

Canada Remembers

VOLUME 3

Endings and Beginnings: 1945



Canadians witness the end of the war: on May 7, 1945, Germany surrenders. On August 14, 1945, Japan surrenders. The end of war brings joy tempered with sadness. The price paid for victory was enormous, but Canadians had fought successfully against oppression, cruelty and arrogance. In the process, they had built a stronger Canada and discovered the best in themselves. The war left Canada with an economy that had doubled in size, a leadership position among nations, a new confidence and a bright future.

In 1939, Canada was an agrarian society with little influence on the world stage; a country of small cities, cottage industries and insignificant armed forces. By 1945, Canada had been transformed into a progressive, productive middle power respected throughout the world for its efforts overseas and at home during the Second World War.

The three-volume **Canada Remembers** series, presented on three videocassettes, each consisting of two 1/2-hour segments, draws on personal anecdotes and archival footage to tell the story of Canada and Canadians during six of the most significant years in our history. The challenges facing Canadians were enormous, but men and women from all walks of life changed the way they lived, made sacrifices, learned new skills and worked hard. They strived to end oppression and protect freedom and in the process, they built a stronger country. The series helps students to understand the sacrifices that were made, the spirit of the times and perhaps, to find a model for dealing with the challenges Canadians face today. Most of all, the series will make students proud of Canada and the contributions Canadians made during and after the war.

Produced by the National Film Board of Canada, Studio C in association with the Canada Remembers Commemoration Committee, Veteran Affairs Canada.

Director: Terence Macartney-Filgate Producer: Kent Martin

Endings and Beginnings: 1945
Part One 23:58 Part Two 27:08
Total running time: 51:40
Order number: 9195 079

Canada Remembers series
(3-volume set)
Order number: 193C 9195 157

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Closed captioned.
A decoder is required.

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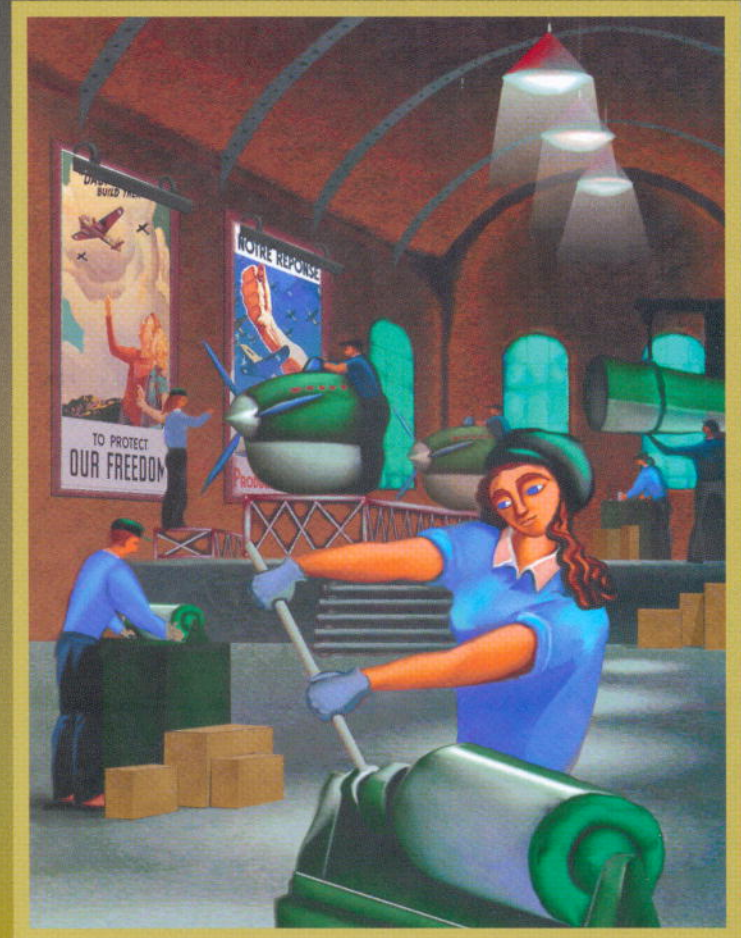
VHS

9195 079

A NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA RELEASE

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CLASSROOM VERSION

Canada Remembers

VOLUME
3

Endings and Beginnings: 1945

BEFORE SCREENING THE VIDEO

- ▶ Ask students why the word "Endings" precedes "Beginnings" in the title of the video.
- ▶ How do you think Canadians would react to the end of the war? Would the emotions of those serving overseas be different from those at home? Why?

AFTER SCREENING THE VIDEO

- ▶ Were you surprised by the attitudes Donald Pearce and Ken Bell expressed about the Germans? Why or why not?
- ▶ Why would Canadians be greeted differently in Germany than in Holland?
- ▶ What evidence did you see in the video to support the idea that there is comradeship in war, that service personnel did not discriminate against their colleagues? Are there lessons for us to learn from this today?
- ▶ What contributions were made by Chinese-Canadians? Why might this be unexpected?
- ▶ How was the war against Japan brought to an end? Do you think the action was justified?
- ▶ What examples from the video suggest that it took time for returning service personnel and those whom they had left behind to adjust to peacetime conditions?
- ▶ Comment on Charley Forbes' description of his first sight of Canada as "my country."
- ▶ Why is November 11 significant?
- ▶ Why is it important to ensure that the legacy of those who fought and died, and those who labored on the home front to support the war effort, is maintained?



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Producer
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Producer
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51 minutes
40 seconds

Order number:
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RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- ▶ In 1939, Canada had not yet recovered from the effects of the Great Depression. By 1945, the country was entering an era of prosperity and economic growth. Describe how this change was brought about.
- ▶ Why was Canada able to emerge from the 1939-1945 period as an important player on the international scene?
- ▶ Examine the reasons for the establishment of the United Nations and describe the main features of the organization.
- ▶ Interview a veteran of the Second World War and record his/her experiences.
- ▶ Describe the exploits of one or more Canadian heroes or heroines of the Second World War.
- ▶ What do you consider to be the most important legacy for Canada of the 1939-1945 era?

RELATED NFB FILMS AND VIDEOS

Aces: A Story of the First Air War
And We Knew How to Dance: Women in World War I
Canada at War series
Canada in World War I
Fields of Sacrifice
The Lucky Ones: Allied Airmen and Buchenwald
Mission: Northwest Passage
Return to Dresden
War at Sea, Parts 1 and 2

Canada Remembers is presented on three videocassettes, each consisting of two 1/2-hour segments.

VOLUME ONE: **Turning the Tide: 1939 to D-Day**

Part One 29:14
Part Two 26:04
Total running time: 55:51 9195 077

VOLUME TWO: **The Liberators: D-Day to the Rhine**

Part One 29:38
Part Two 25:41
Total running time: 55:42 9195 078

VOLUME THREE: **Endings and Beginnings: 1945**

Part One 23:58
Part Two 27:08
Total running time: 51:40 9195 079

THREE-VOLUME SET

193C 9195 157