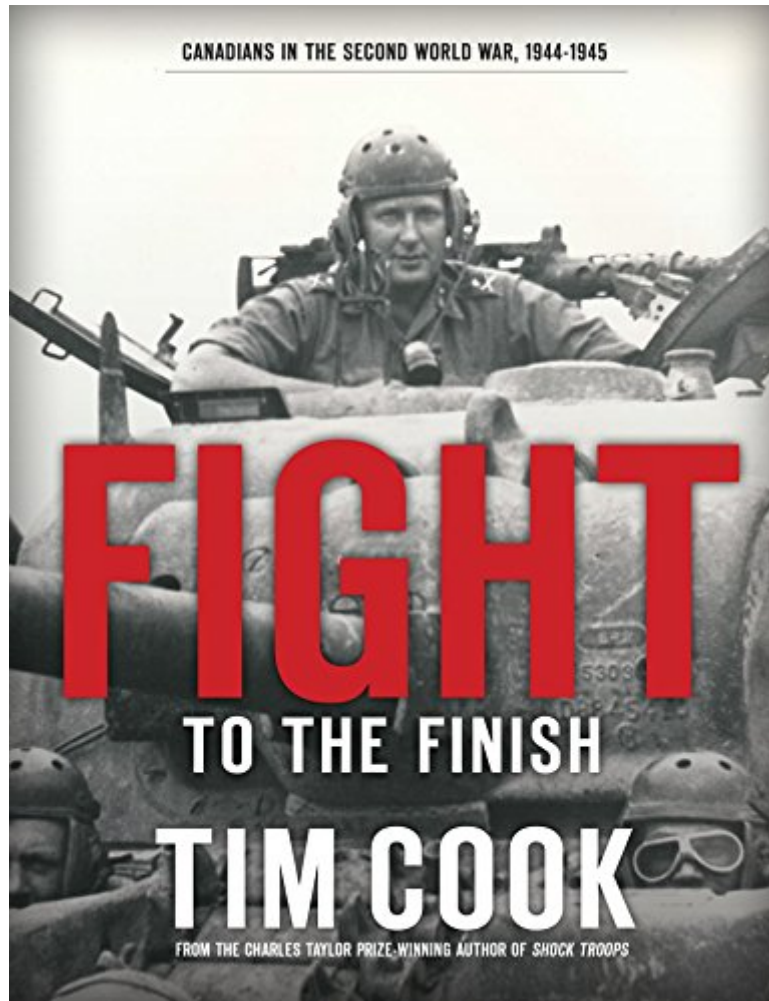


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Fight To The Finish: Canadians In The Second World War, 1944-1945: 2



Synopsis

The magisterial second volume of Tim Cook's definitive account of Canadians fighting in the Second World War. Historian Tim Cook displays his trademark storytelling ability in the second volume of his masterful account of Canadians in World War II. Cook combines an extraordinary grasp of military strategy with a deep empathy for the soldiers on the ground, at sea and in the air. Whether it's a minute-by-minute account of a gruelling artillery battle, vicious infighting among generals, the scene inside a medical unit, or the small details of a soldier's daily life, Cook creates a compelling narrative. He recounts in mesmerizing detail how the Canadian forces figured in the Allied bombing of Germany, the D-Day landing at Juno beach, the taking of Caen, and the drive south. Featuring dozens of black-and-white photographs and moving excerpts from letters and diaries of servicemen, *Fight to the Finish* is a memorable account of Canadians who fought abroad and of the home front that was changed forever.

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Customer Reviews

Historian Tim Cook once more displays a depth and mastery of historical research that is unrivalled in contemporary historical discourse. Using his trademark storytelling technique, he successfully

weaves together a narrative containing over a generation of research on the Canadian experience of the Second World War. The result is a widely accessible account that explores Canada's role in the conflict from both a shrewdly accurate and well researched strategically and operative vantage point, as well as through the lens of personal and individual experiences of war. Beginning with a sombre tone it shares the epitaphs strewn across the graves of Canadian fallen at Bayeux-sur-Mer. In doing so it lends continuity to the mood established in *The Necessary War* and reminds the reader that wars can only be fought and won at a tremendous cost. Before moving into a discussion of the Air War, the Hitler Line, and Canada's bloody push to the finish, Cook examines the heart wrenching loss experienced by many Canadian families as a result of the national war effort. In doing so he reminds readers that these stories, some terrifying, some triumphant, others downright tragic, hold an important place in Canada's history and should be shared both deeply and widely. Cook's use and reliance on veterans' memoirs and stories, far short of hero worship, helps explore the raw human experience of war that is otherwise very difficult to access using official documents. It comes at a time when attrition is taking its toll on Canada's remaining Second World War veterans. Though certain silences remain he does much in his work to highlight the importance of sharing such sources. Cook also critically examines the challenges of command and control discussing the nation's many victories and failures.

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