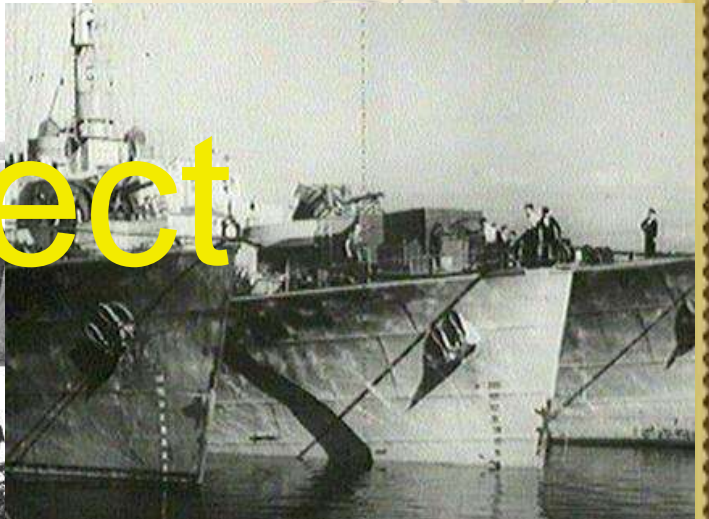
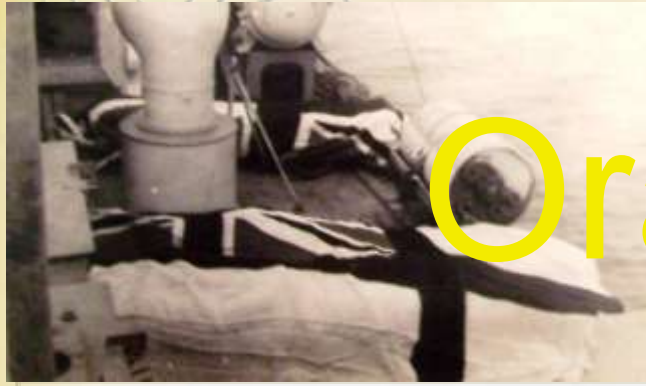


# Oral History Project



Jack Foote  
By: Nolan Moss



# Hitlers background

- \* After the treaty of Versailles many Germans were not too pleased. Hitler for one was disappointed the most. So much that he decided to take matters into his own hands and determine Germany's fate.
- \* After they got blamed for WW1, the Treaty of Versailles made sure Germany could not rise up to power again by decreasing in army equipment, population, and shipways. Industries were also blown up like coal mines and the iron production. Germany used to be massive, and now they shrunk in size to a great degree.
- \* Hitler was born in Austria. His born name was Schickelsnuber, then to Hutler (which meant property owner), then finally when he rose to power, Hitler.
- \* His mom was younger than his dad, and he loved her so much. In 8th grade he got bullied a lot because he was small and whimpy, and had to put up with his horrible father at home too.
- \* When his father died, Hitler tried to complete his life long dream of becoming an artist and moving to Vienna with all his dad's money.
- \* He applied to a cosmopolitanism academy of arts school. For two years straight he got rejected which made him furious.
- \* At this time, many Jews (orthodox) were coming to Vienna from Russia. A lot of Pogroms came, and Germany created an organized murder to get rid of them.



# hitlers rise to power

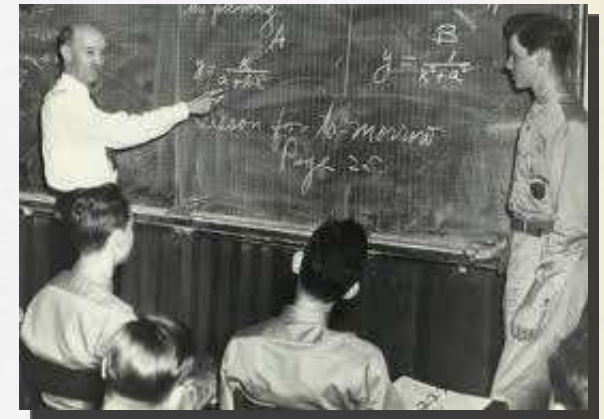
- \* Hitler was put on trial for Sedition (Treason) and with a political circus sympathetic judge. The judge was a Nazi so he put Hitler in favour over his opponent and instead of death, Hitler survived two years with a minimal sentence to Landsburg Prison. During his jail time, Hitler wrote a book called Mein Kampf which was published soon after. In the book, he spoke about Lebensraum, biological/racial antisemitism, but it was mainly about how he sees Jews as “dangerous” to Aryans.
- \* When he got out, he decided to go into politics and run for Prime Minister. He spoke to millions of Germans a day, and got a larger and larger amount of votes as time went on. Many of his seats were won in the Reichstag. He was first seen as a minority government, and that's when he started to order the Brown shirts to roam the streets. They were all ex soldiers like Hitler, and hated communism.
- \* When the Reichstag burned down, Hitler immediately blamed the communists and forced Hindenburg (soon created the first blimp) to give him the right of power. When he got this power, he took advantage of it and broke the Treaty of Versailles and created rallies to speak to millions of Germans to convince them to join his new Nazi Army and take over the world.
- \* All Germans joined and hated communism, and most of all, hating Jews. They set up the Ghettos where Jews were deprived of food and water, then sent them to death camps.
- \* After the death camps and the killing of six million Jews, WW2 began....



