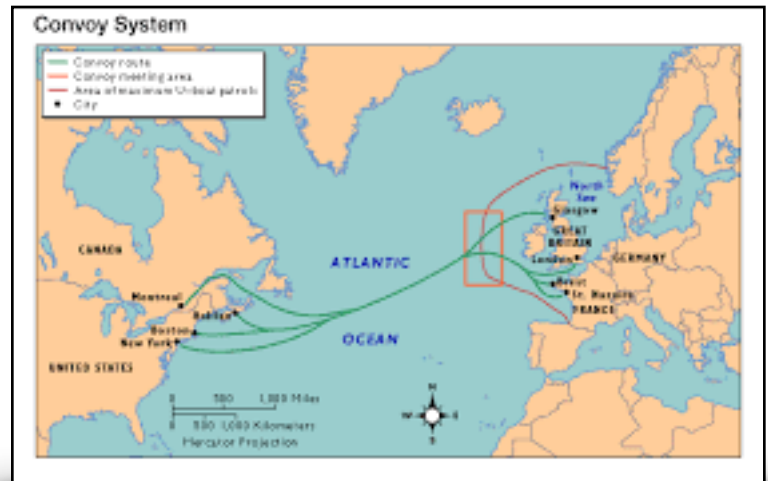
Why were imports so vital to Britain?

Where did most goods originate?

What mode of transport was important?

What specialized cities became important to this need?

Who decided that the Atlantic was important to the British war effort?



An island nation, dependent upon secure sea lanes, Britain is vulnerable to U-boat action in WWII.

Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and report on the first British losses on the Atlantic and identify their role, i.e. merchantman, passenger, warship.
- Research and prepare a report to show the types of raw materials that Britain imported. Identify those that were of strategic importance.
- Research and report on the methods used by Britain to offset the reduced importation of food during the war.
- Research and report on the products that Canada provided to Britain during the war period.
- Research and prepare a Time Line to show the evolution of the British Royal Navy forces from war's outbreak to the war's end.

Research Assistance

www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/battle_atlantic_01.shtml

www.liverpoolwarmuseum.co.uk/history

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/collections/boa

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev.htm

www.uboataces.com/

In Great Waters by Spencer Dunmore

Bitter Ocean by David White

The Canadian Naval Chronicle 1939 – 45 by Fraser McKee & Robert Darlington

Battle of the Atlantic by Marc Milner

The Unknown Navy, Canada's WWII Merchant Navy by Robt. G. Halford

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

C for the CORVETTES

Protected convoy supplies.

Why were Corvettes so important?

When did the convoy system start?

What was the importance of the convoy system to the war effort?

What was the RCN Corvette role?

Where did Canadian convoys originate?

Who commanded a Corvette?



HMCS Sackville, Flower Class Corvette is now on display in Halifax.

Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and report on the types of convoys that left Canada for Britain.
- Research and report on the type of protection provided to convoys by Canadian and British naval groups.
- Research and report on the activity of a RCN Corvette on convoy duty.
- Research and report on the most dangerous areas of the Atlantic that the convoys had to pass en route to destination ports.
- Research and report on the roles of a Convoy Commodore and the Escort Commander.

Research Assistance

www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=feature/murmansk/history

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev2.htm

www.Liverpoolwarmuseum.co.uk/history

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/collections/boa

<http://www.convoyweb.org.uk/>

www.uboat.net/men/donitz

In Great Waters by Spencer Dunmore

The Unknown Navy Canada's WWII merchant Navy. Robt. G. Halford

The Canadian Naval Chronicle 1939-45 by Fraser McKee & Robert Darlington

Bitter Ocean by David White

North Atlantic Run: The RCN and the Battle for the Convoys by Marc Milner

Battle of the Atlantic by Marc Milner

St. John's and the Battle of the Atlantic by Bill Rompkey

Corvettes of the RCN 1939-1945 by Marc Johnston

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

D is for DESTROYER

the convoy's ears and eyes.

When were RCN destroyers first deployed in WWII?

Where were destroyers built?

What was their primary role?

What was the crew compliment?

Why were destroyers used?

Who commanded a destroyer?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a study of HMCS Haida or HMCS Algonquin and their role in the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Research and report on HMCS Athabaskan, a Canadian Destroyer lost in action off the coast of France in 1944.
- Research and prepare a study on the Canadian Tribal Class Destroyers in the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Research the training time needed by crews before they and their ship were declared commissioned and ready for duty.
- Research and report on the methods and weapons used by Canadian Destroyers when U-boats were detected.

