WWII: A Brief Overview

Assignments for Q3

Name: _____

- ❑ Interwar Years Research Assignment
- ❑ WWII Vocabulary
- ❑ WWII PowerPoint and Notes
- ❑ Video: A Brief Overview of WWII
- ❑ Video: The Fallen of WWII
- ❑ Movie: Boy in the Stiped Pajamas

Alliances of WWII



Allied Countries and Leaders

- **United Kingdom** - Winston Churchill
- **Soviet Union (Russia)** - Joseph Stalin
- **France** - Charles de Gaulle
- **United States** - Franklin D. Roosevelt
- **China** - Chiang Kai-shek
- **Canada** – William Lyon Mackenzie King

Axis Countries Leaders

- **Germany** - Adolf Hitler
- **Italy** - Benito Mussolini
- **Japan** - Hideki Tojo

Causes of WWII

Treaty of Versailles (1919)	• Imposed harsh penalties on Germany: loss of territory, military restrictions, and $33 billion in reparations. • Created deep resentment and economic hardship, fueling nationalist anger and the rise of Hitler.
The Great Depression (1929–1930s)	• Global economic collapse led to mass unemployment and poverty. • Extremist leaders like Hitler and Mussolini gained support by promising jobs, stability, and national pride.
Expansionism and Nationalism	• Germany sought **Lebensraum** (living space) in Eastern Europe. • Italy aimed to build a “New Roman Empire” in Africa and the Mediterranean. • Japan pursued dominance in Asia, invading Manchuria (1931) and China (1937).

Causes of WWII

Appeasement

- Britain and France allowed Hitler's aggressive moves to avoid war
- 1936: Remilitarization of Rhineland
- 1938: Annexation of Austria (Anschluss)
- 1938: Munich Agreement gave Sudetenland to Germany
- Failed when Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia in 1939.

Failure of the League of Nations

- Weak enforcement and lack of U.S. membership made it ineffective.
- Could not stop Japan in Manchuria, Italy in Ethiopia, or Germany's violations of Versailles Treaty

Invasion of Poland (Sept 1, 1939)

- Germany's invasion caused Britain and France to declare war on Sept 3, 1939.
- Marked the official start of WWII


A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF
WORLD WAR II

Grandpa's Navy Life



Frederick Williams voluntarily joined the Navy in 1941 in Montreal at the age of 19. He was an aircraft gunner. Because of this he was given a special disability pension due to hearing loss caused by loud noises of firing the guns.

He was training in Montreal for two months and then 64 members were drafted to Halifax. Grandpa was chosen as the leader of this group which gave him extra privileges such as an hour later curfew. He was in charge of the other men, had to make sure barracks were clean and that everyone followed the rules.

Living quarters were cramped. They slept in hammocks which were very good when out at sea as the hammock counteracted the roll of the ship. He said he enjoyed the food. He said they served lots of bacon!!

Grandpa was on torpedo boats that would trawl the waters looking for enemy submarines in the Atlantic Ocean. They never actually found one. They were never fired on either. He was stationed in Halifax and spent some time in port in New York. He was then deployed to a corvette. They searched for enemy ships and submarines and travelled south to the Bahamas. One night they fired depth charges at what was thought to be a submarine but at day light they saw a sea of red, full of blubber, they had blown up a whale!!



He had what was called a safe war as he was never involved in battles yet some of his friends who had gone overseas had lost their lives.

He thoroughly enjoyed being a sailor. He was a young man when he joined and loved the adventures, the freedom from family, and being treated like a man! He learned to drink and smoke and flirt with women. He couldn't tell me anything that he did not like. No complaints. He would sign up again today if he could. He feels lucky to have been safe throughout the war and saddened by the deaths of some friends who were so young.

To speak with my father, you would think that he'd spent his whole life in the navy. Only four years but at a critical time of his self-development that he talks about fondly to this day.