

D-Day Sources for the Classroom

The following are collections connected to the D-Day operations that could be used in the classroom. This is not an exhaustive list, and more classroom sources can be found by searching terms such as D-Day in the project. The memoir of Conrad Selfe also contains an audio version read by Commander Chris Hadfield.

- [Letter of Leslie Abram Neufeld, June 4, 1944.](#)
Neufeld was one of the first Canadians killed on D-Day. He enlisted in the Army on January 13, 1942, in Saskatoon, Sask., initially serving overseas with No. 10 Field Ambulance, Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. As planning for D-Day intensified, Neufeld transferred to the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion in February of 1944 and trained as a paratrooper. Late in the evening of June 5, the plane carrying Neufeld's "C" Company of the 1st Can. Para. Battalion took off from England, to parachute into Normandy, France, ahead of the main Allied landing forces of D-Day, June 6, 1944. Neufeld was killed in action June 6, 1944; his body was never recovered. He is commemorated at the Bayeux Memorial in Bayeux, Normandy, France
- [Memoir of Conrad Anthony Selfe,](#) a RCAF pilot detailing his operations on D-Day, read by Commander Chris Hadfield.
- [Letter of Kenneth Francis Henderson, June 5, 1944.](#)
In this letter Henderson describes his participation in D-Day as a member of Royal Canadian Navy.
- [Letter of Gordon Lloyd Gibson](#)
This letter details Gibson's view of the invasion from his perspective as a RCAF pilot flying with the RAF.
- [D-Day Casualties](#)
Students can search the names of Canadians killed on June 6, 1944, through the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#) website. To do so, scroll down through the menu. For "Served with" check off Canadian. For "War" select Second World War. Under "Additional Fields" go to Date of Death and choose Exact Date of Death (06/06/1944). That will bring up a list of Canadians who died on June 6, 1944, although not all will be part of the D-Day invasion.

As a classroom activity, a more personal profile of those Canadian casualties can be added through the Library and Archives Canada site. That site contains the service files of Canadians killed in World War Two, and through those files students can learn about their families, their education, where and when they served, and further details connected to their death. To do so, go to the [Second World War Service Files – War Dead, 1939-1947](#) page of Library and Archives Canada. On that page casualties can be searched by first and last name. If students are following a name from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records, the service number that can be found with the casualty can be used to find specific casualties with similar names in the service files.