Research Assistance

www.Cornwallismuseum.ca

www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?

www.jproc.ca/cta/

[/www.hazegray.org/navhist/canada/rcnships/destroy/](http://www.hazegray.org/navhist/canada/rcnships/destroy/)

The Canadian Naval Chronicle 1939-45 by Fraser McKee & Robert Darlington

Unlucky Lady; The Life & Death of HMCS Athabaskan 1940-1944 by Len Burrow

www.warshipsifr.com/battleOfTheAtlantic.html

In Great Waters by Spencer Dunmore

Canadians in the Battle of the Atlantic by Larry Gray

Battle of the Atlantic by Marc Milner

HMCS Haida, battle ensign flying by B. Gough

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

E for the ENIGMA

German Naval secrets no more.

What was the Enigma Machine?

What does the term Enigma mean?

When was it used?

Why was it important to the Germans?

Why was it important to the allies?

Who was responsible for the Naval Enigma on the U-boat?

Where did the allies recover a naval enigma machine?

What secret place in England housed the people who broke the Enigma code?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a report on the German Secret Naval Enigma machines.
- Research and report on the importance of the capture of U-110 by the Royal Navy. Why were the findings on board so important?
- Research and report methods of secrecy used by allies with regard to the convoy system.
- Research and prepare a report on the importance of code making and breaking in WWII.
- Research and prepare a report on the type of person 'seconded' to Bletchley Park.
- Research other secret technologies used by the Germans and Allies in the Battle of the Atlantic.

Research Assistance

www.avoca.ndirect.co.uk/enigma/enigma13.htm
www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev.htm
www.bletchleypark.org.uk/content/hist/wartime.rhtm
www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2008/05/dayintech_0509
In great Waters by Spencer Dunmore
Bitter Ocean by David White
Battle of the Atlantic by Marc Milner
Enigma: The Battle for the Code by Hugh Sebag-Montefiore

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

F is for FRANCE

U-boats get new bases, secure.

Where were the French sub pens located?

When did the Germans secure their use?

What was the importance of the pens to the Germans?

Why was the location a threat to the convoy system?

Who was charged with their destruction?



U-boat pen in Lorient, Brittany, France.

Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a report on the strategic advantage the U-Boat fleet had with the capture of the French Submarine Pens at Lorient.
- Research and report on allied bombing efforts to destroy the sub pens at Lorient.
- Research and report on Jacques Stoskopf, the Frenchman assigned by the Germans to build the pens.
- Research and report RCN and RN anti-submarine action in the Bay of Biscay.
- Research and prepare a report on the other ports from which the German submarines operated.

Research Assistance

www.uboataces.com/boa-fall-france.shtml

www.historyofwar.org/articles/battles_stnazaire2.html

www.uboatwar.net/pages/Frubaot.htm

www.uboat.net/flotillas/france

In Great Waters by Spencer Dunmore

Bitter Ocean by David White

Battle of the Atlantic by Marc Milner

Canadian Naval Chronicles 1939-45 by Fraser McKee and Robert Darlington

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

G is for **GERMANY**
seeking European domination.

Who led the German nation to war?

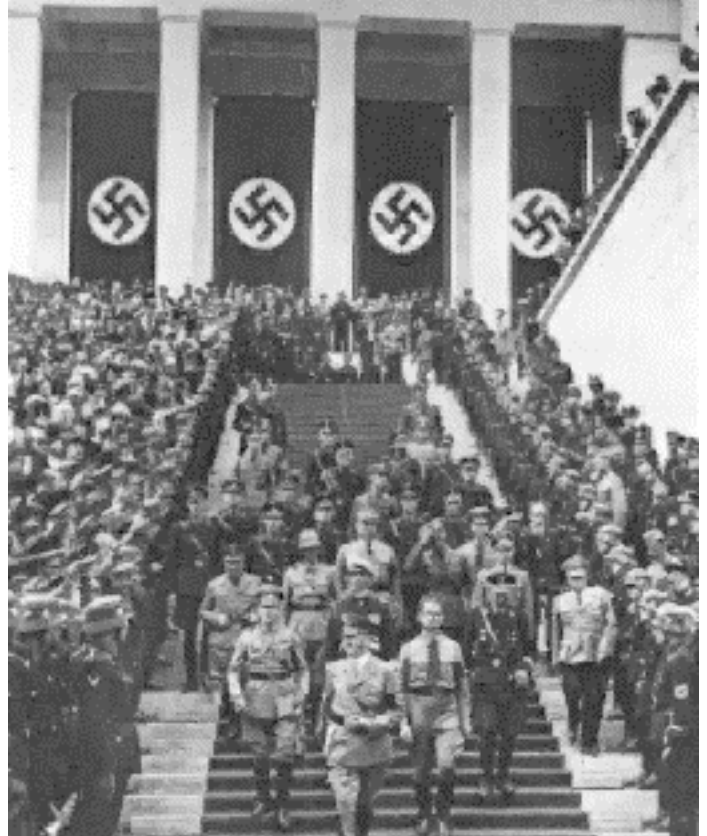
When did Germany embark on its European conquest?

