

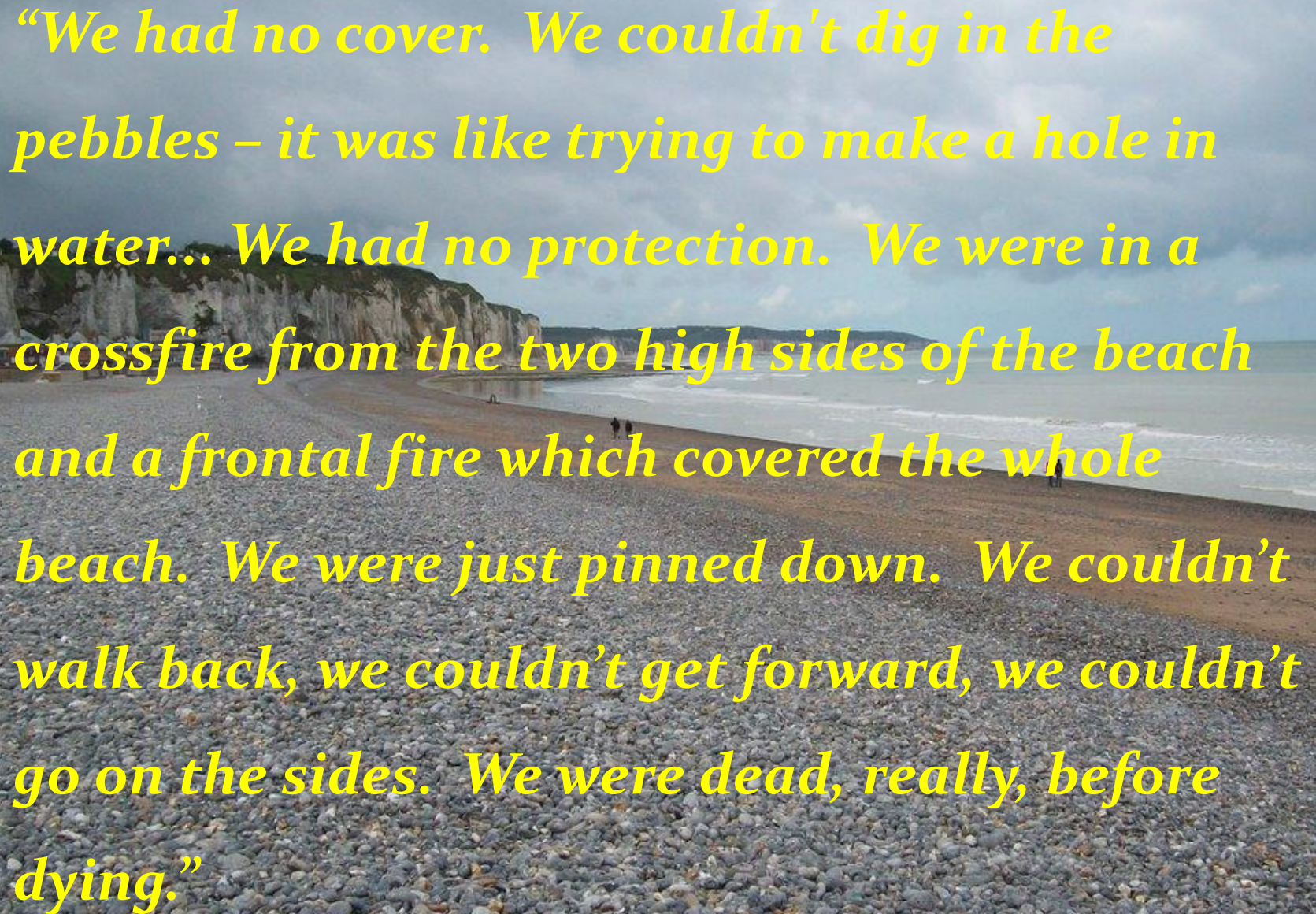
DIEPPE RAID



DIEPPE RAID

OVERALL:

- Allied attack on the German-occupied port of Dieppe (northern coast of France) on August 19, 1942 starting at 5:00 am
- Over 6,000 soldiers (mostly Canadian) were supported by naval and air force contingents
- The German army had an overwhelming advantage
- By 9:00 am the Allied commanders had been forced to call a retreat

A wide, pebbly beach stretches from the foreground into the distance. The beach is covered in small, dark grey and brown pebbles. In the background, there are white cliffs and a few small buildings. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The ocean is visible on the right side of the image, with white foam from the waves. A few small figures of people can be seen walking on the beach in the distance.

“We had no cover. We couldn't dig in the pebbles – it was like trying to make a hole in water... We had no protection. We were in a crossfire from the two high sides of the beach and a frontal fire which covered the whole beach. We were just pinned down. We couldn't walk back, we couldn't get forward, we couldn't go on the sides. We were dead, really, before dying.”

Colonel Dollard Menard

DIEPPE RAID

CAUSES:

- Wanted to see whether an attack from the sea was possible
- In addition, Allies wanted...
 - To gather information about the German defences and to test new strategies and equipment
 - To seize and hold a major port
 - To destroy coastal defences

A. 1122

Troops preparing
to go ashore.



DIEPPE RAID

EVENT:

- Troops invaded from Britain by crossing the English Channel by boat
- During their crossing, they encountered a small German convoy (which they repelled), however, the noise gave forewarning to the Germans on the beach
- By the time the troops reached the beach, it was daylight (strategy was to invade while it was dark)
- Dieppe, France was heavily fortified and many Canadians were killed in landing craft BEFORE they reached the shore
- Hundreds more were killed as they tried to race across Dieppe's beach

VIDEO CLIP:

DIEPPE RAID



Assault footage of Dieppe Raid.

DIEPPE RAID

RESULTS:

- Allied commanders called a retreat by 9:00 am the same morning
- Close to half the troops didn't even make it to the shore!
- Canadian troops lost the raid on the seaport of Dieppe
- **No major objectives were accomplished!**
- Allies were better prepared for future assaults against German strong-holds (such as the invasion of Normandy, D-Day, in 1944)

FYI:

DIEPPE RAID

During the raid on Dieppe, Canadian soldiers had a special assignment: to guide a British radar expert to a German radar station near Dieppe. The expert was to find out about a new German radar system.

This information was later used to develop strategies for fooling German radar so that German guns could not locate and shoot down Allied bombers so easily.

DIEPPE RAID

LONG-TERM RESULTS:

- Approximately 5,000 Canadian soldiers, and only 2,210 returned to England
 - 882 dead
 - 587 wounded
 - 1,873 captured
- Deadliest battle in which Canadians participated!

Bodies of Canadian soldiers
& abandoned tanks litter
the beach at Dieppe.





Canadian prisoners
of war being lead
through Dieppe by
German soldiers.

Canada and
Dieppe



The current grave markers in the Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery.

DIEPPE RAID

Your Thoughts...

- Was the Dieppe raid a SUCCESS?
 - Gave military planners important information that was critical to the success of the D-Day landings
- Was the Dieppe raid a FAILURE?
 - Poorly planned
 - Costly in terms of lives and equipment
 - Unnecessary