



## **758 “ARGUS” SQUADRON**

Royal Canadian Air Cadets

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### **2012 United Kingdom & France International Trip Educational Pre-Requisite Essay Assignment**

#### **ACTIVITY OVERVIEW**

Cadet candidates are to write diary entries, in roles as a sailor, soldier or airman, about the emotional impact about living through war. Each diary (not each entry) is to be 1,500 – 2,000 words in length, written in a “diary” format covering a period of six months between 1939 - 1945.

#### **PURPOSE**

To identify and analyze the emotional impact of war on those who served.

#### **REFERENCE RESOURCE SITES**

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general>

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers>

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/youth>

<http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/cwme.asp>

<http://archives.cbc.ca>

<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/>

<http://vrl.tpl.toronto.on.ca/>

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Cadet is to describe how they feel when they are looking forward to a big event, then to describe how they feel during the event and once it is over.

**The essay is due to be submitted by Saturday, 10 September 2011, by 23hr59 (11:59p.m.) via email to [cclark@758argus.ca](mailto:cclark@758argus.ca). Late submissions will not be accepted and exclude the cadet candidate from the selection process.**

**Cadet candidates will participate in a two hour discussion session to be held on Saturday, 19 November 2011, commencing at 13h00, at a location TBD. This is a mandatory event for candidates, to be hosted by the OPI (Lt. Rangel-Bron from 283) 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 Second World War topics on websites for instances which show the life of a sailor, soldier or airman as they went to war, waited to enter the battle, entered into combat, and participated in the surrender of the Axis powers. Cadet candidates should list the changes in mood or morale and categorize them according to positive and negative factors, answering the following questions to help them identify these factors:

- What indicators of excitement were present at the outset of the war?
- During the sailing from Canada to England, and what things affected them?
- During the long wait in England, what things affected the day to day lives of the men?
- What were the primary emotions present during the fighting in Italy and France?
- How did the men feel about the final surrender?
- What was the value during the war of the traveling entertainment groups? (Cadets to find examples of music, songs, posters and correspondence.)

Once these questions have been answered, Cadet candidates will create a series of diary entries that chronicle the evolution of emotions throughout the war. Entries should be set in six month increments from December 1939 to May 1945. The emotions and feelings of the sailors, soldiers or airmen should be clearly evident in these activities.

## **THE PROCESS**

Cadet candidates will share their entries amongst the group. Through the discussion session, candidates will determine if there are consistencies in the entries over time; analyze the stages of emotion of the sailors, soldiers or airmen; and, speculate why these changes occurred.

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?”