What was the aim of Lebensraum?

When did Canada declare war on Germany?

Why was Canada's role important?

What was German naval strength at the start of WWII?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a report on the German Navy at the start of WWII.
- Research and report on the importance Hitler placed on German naval forces.
- Research and report on the state of the RCN upon the outbreak of World War II.
- Research and prepare a report on the geographic limitations on the German navy at the outbreak of WWII.
- Profile Admiral Karl Donitz.

Research Assistance

www.uboaat.net/men/donitz

www.uboaat.net/

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev.htm

www.uboaat.net/boa-fall-france.shtml

Another Place, Another Time by Werner Hirschmann

Battle of the Atlantic by Marc Milner

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

H is for **HALIFAX**

Primary port of our nation.

When did Halifax assume the role of primary port?

Why was the port so important to the war effort?

What advantages did Halifax offer?

Where did the convoys deploy?

Who was responsible for the wartime port facilities?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a report on the role that the Port of Halifax played in the prosecution of the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Research and prepare a statistical report on the war materiel that passed through the Port of Halifax during WWII. Present findings in a graph per year: 1939 -1945
- Research and report on the port developments undertaken by the Port of Halifax to accommodate its role as primary port.
- Research and report on the role of women in the Port of Halifax during the war period.

Research Assistance

www.warmuseum.ca/cwm

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev2.htm

www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?

www.navy.forces.gc.ca/marlant

Battle of the Atlantic: Anthology of Personal memories. Picton Press

The Canadian Naval Chronicle 1939 – 45 by Fraser McKee & Robert Darlington

In Great Waters by Spencer Dunmore

Bitter Ocean by David White

The Unknown Navy. Canada's WWII Merchant Navy by Robt. G. Halford

Canadians in the Battle of the Atlantic by Larry Gray

North Atlantic Run: The RCN and the Battle for the Convoys by Marc Milner

Canada's Navy: The First Century by Marc Milner

Battle of the Atlantic by Marc Milner

Corvettes of the RCN 1939-1945 by Marc Johnston

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

I IS FOR ICE

On the Murmansk run we'd get.

Where is Murmansk?

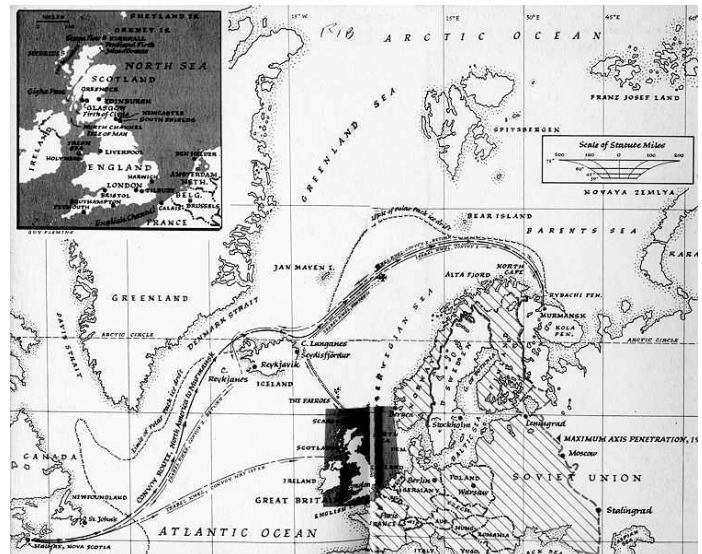
Why did convoys travel to Murmansk?

What kind of cargo was sent to Murmansk?

What Canadian vessels were on the Murmansk run?

When were Murmansk convoys started?

