



# Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | News | NFB Resources

**PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!**

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

*So let us summon a new spirit of patriotism; of service and responsibility where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves, but each other.*

*The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep ... but America — I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you — we as a people will get there.*

— President-Elect Barack Obama, Nov. 4/08

On November 4, 2008, history was made in the USA with the election of its first African-American President. Before more than a quarter of a million people who had gathered at Chicago's Grant Park,



Barack Obama delivered a [speech](#) that was reminiscent of two famous addresses given by towering figures from the 1960's. Like President Kennedy, he challenged his nation to become involved in service; while at the same time, he echoed Martin

Luther King, cautioning that the journey would require commitment, sacrifice and patience. His message was one of HOPE, yet it was the most solemn victory speech I've ever witnessed.

Though patriotism is often associated with military service to one's country, I believe that Mr. Obama is attempting to broaden the definition to involve all citizens in taking responsibility for the rights and freedoms that come with democracy.

This week's **Chalk Talk** features two new online collections from the NFB — **Images of a Forgotten War** and **On All Fronts: World War II and the NFB** — that offer educational opportunities for students to learn more about the experiences of the men and women who risked their lives for peace, freedom and security. The result is a broad and human picture of Canada's efforts and contribution during the WWI and WWII years, both on the battlefield and at home.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing classroom resources on a range of topics. We invite you to visit our website at [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca) to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

[As always, your feedback is important to us.](#)

Mary Kovack

## NFB — Focus on World War I and II



This Remembrance Day marks the 90th anniversary since the end of World War I. The [National Film Board of Canada \(NFB\)](#) invites educators to visit two new websites — **Images of a Forgotten War** and **On All Fronts: WWII and the NFB** — which make it easier than ever to find and view films, classroom resources and archival material that illuminate the role of Canada and its Armed Forces in these global conflicts.



The [Images of a Forgotten War](#) online collection tells the story of the Great War in five chapters, featuring 120 archival films, accompanied by photos and historical essays.

[On All Fronts: World War II and the NFB](#) (poster, downloadable) draws upon the NFB's legendary film collection to bring the Canadian experience of WWII into vibrant focus for a new generation. Ideal for Grades 7-12, the site features over 130 films – from wartime productions to contemporary titles – offering engaging and multifaceted resources on this pivotal chapter in our history.

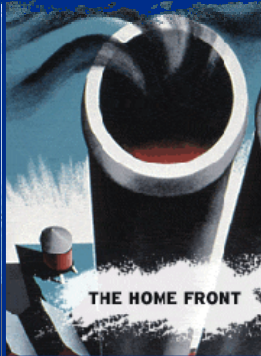


The **On All Fronts** website offers [teachers guides and supplementary materials](#) to help educators present the issues in a dynamic and easy-to-understand way. Lesson plans are designed to align with Canadian Studies,



French, History, Language Arts, Media Studies, Social Studies curricula.

For more information on the **Images of a Forgotten War** and **On All Fronts** collections, see the *Website of the Week* feature below.



## ON ALL FRONTS WORLD WAR II AND THE NFB

### Films, excerpts, archival artefacts plus much more!

The [On All Fronts: World War II and the NFB](#) Web site features 136 films from the NFB collection (67 in English, 3 without words and 66 in French in the French part of the site). Of those, 44 films (20 in English, 3 without words and 21 in French) include described video for the vision-impaired; 27 films (18 in English, 9 in French) are available with closed captioning for the hearing-impaired viewers. Users will also find 114 film excerpts (57 in English, 57 in French). The site is complemented by more than 60 items from the NFB archives and from partners (audio material, stock shots, photos, etc.), as well as several interview clips.

These 136 films are only a fraction of NFB titles on World War II. However, they are a representative sample of the NFB's output during and after the Second World War. They include propaganda films as well as more critical or personal works, painting a fascinating picture of the many facets of the War and how Canadians participated in it.