# Jacks Life Before the War



- ✿ Before the war started, Jack just finished high school and was moving on to University.
- ✿ He worked in a factory building washing machines for two years before he could enlist in the war.
- ✿ His only dream was to complete University and study to become a teacher.
- ✿ He was born in Canada. Furgous, also known as Guelph in 1921.
- ✿ He had good friends, went to a good school, and he loved sports, music and band songs.
- ✿ His father was a sailor taking ships into Atlanta, and his mom was a busy housewife.
- ✿ He had an older brother which made a huge influence on him to enlist in WWII.
- ✿ Before the enlistment, there was the great depression that happened after the roaring 20s.







# The Great Depression



- ✿ The great depression was in 1929- late 1930's before World War II.
- ✿ Men went out of business, and there were many people roaming the streets begging for food and money. Nobody bought anything because they were all afraid of going broke, so they conserved all their money forcing stores to go out of business.
- ✿ after the roaring 20s, people went bankrupt and civilians all over the towns everywhere were begging for money.
- ✿ After nearly a decade of optimism and prosperity, the United States was thrown into despair on Black Tuesday, October 29, 1929, [the day the stock market crashed](#) and the official beginning of the Great Depression. As stock prices plummeted with no hope of recovery, panic struck. Masses and masses of people tried to sell their stock, but no one was buying. The stock market, which had appeared to be the surest way to become rich, quickly became the path to bankruptcy.
- ✿ And yet, the [Stock Market Crash](#) was just the beginning. Since many banks had also invested large portions of their clients' savings in the stock market, these banks were forced to close when the stock market crashed. Seeing a few banks close caused another panic across the country. Afraid they would lose their own savings, people rushed to banks that were still open to withdraw their money. This massive withdrawal of cash caused additional banks to close. Since there was no way for a bank's clients to recover any of their savings once the bank had closed, those who didn't reach the bank in time also became bankrupt.



# Jack and the Great Depression

- ✿ Jack was too young to understand what was going on during the Great Depression. His parents always had food on the table, and knew how to make him smile. His parents were supportive, and never argued with them. He had a great relationship with his friends and parents.
- ✿ He had many friends that he played around with outside, but even though he didn't understand what was going on, he could not miss all the out of work people begging for money and food.



- ✿ At almost every corner he turned too, there was a homeless man begging for food or money.
- ✿ Jack wasn't the wealthiest man, but his family did a magnificent job on buying what they needed without any trouble.



# enlistment

- ✿ Almost every mans dream is to enlist in the army to fight for your nation.
- ✿ Although where Jack lived it wasn't a fascist community, he believed that he wasn't fighting for himself or his family, he was doing it for his nation.
- ✿ Jack signed up for the navy when he was seventeen but could go until his eighteenth birthday.
- ✿ In that time, Jack was in school studying teachers college.
- ✿ He signed up for the navy because of his parents and friends.
- ✿ Jacks dad was a sailor that took ships to Atlanta during the war, and he thought it was a great idea to enlist.
- ✿ Jacks mother was a housewife and she supported the idea of Jack enlisting in the navy.
- ✿ The biggest influence on Jack, was his brother. Jacks older brother also enlisted in the navy and promised that he would stay by his side the whole time.
- ✿ Along with his family, a lot of his friends also signed up.
- ✿ With Jacks supportive parents, enthusiastic friends, and his adventuress personality he signed up.
- ✿ jack thought "Enlisting in the war could be and is the best thing that ever happened to me."