What German forces did the convoys face?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and report on why the port of Murmansk was chosen as the port of entry for the USSR.
- Research and prepare report on the hardship faced by naval personnel assigned to the Murmansk run.
- Research and report on a convoy assigned to the Murmansk run.
- Research and report on the treatment received by allied seamen at the hands of their Russian “Allies” once they made it to Murmansk. Why was this so?

Research Assistance

www.uboa.net/men/donitz

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev.htm

www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=feature/murmansk/history

www.vrcurassow.com/2dvrc/maps/murmansk.html

In Great Waters by Spencer Dunmore

Bitter Ocean by David White

The Unknown Navy. Canada's WWII Merchant Navy by Robt. G. Halford

Canadians in the Battle of the Atlantic by Larry Gray

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

J for the **JUNKER 290**

Germany's long-range air threat.

What was the role of the Ju 290?

Where did they operate from?

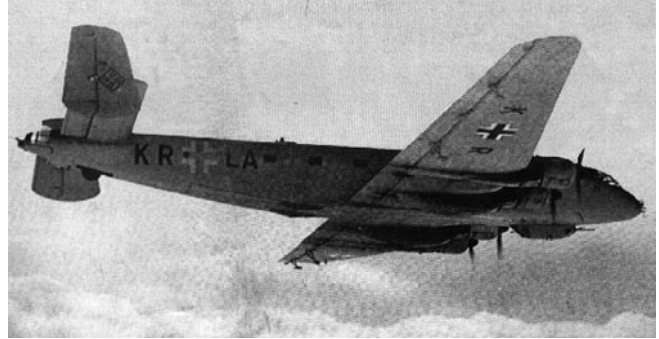
What branch of the German armed forces did it report to?

When where they first used?

What was its range?

What were allied counter measures?

Why were they ineffective?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a report on the design and development of the JU 290.
- Research and report on the design and development of the German FW200 Condor long-range aircraft.
- Research and report on the development of Allied long range aircraft such as the Hudson, Sunderland and the Catalina.
- Research and prepare a report on the success/failure of the German JU 290 in the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Research and report on the strategic impact of airpower on the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Research and report on the impact of the Air Gap on convoy losses.

Research Assistance

www.historyofwar.org/articles/weapons_ju290.html

www.navynews.co.uk/boa/index.asp

www.geocities.com/pentagon/2833/luftwaffe/reconnaissance/fw200/fw200.html

In Great Waters. Spencer Dunmore
Bitter Ocean. David White

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

K is for **K**RIEGSMARINE

The German navy encroaches.

What was the strength of Germany's navy at the start of the war?

Where was its headquarters?

Who was the Naval chief?

What branch was the most successful?

When did it make its first impact on the allies?

Why was it less successful than the allied navies?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a report on the divisions of the German Kriegsmarine.
- Research and profile Admiral Donitz.
- Research and report the success of the allies in the Battle of the River Plate.
- Research and prepare a report on the success of the Bismarck, and the subsequent allied response to that success.
- Research and report on the reluctance of Hitler to use his naval surface ships too often.
-

Research Assistance

www.uboat.net/men/donitz

www.uboataces.com/

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev.htm

<http://library.thinkquest.org/26742/batat.html>

www.familyheritage.ca/articles1.html

www.german-navy.de/kriegsmarine/links/index.html

Another Place, Another Time by Werner Hirschmann

In great Water by Spencer Dunmore

Memoirs. Ten years and twenty days by Admiral Karl Doenitz

U-boat Hunters: The Royal Canadian Navy and the Offensive against Germany's Submarines by Marc Milner

North Atlantic Run: The RCN and the Battle for the Convoys by Marc Milner

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

L is for **LIVERPOOL**

HQ of Britain's Western Approaches.

Where is Liverpool located?

Why was it chosen as Britain's HQ for the Battle of the Atlantic?

When was the city designated HQ?

What facilities did Liverpool offer?

Why was Canada's role important?

Who was in charge of the Western Approaches HQ?



The actual Situation Map room at Western Approaches, Liverpool.

Research Assignments

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a report on the importance of the Port of Liverpool to the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Research and prepare a report on the role of Derby House and Western Approaches.
- Research and report on the impact of German bombing raids on the Port of Liverpool on the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Research and report on the number of troops and tonnage of war materiel that went through the port of Liverpool from 1939 – 1945.
- Research and report on the number of Canadian military personnel who entered Britain through the port of Liverpool during WWII.
- Research and profile Sir Max Horton or Capt. “Johnnie” Walker.

