

5. The Miracle of Dunkirk

The fate of the free-world has turned upon the hinge of Dunkirk's Miracle – Winston Churchill.

Every November, with both gratitude and sorrow, we pause to remember that our freedom and democratic way of life has come to us at the cost of human life and sacrifice.

Back in 1940, after the collapse of the Maginot Line, the combined armies of England and France were in disarray and trapped at Dunkirk. The evacuation of troops took place in June, the time of year when the English Channel is very choppy and rough. But, the English people, backed by Canadians and others, turned to prayer. By radio, we heard King George VI say, "I desire solemnly to call my people to prayer...We shall not ask that God may do our will, but that we may be called to do the will of God." In North Sydney, my hometown, churches were open for prayer. Literally, millions of people around the world, were on their knees before God and a miracle took place.

For the first time ever known at that particular season, the English Channel was as calm as a mill-pond; and even more important, a thick fog descended for several days making it impossible for the Germans to find their targets.

This enabled the Allies to save 338,000 men, who escaped back to England in everything that could float, from battleships to rowboats. Winston Churchill called this the "Miracle of Deliverance." England, almost defenceless, with scarcely a string of barb-wire across its coastline, turned to prayer. Protected by the unseen hand of Almighty God, Hitler and his advisers were confused over the timing and methods of their attack on Great Britain. This delay enabled England to win a victory, against overwhelming odds, in the famous Battle of Britain in the autumn of 1940.

Today, another war is being fought. A war between good and evil, truth and falsehood, God and Satan. A war that is seeking to wreck the character of our youth, destroy family life, ignore the abuse of innocent women and children and fill our world with violence, injustice and mistrust. There's a great spiritual vacuum in the hearts of humanity waiting to be filled, and if it is not filled with the light of God's truth and love, it will be filled with the darkness of falsehood and hatred.

If we break faith with those who died; if we forget the lessons taught by history; I fear an even greater calamity may come upon us. Because no nation can survive without strong foundations. Once again, let us dedicate ourselves to protect and promote those principles of truth, purity, justice and peace that helped to make this country great in its beginning.

"Judge of the nations, spare us yet, Lest we Forget – lest we Forget!" Rudyard Kipling