**Article of the Week #5**

**Directions:**

1. **Show evidence of a close reading (highlighting key points and making notes in the margins – can be questions, thoughts, confusion, etc.)**
2. **Answer the question at the bottom of the article in paragraph form.**

**Harper speaks of sacrifice at 70th anniversary ceremony marking Dutch liberation**

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Stephen Harper and his wife Laureen attended the 70th anniversary remembrance ceremony at the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten, Netherlands, May, 4, 2015. (ERICA BAJER/Postmedia Network)



HOLTEN, Netherlands - Prime Minister Stephen Harper paid tribute Monday to the 1,350 Canadian soldiers who died liberating the Netherlands in the Second World War.

The ceremony at the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten, Netherlands, marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the country.

"Only the veterans with us today can really know the fear and desperation they must have sometimes felt, or the courage and resolve it took to press forward," Harper told the gathered dignitaries and locals, among the perfectly spaced rows of white grave markers.

"They knew, they understood deeply, that there are some things on this Earth worth fighting for, worth dying for. It was true then, it remains true today."

Their sacrifice has not been forgotten by the Dutch.

Canadian flags and signs thanking Canada lined the streets in the town of Holten. Schoolchildren, who continue to maintain the pristine cemetery, laid a bundle of yellow roses at each headstone during Monday's ceremony.

Harper spoke of the need for sacrifice and service during dark times.

"The heroes who liberated the Netherlands, like the men and women who serve our country today, understood that when there arises a great evil, a threat to all the things that define our existence as a free and just people, such enemies must be confronted. Even if it means not just the risk of great sacrifice but the expectation of such," Harper said.

He referred to the national war memorial in Ottawa, which is called The Response, because that's what Canadians do.

"When tyranny threatens the free, when cruelty torments the innocent, when desperation overwhelms the human spirit, we choose to respond. We choose the high road forward, not the easy road out. We choose risk not for reward but for righteousness. We choose to fight for freedom, we choose to defend the innocent, we choose to bring hope to the world.

"This is what we've always done, this is sadly, what we are still called upon to do today and this is what we must always do."

St. Catharines MP Rick Dykstra, whose parents immigrated to Canada from Holland and struggled during the Nazi occupation of their home country, attended the event with Harper.

"The solemness of the event was quite striking," Dykstra said. "Having a direct connection with your own family, when you are here it really strikes home how difficult it was.”

A group of two dozen Canadian cyclists were also among those who attended the memorial service.

The group recently returned to the Netherlands after cycling through some of Europe's darkest history — Auschwitz-Birkenau, Bergen-Belsen and Westerbork concentration camps.

**Response Question (answer in paragraph form and staple to this sheet): Harper says the following in his speech:** "They knew, they understood deeply, that there are some things on this Earth worth fighting for, worth dying for. It was true then, it remains true today." Do you agree with Harper’s notion that Canadians have a responsibility to sacrifice their lives to help people in other parts of the world? Or do you believe that the sacrifice is to great in these situations?