Research Assistance

www.Liverpoolwarmuseum.co.uk/history

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/collections/boa

The Cruel Sea. Nicholas Monsarrat

Battle of the Atlantic: Anthology of Personal memories. Picton Press

In Great Waters, Spencer Dunmore

Bitter Ocean, David White

The Canadian Naval Chronicle 1939 – 45 by Fraser McKee & Robert Darlington

The Unknown Navy. Canada's WWII Merchant Navy by Robt. G. Halford

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

M is for **M**ERCHANTMEN
filled with supplies, bore the brunt.

What is a Merchantman?

Who manned the Merchantmen?

Where did the crews originate?

Why were they so important to the Allies?

Why were they important targets to the Germans?

When were they most vulnerable in the convoy?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a report on the number of merchant sailors who gave their lives during the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Research and report on the nationalities of those merchant sailors who served the allies in WWII.
- Research and report on the strategic impact of US shipbuilding and the Liberty Ship on the outcome of the Battle of the Atlantic. Profile Henry J. Kaiser.
- Research and prepare a report on the placement of ships in a convoy system. Explain where and why they were placed.
- Research and report on why it took so long (2000) for the Canadian Government to recognize the role of the merchant sailors in the prosecution of the Battle of the Atlantic.

Research Assistance

www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=feature/murmansk/history

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev2.htm

www.Liverpoolwarmuseum.co.uk/history

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/collections/boa

www.uboat.net/men/donitz

In Great Waters by Spencer Dunmore

The Unknown Navy Canada's WWII merchant Navy. Robt. G. Halford

North Atlantic Run: The RCN and the Battle for the Convoys by Marc Milner

Sink all the shipping there: by Fraser McKee

Corvettes of the RCN 1939-1945 by Marc Johnston

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

N for the NAVIES

Allies all in the hunt.

Who coordinated the Allied naval campaign?

Where were the realms of operational responsibility?

What was the ultimate goal of the Allied naval forces?

What was the greatest challenge in the battle?

Why was Canada's role important?

What Allied nations provided ships in the Battle of the Atlantic?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a Time Line to illustrate the relative roles and strengths of the allied navies in the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Research and profile the role of one of the RCN ships during the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Research and report on the growth of the RCN during the battle of the Atlantic.
- Research and prepare a report on the impact of U-Boat attacks in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Canadian coastal waters.

Research Assistance

www.Liverpoolwarmuseum.co.uk/history

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/collections/boa

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev2.htm

www.navy.forces.gc.ca/marlant

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev.htm

In Great Waters. Spencer Dunsmore

The Canadian Naval Chronicle 1939 – 45 by Fraser McKee & Robert Darlington

Bitter Ocean by David White

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Canada's Navy: The First Century by Marc Milner

Corvettes of the RCN 1939-1945 by Marc Johnston

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

O is for **OCEANOGRAPHY**

The science grew fast by the day.

Why was Oceanography considered important to the Battle of the Atlantic?

What research would be needed?

What institutions would be of support?

What was the Canadian role?

When did research get underway?

Who used the findings?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a report on the types of research that was needed for the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Research and prepare a report on the application of University facilities in Canada and the United States to the war effort.
- Research and report on one major oceanographic breakthrough that had an impact on the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Research and report on the advances in Oceanographic studies that were made as a direct result of the Battle of the Atlantic.

Research Assistance

www.bio.gc.ca/info/history-e.html
polardiscovery.whoi.edu/about.html

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

P for **Pocket Battleships** like Admiral Scheer and Graf Spee.

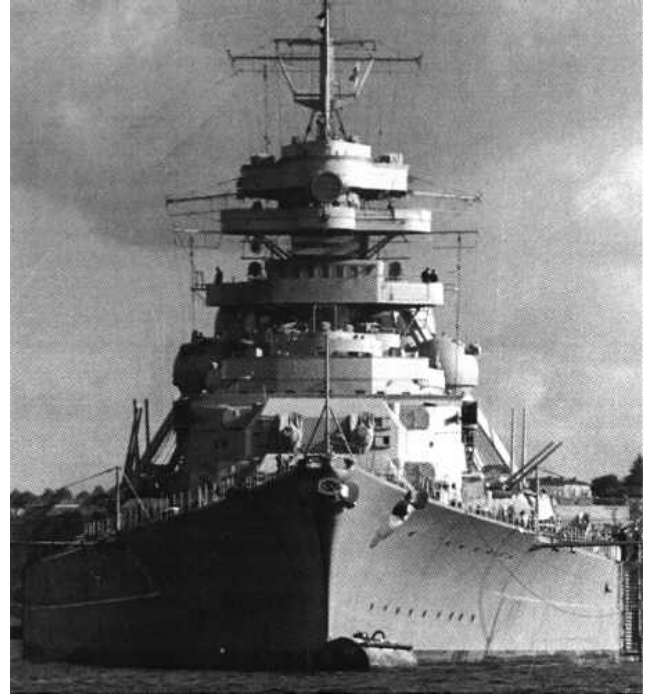
What was meant by the term Pocket Battleship?

