### Content

- From May to June 1940, the Germans invade and conquer France, pushing Allied soldiers (mostly French and British) back to the Atlantic Coast.
- Allied soldiers were surrounded and pinned, the subject of constant bombardment by the Germans (“like shooting fish in a barrel”)
- 800 privately owned “little ships”, and 222 Naval Vessels including 4 Royal Canadian Navy destroyers, arrive off the coast to evacuate 338,000 troops in a matter of days. = “Miracle”
- The boats managed to pick up the Allied troops and ferry them to safety across the British Channel
- On June 25, 1940 – France Surrenders
- A French government was set up in the South in a town called Vichy = a puppet government controlled by Germany
- Hitler turns on his next target: Britain

### Quotation

“As we rounded the point to the beach at Dunkirk, you became aware of the shelling – the Germans were only 12 miles inland... But you came to the beach and the uniforms of 400,000 waiting [Allied] soldiers stood out on the white sand. These were disciplined troops, even with shelling and bombing there was no panic. They were impressive.”

**Robert Walter Timbrell, Canadian-born British naval officer recalling his part in the rescue at Dunkirk**

“The Battle of the Atlantic was the dominating factor all through the war. Never for one moment could we forget that everything happening elsewhere, on land, at sea, or in the air, depended ultimately on its outcome, and amid all other cares we viewed its changing fortunes day by day with hope or apprehension.”

**Sir Winston Churchill, describing the importance of the Battle of the Atlantic**

“About one o’clock, I heard the sound of an approaching bomber, for the first time, an appalling shriek, like a train whistle growing nearer and nearer, and then a sickening crash reverberating through the earth. At intervals through the night, we heard the same, dreaded sound, and each time, as we held our breaths in relief at our own escape, we know that somewhere else agony and horror had struck.”

**Phyllis Warner, journalist reporting from London during the Blitz in 1940**

### Discussion Question

**Why do you think the troops were considered so “impressive” at Dunkirk?**

**What made the Battle of the Atlantic so important? Why did British Prime Minister Churchill say this?**

**What word best describes the emotion behind this quotation, and why did you choose it? How would you have felt if you were part of the “Blitz”?**
What were the outcomes of Canada's 1