

## **Juno Beach Project App Details Lives of Canada's Casualties on D-Day**

By Mark Calder

(Smiths Falls) – A new cell phone “app” created by students at Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute (SFDCI) offers a window into the lives of Canadian soldiers who died on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day.

The Juno Beach Project app, created by Grades 11 and 12 computer science students, is a free app that works with Windows 8 cell phones. The application, featuring high-grade graphics, opens up on a poppy graphic through which a visitor can touch the screen and access maps of the battlefields and details on the hour-by-hour progression of Canadian regiments into Normandy. The app also offers details on the German positions, a listing of regiments that fought on D-Day, along with the detailed stories of approximately 371 Canadians who died on D-Day and the days shortly after. The application uses original research developed by history students at SFDCI as part of the Lest We Forget initiative.

“I learned more history in computer science class than in my Grade 10 history course,” said William Watt, a Grade 12 computer science student who worked on the app. “Through collaborating with others, it’s surprising the kind of stuff that you pick up without even realizing it.”

The mapping and other programming entailed in the project allowed Watt to learn about the placement of German fortifications, what regiments were tasked with the landing and where, as well as the personal stories of the soldiers who fought and died on Juno Beach in regiments such as the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion and the Canadian Scottish Regiment.

The application allows anyone to search soldiers by regiment and narrow down their search to individual profiles, said computer science teacher Mason Black. The program permits a user to discover a soldier’s name, rank, regiment, hometown, how much schooling they obtained, where they worked before the war, when they were killed and where they are buried.

The app can be downloaded free off the Windows Phone Store.

For more information, please call:

**Mason Black**  
**Teacher**  
**Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute**  
**613-283-0288**

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# Juno Beach Project

<http://www.windowsphone.com/en-ca/store/app/juno-beach-project/a2567841-0349-4619-ab00-898b6299b866>

## Juno Beach Project



Free

### Works with

- Windows Phone 8.1
- Windows Phone 8

The Juno Beach Project app is the culmination of a collaborative project where high school students from SFDCI designed and implemented every stage of this app.

*The app is intended to honour the Canadian soldiers that fought and died on the fateful day of June 6, 1944 - D-Day.*

*History students across Canada collect information on the 371 soldiers that died on Juno Beach which was the entry point into the Normandy Campaign and marked the beginning of the end for Nazi occupancy.*

*Computer Studies students have taken that information and created a digital historical context that includes all aspects of the Allied invasion from a Canadian perspective.*

This is a scalable project where more information on soldiers is uploaded every day.