Who produced them?

When were they built?

Why were they built?

Where were they built?



Research Assistant

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a report on the German programme to develop the Pocket Battleship.
- Research and profile one of the Pocket Battleships.
- Research and report the methods used by the Allied Navies to combat the German Pocket Battleships.
- Research and prepare a report on a Captain of one of the German Pocket Battleships.

Research Assistance

<http://library.thinkquest.org/26742/batat.html>

www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwii/atlantic/raiders.aspx

www.german-navy.de/kriegsmarine/links/index.html

North Atlantic Run: The RCN and the Battle for the Convoys by Marc Milner

Canada's Navy: The First Century by Marc Milner

Battle of the Atlantic by Marc Milner

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

Q is for QUESTIONS

Are we facing defeat?

What concerns did Britain have after the Fall of France?

Who was leading the British people at this time?

When was fate of Britain “in the balance”?

What was the Canadian response?

Why was Canada’s role important?

Where was the greatest threat to Britain?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a report on the capability of Britain to confront a German invasion after the fall of France.
- Research and report on the plans for the British Royal family, Churchill, Britain’s gold reserves, Royal Navy and national treasures. What role does Canada have in the plans?
- Research and report on Operation Sea Lion: The German plan for the invasion of Britain.
- Research and prepare a report on what you think would have been the outcome of WWII had Donitz received the 300 + U-boats he originally requested to conduct the Battle of the Atlantic.

Research Assistance

www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/battle_atlantic_01.shtml

www.uboat.net/men/donitz

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev.htm

www.familyheritage.ca/articles1.html

In Great Waters by Spencer Dunmore

Battle of the Atlantic by Marc Milner

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

R for the **RCN**

Growing to be an imposing fleet.

What was the state of the Royal Canadian Navy at the start of WWII?

What was the status at the end?

What was the most important Canadian contribution to the Battle of the Atlantic?

Who was the Canadian Navy C in C?

Where was the Canadian Naval H Q?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a Time Line to show the evolution of the Canadian navy from September 1939 – September 1945
- Research and profile R.Adm. L.W.Murray., RCN or Adm.Percy Nelles RCN.
- Research and report on the state of the RCN manpower upon the outbreak of World War II.
- Research and report on the time necessary to build, test and train a crew for service.
- Research and prepare a report on the Canadian Navy manpower at the war's end.
- Invite a member of the Canadian Navy to speak about the Navy today.

Research Assistance

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev2.htm
www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=history/secondwar/Canada2/batatl
www.navy.forces.gc.ca/marlant
www.Cornwallismuseum.ca
www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/battle_atlantic_01.shtml
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AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

S is for **SURFACE** **RAIDERS**

Such as Gneisenau and Scharnhorst.

What was a 'Surface Raider'?

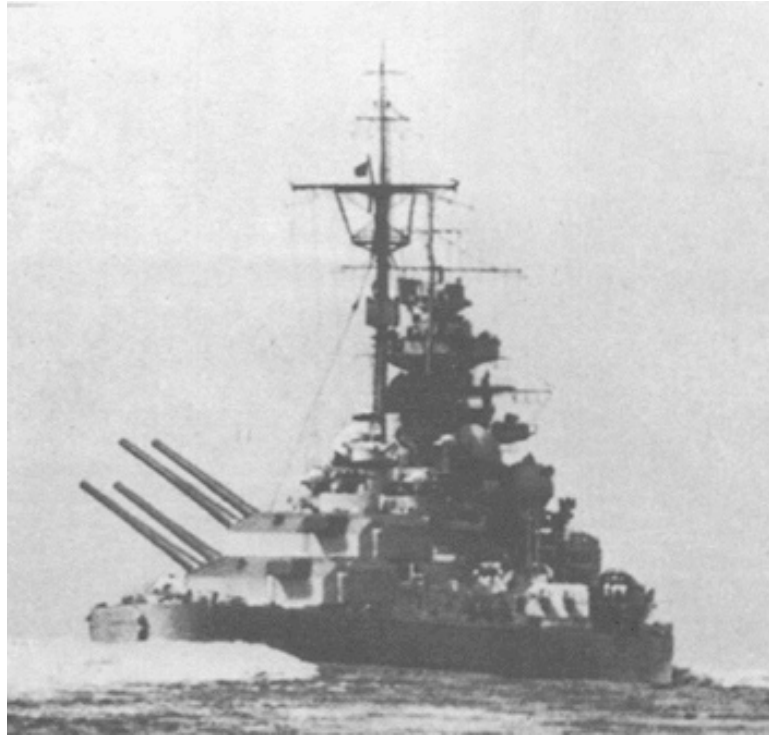
Where did they operate?

