
News Release Communiqué

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For Immediate Release

Government of Canada Commemorates Canada's Secret Agent Contributions to Allied War Efforts

Camp X in Whitby recognized as an event of national historic significance

May 3, 2014 Whitby, Ontario Parks Canada Agency

Colin Carrie, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment, on behalf of the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for Parks Canada, today recognized Camp X, the first school of its kind in North America for training Canadian and American secret agents as an event of national historic significance. From initial training in subversive warfare and covert techniques, to fighting behind enemy lines, the men and women who trained at Camp X lived in the shadows, and constitute an important element of Canada's allied war efforts.

Between 1941 and 1944, Americans and Canadians trained as secret agents at Camp X in Whitby, Ontario learning from the finest intelligence specialists the arts of espionage, sabotage, subversion, unarmed combat, silent killing, weapons training and various forms of communications. Employing the finest intelligence specialists, Camp X turned highly qualified recruits into covert operatives trained for clandestine Allied missions, and in so doing played an integral role in the development of international and domestic intelligence training.

Camp X was also the site of a sophisticated top-secret Canadian made and operated communications relay station for sensitive information during the war. It was considered one of the world's most advanced communications centres at that time, and continued to operate until 1969.

Quick Facts

- Camp X served as the training school for Canadian and American secret agents.
- Over 500 agents trained at Camp X before undertaking clandestine Allied missions all over the world.
- Agents were not protected by the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War; many were captured, tortured, and executed by hostile forces, while survivors received no individual recognition for their courageous efforts.
- Camp X hosted an Allied radio network where secret information was transmitted securely to and from Canada, Great Britain, other Commonwealth countries and the United States during the Second World War.
- Camp X was an inspiration for spy fiction writers.

Quotes

"I am proud to commemorate the Secret Intelligence Activities at Camp X as an event of national historic significance. The actions undertaken at Camp X directly contributed to the success of the Second World War efforts, and Canadian's should be proud of the historic events that took place here."

Leona Aglukkaq, Canada's Environment Minister and Minister responsible for Parks Canada

"In local circles, it is said that the CIA named their training facility the 'Farm' as homage to Camp X here in Whitby. This is an example of the impact that Canada, at Camp X, had in the training and development of secret operatives from Allied Nations during the Second World War."

Colin Carrie, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment

Backgrounder: 1) Secret Intelligence Activities at Camp X
2) Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada

Associated Links

http://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=12917
<http://www.camp-x.com/didyouknow.html>

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