



**SUPPLY  
LINE**

## Mark II Helmet

Canada's army, air force and navy all used the Mark II helmet during the Second World War. It protected the wearer during battle and other dangerous tasks.

Replica



Mark II Helmet © Canadian War Museum

### About the Helmet

The Mark II helmet was widely used by the **British Empire**, including Canada, during the Second World War. It closely resembles the Mark I helmet used during the First World War. It was first issued in 1940, and was used until the mid-1950s.

The helmet's distinctive shape helps identify British Empire forces in historical photographs. Made of steel, with a rubber-and-cloth liner, it could stop pieces of exploding bombs or artillery shells. It could not, however, stop bullets fired at close range. A chin strap, made of elastic and rubber, held the helmet in place.

In Canada, the military was the main user of the Mark II helmet. More than 1.1 million Mark II helmets were ordered from Canadian manufacturers.

Around 975,000 went to the military for use by the army, the navy, and the air force. About 155,000 were made for use in Canada by **air raid precautions** personnel. The air raid helmets were made of different steel, and cost less to produce.

## Did You Know?

A newer version of the helmet, the Mark III, was introduced during the war. It had a different shape that provided more protection to the sides of the head and the back of the neck.

## Vocabulary

**Mark:**

A term used to identify the version of an item. If “Mark I” was the first version, then “Mark II” was the second version, and “Mark III” was the third version.

**Air Raid Precautions:**

Measures taken in case of an enemy air attack. In Canada, many air raid precaution volunteers trained to help fight fires and care for injured people.

**British Empire:**

During the Second World War, this referred to the group of colonies, territories, and protectorates, and the British Raj (Empire in India), which were controlled to varying degrees by the United Kingdom. The Empire was also connected to the Dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, which made up the British Commonwealth.