What was their special ability?

Why could they stay at sea for so long?

Who provided their support?

When were they first deployed?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a report on the exploits of the German surface raider Tirpitz.
- Research and report of the Battle of the River Plate and the sinking of the Graf Spee.
- Research and report methods used by the German Navy to keep their surface raiders supplied and fueled.
- Prepare a map to show the operational areas of the German Surface Raiders during the war.
- Report on the role of the German armed Merchantmen such as Altmark or Pinguin.

Research Assistance

www.german-navy.de/kriegsmarine/links/index.html
www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev.htm
<http://library.thinkquest.org/26742/batat.html>
www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwii/atlantic/raiders.aspx
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AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

T for the TURNING POINT

Tactics, technology, bravery of course.

What year was considered the Turning Point of the Battle of the Atlantic?

Why was it considered so?

When was the success most apparent?

Where were most important successes?

Who was most impacted by the success?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and report on the period of May 1943, considered Black May by the German U-boat commanders.
- Research and report on the impact of Allied long-range aircraft on the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Research and report on the impact of allied bombings of the U-boat construction yards and their operational ports.
- Research and report on the impact of increased Allied naval fleet tactics and anti-submarine warfare weapons.
- Research and report on the mortality and subsequent morale of the German Submariner force.

Research Assistant

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev2.htm

www.navy.forces.gc.ca/marlant

www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?

www.bbritton.com/bob/atlantic/atlantic1.htm

www.chat.carleton.ca/~jnoakes/ram/cc/strength.html

In Great Waters by Spencer Dunmore

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AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

U is for the U-BOATS

Donitz in Wolf Packs set.

When did Germany first deploy its U-boats?

Who was in charge of the U-boat fleet?

Where was the U-boat fleet H.Q?

Why was the U-boat such a threat?

What was the allied answer(s) to the threat?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and prepare a Time Line to show the growth of the German U-boat fleet from the outset of the war.
- Profile a U-boat Captain, e.g. Gunther Prien, Gunther Hessler, Fritz Lemp, or Otto Kretschmer
- Research and report the U-Boat as a tactical weapon.
- Research and prepare a report on the U-boats “Happy Times.”
- Research and report on the development technology of U-boats.
- Research and prepare a profile of Admiral Karl Donitz.

Research Assistance

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev.htm

www.uboataces.com/

www.uboa.net/men/donitz

www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/battle_atlantic_01.shtml

Another Place, Another Time, by Werner Hirschmann

In Great Waters by Spencer Dunmore

The Canadian Naval Chronicle 1939-45 By Fraser McKee & Robert Darlington

North Atlantic Run: The RCN and the Battle for the Convoys by Marc Milner

U-Boat Hunters: The RCN and the Offensive against Germany's Submarines by Marc Milner

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AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

V for the VETERANS to whom we owe a debt.

What is the definition of a veteran?

When did Canada recognize the need to consider their importance?

What Government department is responsible for the wellbeing of Canada's veterans?

Who is the Minister?

Where is the Ministry located?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and report on the factors that caused the Canadian Government to establish a department to address the needs of returning military personnel.
- Research and report on the kinds of needs that returning military personnel needed upon re-entering civilian life after WWII.
- Research and report on the Ministers who have held the post of Veteran's Affairs and identify an accomplishment they achieved during their term of office.
- Research and report on the responsibilities of building and maintaining the monuments that remind Canadians of our debt to veterans.
- Choose one local War memorial in your community and report on its significance to the community and nation.