### How the site is organized

*On All Fronts* is divided into 7 sections: an introduction, 3 main thematic sections, as well as the **See Everything, Hear Everything** and **For teachers** sections. The brief introduction, **WWII: An Overview in Moving Pictures**, features films that give an overview of the war. The three main sections/



A Canadian Soldier Showing Snapshots from Home to a Dutch Woman (Archival Photo—NFB)

themes are **Many Voices, Many Stories**; **The Home Front**; and **Critical Perspectives**. Each one is further divided into several sub-themes, each featuring a filmed interview or a written text by a specialist. Some of the sections offer a **Vox Populi** element where ordinary Canadians are invited to voice their opinions on the various aspects of World War II. These sub-themes also include excerpts from the NFB films, as well as other artefacts—photos (*left*), posters (*right*), sound excerpts, stock shots and drawings and access to the complete films. The [See Everything, Hear Everything](#) gives users quick access to all of the Web site's films, archival artefacts and other audiovisual and textual contents. The **For teachers** section contains 8 lesson plans: 1 lesson will discuss issues around wartime propaganda and refer to NFB film excerpts; the 7 other lesson plans refer to specific films on the Web site.



'Buy the New Victory Bonds' (WWII Poster)

[Source: NFB — 'On All Fronts']

## 'Images of a Forgotten War' — NFB and World War I

Discover this unique and rich collection of more than 120 archival films accompanied by photos, historical essays by noted Canadian experts and a range of teaching materials.



Prologue

### Prologue

Essays, photos and paintings that explain how the Great War began and how images of the war were captured (movies, photographs, sketches, paintings), along with suggestions for research sources.

### Building a Force

Films shot between 1915 and 1917 that document the emergence of a Canadian military force, showing the mobilization of troops in Can-

## Chapters





Wartime



Epilogue

ada and their training in Europe.

[Wartime](#)

Films showing the Canadian Expeditionary Force throughout the battles, with footage shot between 1915 and 1918 of units assigned to support military objectives, troops engaged in battle, pilots and aircraft in action, and soldiers posted behind the front lines..

[Postwar Period](#)

Footage of Canadian troops just after the armistice, in November and December 1918, and the return of soldiers to Canada in early 1919.

[Epilogue](#)

Essays, photos and paintings relating to postwar Europe, the affirmation of Canada as an independent nation and what became of soldiers after the war.

[Source: NFB]

Building a Force



Postwar Period



## News and Related Links

[Queen recognizes Vigil's 'deep personal resonance'](#) -- ELIZABETH RENZETTI, *Globe and Mail*, Nov. 5/08

"Dudley M. Jasper, Murdo Mcauley, Alfred Bembridge. These were the some of the names, redolent of an earlier era, projected onto Canada House last night as the Queen, Prince Philip, the Canadian High Commissioner to Britain and war veterans stood and watched from a darkened Trafalgar Square. The names are part of the project Vigil 1914-1919, the brainchild of actor R.H. Thomson (who was on hand for the opening ceremony in London) and lighting designer Martin Conboy. For the next week, the names of the 68,000 Canadian soldiers killed in the First World War will be projected as night falls, first onto Canada House in London and then on major public buildings in Halifax, Fredericton, Toronto, Regina and Edmonton, and on the National War Memorial in Ottawa."

[Marching in Mississippi in 1966: We have overcome](#) -- WILLIAM JOHNSON, Author and a former president of Alliance Quebec, *Globe and Mail*, November 6, 2008

"The miracle has happened. The United States has fulfilled at last the long-delayed founding promise of 1776 in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." The unalienable right of liberty for all was achieved only at the price of a civil war and hundreds of thousands of deaths in battle. Equality was longer in coming. I witnessed the last throes of desegregation. In 1966, the black man who had desegregated the University of Mississippi, James Meredith, decided to march from Memphis, Tenn., to Jackson, Miss., in what he called a "march against fear." He wanted to inspire Mississippi's blacks to overcome their fear of lynching, dare to sit at the front of the bus and dare to vote in elections."

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