

TED BARRIS - Brief Biography (revised Feb. 2023)

Ted Barris is an award-winning journalist, author, and broadcaster. His writing has regularly appeared in the national press, as well as magazines as diverse as ***Air Force, esprit de corps*** and ***Zoomer***. He has also worked as host/contributor for most **CBC Radio** network programs, **PBS** in the U.S. and on **TV Ontario**. And after 18 years teaching, he recently retired as a full-time professor of journalism at Toronto's Centennial College.

Barris is the author of 20 bestselling, non-fiction books, including a series on wartime Canada: ***Juno: Canadians at D-Day, June 6, 1944 ... Days of Victory: Canadians Remember 1939-1945 ... Behind the Glory: Canada's Role in the Allied Air War ... Deadlock in Korea: Canadians at War, 1950-1953 ... Victory at Vimy: Canada Comes of Age, April 9-12, 1917 ... Breaking the Silence: Veterans' Untold Stories from the Great War to Afghanistan.***

His writing has also been published in such anthologies as ***The Canadian Encyclopedia ... Total Hockey: The Official NHL Encyclopedia ... A History of Maple Leaf Gardens ...*** and a volume of learned papers presented to the Canada-Korea Conference at the U of T.

Barris's remaining books are: ***Rodeo Cowboys ... Spirit of the West ... Positive Power (Story of the Edmonton Oilers) ... Playing Overtime (A Celebration of Oldtimers' Hockey) ... Carved in Granite (125 Years of Granite Club History) ... Making Music (Profiles from a Century of Canadian Music)*** co-authored with his father Alex Barris ... and ***Fire Canoe***, a Mark Twain-like retelling of Canada's 19th century steamboat history.

In 2011, he was one of 19 civilians presented with the **Minister of Veterans' Affairs Commendation**. The citation reads: "Ted Barris has made such exemplary contributions ... benefiting veterans and making manifest the principle that Canada's obligation to all who have served in the cause of Peace and Freedom, must not be forgotten."

In 2012, the Air Force Association of Canada selected Ted Barris to receive **Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Medal**, recognizing

“outstanding Canadians ... who continue to build this caring society and country through their service and achievements.”

His 17th book, ***The Great Escape: A Canadian Story***, won the **2014 Libris Non-Fiction Book of the Year Award** (shared with astronaut Chris Hadfield).

In 2018, HarperCollins has published Barris’s 18th book – ***Dam Busters: Canadian Airmen and the Secret Raid against Nazi Germany*** – about the famous 1943 attack on the Ruhr River dams that powered Nazi Germany’s industrial war production. The RCAF Association awarded Ted Barris and ***Dam Busters*** its **2018 NORAD Trophy** for “unequalled contribution to the preservation of Air Force values, traditions, history and heritage.”

Rush to Danger: Medics in the Line of Fire, also published by HarperCollins, is Ted’s 19th non-fiction book. It was long-listed for the **2020 Charles Taylor Prize for Non-Fiction in Canada**.

Ted’s 20th book, ***Battle of the Atlantic: Gauntlet to Victory*** was published in the fall of 2022 and immediately landed on the *Globe and Mail* and *Toronto Star* bestsellers lists. Following the book’s publication, Ted received word that he’d received **Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee Award**, recognizing “extraordinary contributions to our community and Canada.”

In the 20th century’s greatest war, one battlefield held the key to victory or defeat – the North Atlantic. It took 2,074 days and nights to determine its outcome, but the ***Battle of the Atlantic*** proved the turning point of the Second World War.

The siege pitted German U-boats (attempting to destroy Allied transatlantic Merchant Navy convoys to the U.K.) against Royal Canadian Navy escorts and bomber-reconnaissance aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

In 1939, Canada’s navy went to war with exactly 13 warships and about 3,500 sailors. During the desperate Atlantic crossings, the RCN grew to 400 fighting ships and over 100,000 men and women in uniform. By V-E Day in 1945, it had become the 4th largest navy in the world. The ***Battle of the Atlantic*** proved to be Canada’s longest continuous military engagement of the war.

On Dec. 29, 2022, Rideau Hall announced its latest Honours list. Ted Barris learned he will be appointed **Member of the Order of Canada**, “for advancing our understanding of Canadian military history as an acclaimed historical author, journalist and broadcaster.”