# Training

- ✿ Jack learned many things during his training.
- ✿ He met many people, and learned many more useful things.
- ✿ They all trained in the navy training Centre in Nova Scotia and Hamilton.
- ✿ Many useful things he learned were using the navigation system, signalling with lights and hand gestures, sailing the ships, and gunnery to take down the opposing team.
- ✿ They used the navy for submarine detections and in the mist or fog to get out and not crash into pillars of rock.
- ✿ The last thing they learned was marching. Marching took the longest to learn because you needed the proper hand movements, posture, and timing/space.

No. 1460

Dated AUG 21 1943 19

This is to Certify that Mr. *J. F. Foote*  
has served as **P/Sub. Lieut. R.C.N.V.R.** on board H.M.C.S. **KINGS**  
under my command, from the *22nd* day of *May* 19*43*  
to the *21st* day of *August* 19*43*, during which period  
he has conducted himself\* **WHILST UNDER TRAINING**  
*To my entire satisfaction*

*Carlton MacArthur*  
COMMANDER, R.C.N.V.R. Rank | Commanding Officer,  
H.M.C.S. **KINGS**

\*Here the Commanding Officer is to insert in his own handwriting the conduct of the Officer.  
C.N.S. 450

Jack Foote training certificate



# Communication



- ✿ Because there was no satellite in the middle of the ocean, they used letters and shipped them off onto the home front where they would get delivered to your porch.
- ✿ For a little price, family at home could send packages of food, and clothing. Most people got mitts or socks to keep them warm at night. They also received food because with the little portions of food they eat, they can get diseases like scurvy or malnutrition.
- ✿ The radio worked only when they landed on land. They landed in Britain occasionally for food and weapons.
- ✿ The Brits were all very positive and warming to all the Canadians in their land, so when they came in they mailed every letter they had, and listened to the radio for the ball games that were going on.



# War conditions

- ✿ Jack started training in 1943 and after he became an officer for motor torpedo boats.
- ✿ They were on the ship the entire time for war, and when they got on land, it was not for war, it was for munitions and food.
- ✿ Their main stop was at Britain because the people there were very warming and loved to encourage the Canadian troops.
- ✿ On the boat, at times they played with cards, listened to some band songs, or wrote letters to their families back at home.
- ✿ Everyone always wanted the top bunk in the tiny rooms they got because it has the most room and air.
- ✿ Troops were always paying attention with their guns by their sides in case of torpedoes, bomber planes, or other ships.
- ✿ As the war started, his first impact was against three German aircraft. The ship survived and nobody was hurt or killed. After the war, he read an article in the Toronto newspaper that was written about him. The article explained that he an "Hero Award" which led him to work as a communication officer.
- ✿ On the boat, there was a crew of 400 people. For entertainment, because we had no radio station anywhere close to us to listen to music or sports games, we played countless amounts of card games. For breakfast, we would eat a small portion of bread, lettuce, cereal and liver. We put depth charges near our boats, so when the enemy submarines attacked, clothes and goods would float on top so we can grab them to say we killed people and gets small amounts of money. We stored the dead Germans in the same fridge as what we ate in, so when the chefs made the food, people would call out "make sure you got the right meat!"