Research Assistance

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev2.htm
www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=history/secondwar/Canada2/batatl
www.navy.forces.gc.ca/marlant
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The Unknown Navy. Canada's WWII Merchant Navy by Robt. G. Halford
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Unlucky Lady, the life and death of HMCS Athabaskan by Len Burrows

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

W is for WEAPONS

Depth charge, torpedo, used on patrol.

When did the Germans first use the U-boat in WWII?

When did the use of Depth Charges become a major weapon in antisubmarine warfare?

What the importance of the use of sonar?

When were aircraft first used against U-boats?

What was The Hedgehog?

When was the Snorkel developed?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and report on the development of the depth charge in anti-submarine warfare.
- Research and report on the development of allied anti-sub Escort Groups.
- Research and report on the problems that U-Boats had with the early torpedoes. How did they resolve the problem?
- Research and report on the use of air deployed weapons such as the FIDO aircraft deployed anti-submarine torpedo.
- Research and report on developments in submarine detection technology such as SONAR.

Research Assistance

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev.htm

www.bbritton.com/bob/atlantic/atlantic1.htm

[www.airforcehistory.hq.af.mil/ Publications/fulltext/airpower vs uboats.pdf](http://www.airforcehistory.hq.af.mil/Publications/fulltext/airpower%20vs%20uboats.pdf)

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AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

X in EXPERIENCE

AB to Admiral, each played a role.

What was the ratio of officers to enlisted men in the RCN?

What is meant by AB?

What are the ranks in the RCN?

What was the percentage of RCN personnel serving at sea?

Where were Canada's RCN Training bases?

Where was RCN Head Quarters?



Admiral Percy Nelles

Research Assignments

Choose ONE Topic.

- Profile Admiral Percy Nelles RCN and his role in the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Research and report on the training methods used by the RCN and what changes were made during the period of the war.
- Research the evolution of training for roles as the war progressed, e.g. weaponry and detection technology, e.g. 'Huff-Duff', Radar, Sonar.
- Research and report on the changes made to anti-submarine tactics as the RCN experience grew.
- Research and report on the casualty rate of RCN personnel from 1939-1945 and determine if there is a correlation with the improved tactics and technologies used.

Research Assistance

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev2.htm
www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=history/secondwar/Canada2/batal
www.navy.forces.gc.ca/marlant
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Battle of the Atlantic by Marc Milner
HMCS Haida, battle ensign flying by L. Burrows

AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

Y is for **YOUTHFUL**
those who often faced harm.

What was the average age of RCN personnel in WWII?

What was the average age of RCN officers in WWII?

What qualities do young people bring to the role of the military?

Why is it important that young people are assigned to combat roles?

Who was the youngest RCN officer to serve in WWII?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Research and report on the process of enlistment and the progress of an RCN recruit from day one to assignment.
- Research and report on what percentage of RCN recruits were from Canada's interior provinces.
- Consider your own age and imagine that is how old you are in September 1939. The war will last almost 6 years. Both of your parents lost family in the First World War. What will you do? Will you volunteer? What branch of the armed forces? What will your siblings do? How will your parents feel about your decision?
- Imagine that you are a 17 year old on the HMCS Athabaskan. Write a letter to your parents describing your first battle at sea.

Research Assistance

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev2.htm
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www.navy.forces.gc.ca/marlant
www.Cornwallismuseum.ca
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AN ABC OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

Focus Point

Z for their **ZEAL**
in storm or in calm.

What type of conditions did the RCN face in the Battle of the Atlantic?

What kind of challenges were faced in a U-Boat attack?

Why was it important for crew to remain calm when under attack?

What motivated crews to maintain their composure?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE Topic.

- Write a brief account on what you think the challenges that a Canadian naval crew would face in a non-conflict day in late November on the Murmansk run. What kind of conditions would there be? Would it be as stressful as a combat situation?
- Research and report on the combat conditions faced by crew of HMCS St. Croix, September 1943. You are the only survivor. What are your feelings?
- Research and report on the combat conditions that were faced by Bill Connolly and his fellow crew members on board HMCS Athabaskan, April 29, 1944. How do you think survivors felt?
- Research and report on the challenges faced by the crew of an oil tanker traveling in convoy. What are the primary fears and concerns? How do you think you would feel and act if you were a crew member?

Research Assistance

www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsAtlanticDev2.htm

www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=history/secondwar/Canada2/batatl

www.navy.forces.gc.ca/marlant

www.Cornwallismuseum.ca

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