

The Hard Plight of a Hero

The story of Frank Christensen

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Social Studies 11

Mrs. Clarke

April 21st, 2017

December 18th, 1920

The day Frank Christensen entered this world
Not knowing in the future what event he
Would be part of, nor the horrors he would face,
For now he remained,
Within his mother's embrace

September 19th, 1940

Age 19 Frank Christensen was no longer a boy
Hitched a ride to Winnipeg where he
Joined Canada's army, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders
To fight for his country,
Not be a mere bystander

October 24th, 1941

A well-trained military man
Dear Frank had become
A Signaler, who were in short supply
He joined the Winnipeg Grenadiers
On him they could rely

November 16th, 1941

They arrived to the land kept secret, Hong Kong
Where they were told there could be glory won,
These men were not worried and just took in the sight
Frank had a Singapore Sling and a rickshaw ride
All unaware of the upcoming fight

December 5th, 1941

They went out on a maneuver
Before the battle had begun
Left their personal items back home at the camp
Never even thinking,
They might not make it back

Two days later,

It began, the Japanese attacked
Every bomb dropped leaving a crater
Frank was on telephone as exchanges grew fewer
As less people responded

The reality of war became truer

December 24th, 1941

Frank was on his way back to guarding the stalls
9pm he found himself at the wrong end of a machine gun
Our dear hero was hit,
In the arm, pack, and foot
But persevering through it all
Onwards he pushed

Christmas Day,

In a hospital Frank sat
In this hospital he would stay
And discover he was a prisoner of war
In three days time he would turn twenty-one
Yet spend this day, tired and sore

April 1942

When his health was deemed good,
Frank was moved to a camp with Canadians few
It was called Sham Shui Po Prison Camp
Where he learned the somber reality
As all they ate were just scraps

Three month later,

Frank was moved to a new camp
Where the number of Canadians was greater
But when four escaped one night,
From this place called North Point
The rest stood out in the rain under both sun and moon light

September 26th, 1942

Back to Sham Shui Po
Where Frank joined a worker crew
They were forced to slave away
Or meet the boot, rifle butt, or bayonet
This cruelty is unjust yet they had no say

January 19TH, 1943

The first draft of Canadians set sail

Wishing one day to be free
They were headed for Japan
The ship was dark, dank, and cramped
Prisoners could only follow the Japanese's plan

After six days
They were in yet another new camp
These poor men worked in a haze
Near Kawasaki they felt alone
With no help from the blinded Red Cross
If only they had known

Spring of 1945
Americans were bombing their area
And hopes of getting out alive
Grew in that March when their camp was spared
An American flew over head and waved
The sheer sight of a firebomber could leave any one scared

June 12th, 1945
The last camp in Frank's journey
Did he think he would survive?
There he worked in a coal mine
In the land called Sendai
Stripped of all personal items and forced to walk a fine line

September 10th, 1945
The day that Frank dreamed of
He would no longer be deprived
He was freed from this hell
And with a long trek home
And a solemn story to tell

September 27th 1945
In Brandon, Manitoba
Frank would finally arrive
Though the world was now different
And though he'd try and fit in
His true occupation was belligerent

March 7th, 1946

Frank was discharged from the army
He'd seen such horrible conflicts
But deep down he knew
The army is where he belonged
Yet still he withdrew

May 18th, 1947

Frank went back to the army
Though it's so far from heaven
His country was lucky for his service
A true hero and role model
He was willing to serve for us

Through many more battles
Frank Christensen would fight
And through all of these travels
Canada was his home
She was lucky to have
Such a brave man willing to roam

September 8th, 1996

We wished Frank Christensen the best
Apologized for what we can't fix
He was now on his next journey
In heaven, where he belonged
This warrior was truly worthy

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