# War conditions pictures



Battle of Dieppe



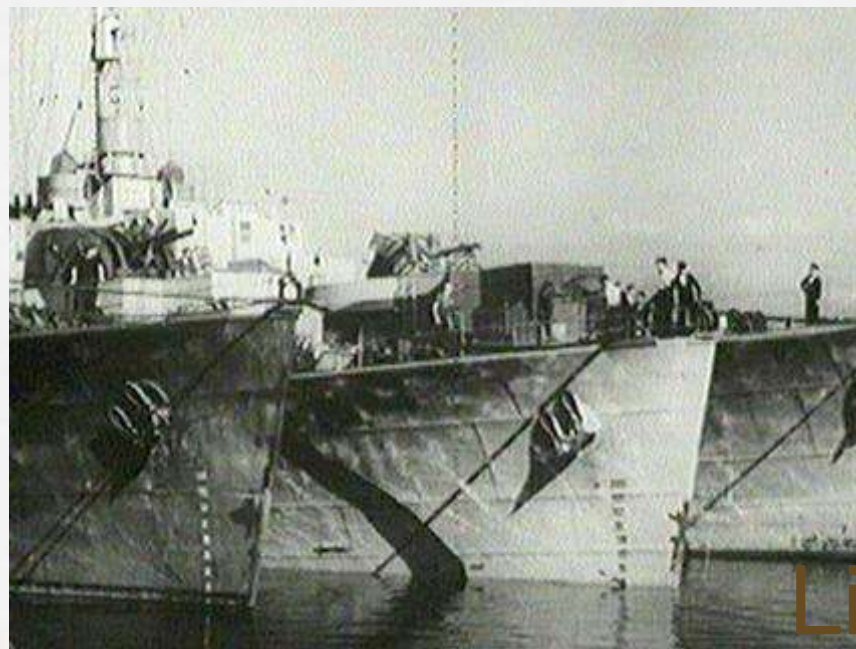
On ship crew



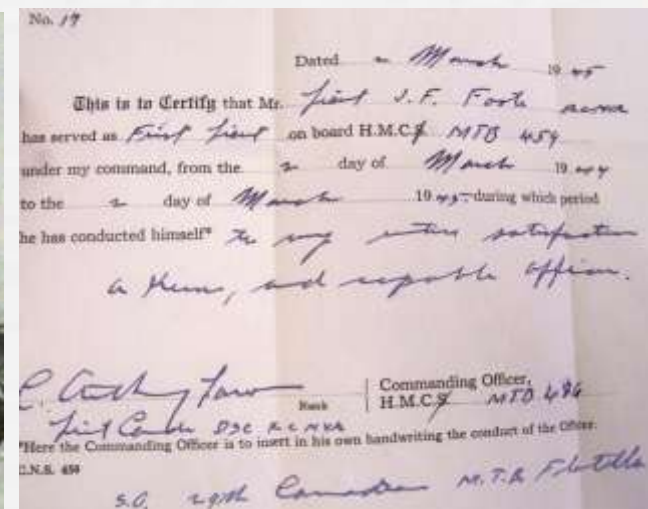
Funerals on board



Ship gunnery



Ships



Lieutenant Certificate



# Battle of dieppe

- \* The battle of Dieppe was the Canadians, British, and U.S. verse Germany.
- \* in 1942, 5000 Canadian soldiers were picked to raid the French port of Dieppe. they had trained for three years but had not been in combat.
- \* the Canadians had been mainly expected to defend England from an invasion by Germany, but that threat had really ended after Hitler's attack on the USSR.
- \* Now the U.S. had joined the war, many Canadians thought the Americans might get to fight first.
- \* A new British commander, Lord Mountbattan (a well-connected role with no real command experience) chose Dieppe as the target because the pressure from the USSR, and it is close enough for fighter protection but not close enough to be an obvious target
- \* Joseph Stalin (Russian Leader who hated Hitler) wanted a second front against Germany.
- \* Dieppe was a small port - no real strategic value. it was an attackers' nightmare: Cliff, a wide flat promenade and rocky beach so the tanks and boats can not move.
- \* Jack was part of the few Canadians that survived this dreadful battle. The hardest part of the battle for him was seeing all the dead bodies; whom some people he recognized, and could not pull them onto the ship for it was a risky thing to do.





# another great achievement

- \* Without knowing at the time, Jack had just saved three lives. An encounter by the German navy army was an E-boat that attacked Jack's boat. As they were fighting, one of their own gunners got struck in the shoulder and inflicted such a great deal of pain that a command officer lucky enough chose Jack to bring him down into the emergency department room. In the emergency room, Jack handed him some morphine which was able to ease the pain for a while. As they were sitting fixing the soldier's wound, Jack had a hitch that that seat wasn't so comfortable. He made the doctor and the soldier move to the other side of the cabin. To his surprise, a gun shell came flying through the side where they were originally sitting. Jack is a hero within himself.



# on the Way home

- \* “The way back home had some of the worst weather you can imagine”. D-day was actually delayed one day. It was originally on June 5th but got changed to the 6th. Jack was supposed to retreat back to the cruiser. It was very hard to find their cruiser, some ships went horizontal, vertical, diagonal, all the ways possible. When they finally arrived on the ship it took a long time, but they finally arrived home.
- \* The rest of the lucky survivors to report back to the cruiser thought they were done with the war. They were wrong.
- \* One last encounter by the German aircraft scared the soldiers for life. Half their ship was blown up and sinking in the water, and so was half Jack's face. Although many lucky people survived, even more perished in the dark ocean or burned to death.



