

Another headline talks of "Open Italian Ports For Allied Shipping: Enemy Craft Surrender in Adriatic — Many Naval Prisoners Taken."

Canada's First Canadian Army General Officer Commanding, General Harry Crerar, in another story tells his story, "Canada's Future Yours...As Home-Coming Looms," after six years of war.

Right next to this hopeful report is more war news that "Hitler decided to take Own Life," as was said in a Japanese broadcast, and a rumour that Goebbels had been found.

Directly on the far right hand of the page is a headline that reads, "Gala Fete Sweeps Toronto as Joyous News is Broken But There is Sorrow, Too: One of the First Reactions is Sobering Thought of 35,000 Canadians who Have Given Their Lives — Office Workers Jam Downtown Streets and Motor Horns Add to Din."

Sadly, honourable senators, not all news was so celebratory, with Halifax experiencing the start of the VE Day riots on May 8.

Last, but not least, in a foreshadowing of what was to come with the descent of an iron curtain over Europe, is a small article at the bottom of the page that read, "Official News Is Held Back: Report Stalin Not Ready" to tell his nation.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Senator Stratton, I am sorry, but your three minutes have expired.

[Translation]

**Hon. Roméo Antonius Dallaire:** Honourable senators, today we are celebrating, 60 years later, the liberation of a country that was under the oppression of a dictatorship and of Nazism. Some 60 years ago, my father, Warrant Officer Roméo Dallaire, and my father-in-law, Lieutenant-Colonel Guy Roberge, fought in Holland and were able to celebrate the liberation and victory on May 5.

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One year later, in 1946, I was born in the village of Denekamp, in the Netherlands, to a Dutch mother from Eindhoven. That is where my parents met in the winter of 1944-45, when the Canadian army had asked the Dutch to take in soldiers and shelter them from the harsh winter weather.

[English]

In December 1946, with many Dutch war brides and their children, we arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax off a Red Cross ship, and were immediately transported on to a Red Cross train that made its way across this country, stopping in towns and hamlets, letting off these young families to take root here in this magnificent country of ours. In my case, my father was waiting for us in Lévis in the middle of a blistering snowstorm and, although the train was late, he was feeling absolutely no pain.

[ Senator Stratton ]

Today, my daughter serves as a leading seaman in the Naval Reserve. She participated in the Parade of Veterans in Apeldoorn today, proudly representing her two grandfathers who fought in that great war, the Second World War, and participated in the actions that led to the liberation of Holland and, ultimately, to victory. We received a call from her last night — it was 5:30 a.m. there — telling us that they were still preparing their uniforms and anticipating hearing exciting great war stories at the parties that will be held tonight.

The Dutch side of my family has been most supportive of my father, myself and my children, who have continued to serve in the Canadian Forces, in both the army and the navy. My eldest son, a captain, will be participating in the parading of the guard this summer in Ottawa and I, of course, will be an observer. My youngest son is an army recruit in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu.

In 1974, I commanded the Canadian contingent that went to the annual Nijmegen marches, a series of four days of marching 40 kilometres a day, commemorating a great historic battle of that region in the 17th and 18th centuries. Armies from all over the world parade there and stop at a Canadian cemetery called Groesbeek.

Honourable senators, 2,651 Canadians are buried in Groesbeek, some were as young as 16 years old. They died as they fought in the last days of the war fighting their way across the Rhine into Germany. Soldiers throughout time go and pay their respects to their fallen comrades. Military personnel are well aware of the unlimited liability they face in committing themselves to their nations, as their nations commit them to missions around the world.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Senator Dallaire, I regret to inform you that your three minutes have expired.

**Hon. Gerald J. Comeau:** Honourable senators, May 8, 1945 is Victory in Europe Day, or VE Day as we call it, the day the Nazi government of Admiral Karl Donitz fell in Europe.

Sixty years ago, one of the most brutal episodes in modern history, the era of Nazi Germany, finally came to an end. Canada's army, Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force played a vital role in ending Hitler's tyranny in Europe and his threat to the civilized world.

The Royal Canadian Navy, the third largest navy in the world, swept the seas of the U-boat menace. The Royal Canadian Navy was an awesome force of escort aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, frigates, corvettes and smaller craft, over 900 ships strong, some 375 being warships that battled the Nazi grip on the Atlantic Ocean along with Britain and the United States.

So great was Canada's contribution to the Battle of the Atlantic, a battle that had to be won prior to achieving victory in Europe, that a distinguished Canadian, Admiral L.W. Murray, was made Allied Commander-in-Chief of all naval forces in the Canadian northwest Atlantic, the only Canadian to hold such a high strategic wartime command.