# What happened when you got home?

- ✿ The happiest day ever was V-J day. on August ninth the second nuke called 'Fatman' dropped onto the Japanese.
- ✿ Four thousand people were killed, and the next day (August tenth 1945) the day was remembered as V-J day. (Victory over Jap)
- ✿ That last nuke was the beginning of the end, of World War II.
- ✿ Celebrations overthrew all of Canada.
- ✿ All of Foote's family was waiting at home for him. Not all his friends and family made it, but all the celebrations made him smile once again.
- ✿ Even though most of jacks friend passed away in the war, he got re-united with his wife, his three sons and his four grandchildren.



- ✿ Jack thought that the saddest memory was the last bombing on the way home. Half of his ship blew up and many people got killed, burned, or injured, Jack being one of them. Half Jacks face got blown up and his eardrums blew out.
- ✿ Jack thankfully recovered.





# about my veterans

- ✧ During my oral history project I interviewed two survivors. Both of the survivors had a memory that would never forget.
- ✧ Although they had different at home experiences before the war, they both enlisted for the same reason. Both their fathers were in the navy before them and they both wanted to sign up because of an older role model. They both made friends, and had friends that enlisted, and signed up for a passion. The great depression didn't effect them as much because although they were young and didn't see what was happening, it didn't stop their goal of becoming whoever they wanted
- ✧ Both of them encountered something special that they will never forget and pass on the story from generation to generation.

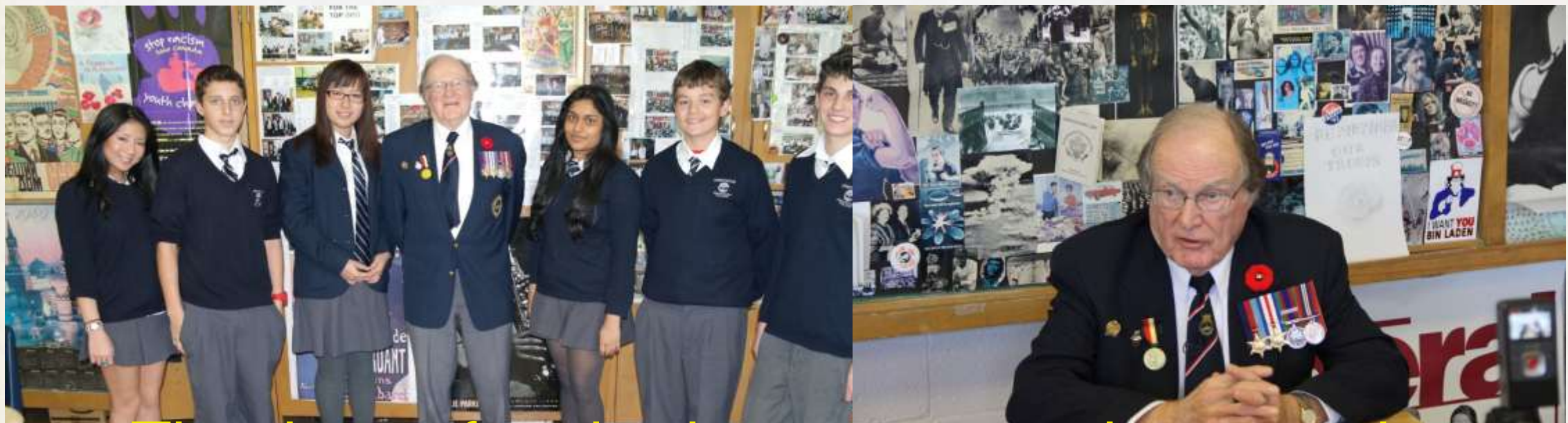


## my factors towards enlisting

- \* Everybody follows their elders, and Jack listened to his mom and dad and friends to sign up.
- \* Before the war, home conditions weren't too good because of the great depression circumstances.
- \* Another factor to sign up, is if you are wealthy or poor. Almost everyone went broke so there was no money or home to lose and when Jack got back, he started a family of his own raising three kids and four grandchildren.
- \* Almost most young veterans sign up for war not only because people around them think it's a good idea, I would think that traveling to Germany, Britain and the US would be a fun thing to do for the first time too.
- \* Imagination is huge in a young child. If my father told me how great enlisting in the army was amazing, I would too enlist to experience what he experienced.
- \* I would personally join the navy myself if I was in Jack's position.



# jack foote



Thank you for sharing your amazing experiences!



By: Nolan Moss