

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. 2018. "75 Years After Stalingrad." *CBC News: The National*, February 3, 2018. CBC News, YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftyA2h7IDlQ>

"75 Years After Stalingrad" is a video that was published as a segment of *The National*, the nightly news broadcast from CBC News. The clip originally aired on February 2, 2018, during *The National's* broadcast. "75 Years After Stalingrad" was later uploaded to both the CBC website and YouTube. Because the clip video was originally a part of a news segment, it was likely intended for the general public instead of an audience that is more familiar with both the Battle of Stalingrad and the Second World War. Most people are not experts, or even familiar with the topic, so that would most likely extend to most people watching *The National*. The purpose of the video is a commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Stalingrad, which also shows how the video was likely intended for the general public. People more familiar with the history of the Second World War likely would have already known about the anniversary of the battle, so they may not have been interested in a more general overview of the topic.

The video utilises footage from the modern day as well as archival photos and videos, similar to many documentaries about the Second World War. The main use of archival video is found at the beginning of the video, with CBC presenter Adrienne Arseneault's narration describing the conflict on the Eastern Front. The video first uses the original audio before adding the narration a few seconds later. While the narration is playing, the audio can still be heard though it is much quieter (CBC 2018, 0:04). After the archival footage, the segment with Arseneault discussing the number of combat deaths from Stalingrad includes multiple different

photos of the battle (CBC 2018, 0:30; CBC 2018, 0:55). The other instance of archival footage being used is following the discussion of Soviet casualties between CBC reporter Chris Brown and Mikhail Shivarikov, a tour guide from modern-day Volgograd. Like the first usage, the original audio is present before Brown's narration begins, and then becoming quieter while Brown speaks (CBC 2018, 1:49). The non-archival video footage that was used included establishing shots of "The Motherland Calls," Brown and Shuvarikov's interview in front of the monument, videos of the searches for and funerals of Soviet war dead, and clips from a commemoration service of the battle (CBC 2018, 1:08; CBC 2018, 1:24; CBC 2018, 2:23; CBC 2018, 4:31).

The background audio for "75 Years After Stalingrad" is relatively quiet. The only instance of music that is not a part of the original video footage being used, both archival and contemporary, appears during the introduction of the "The Motherland Calls" monument. Although the captions and transcript of the video simply use "Music" to describe it, the song appears to be a Soviet song, likely from the 1930's or 1940's, to fit with the video's content (CBC 2018, 1:03). The narration from both Arsenault and Brown is clear and concise. While it does an excellent job at explaining what is on screen, it does not go so far as to overwhelm the viewer with historical background. When text appears on the screen, such as the introduction of Mikhail Shuvarikov or sources for videos, it is unobtrusive, and the animation is smooth, likely so as not to distract the viewer (CBC 2018, 1:47; CBC 2018, 1:51).

The video utilises both statistics and testimony from Mikhail Shuvarikov. Sources for these statistics include the Russian Ministry of Defence for the Soviet casualty numbers from the battle and Veterans Affairs Canada for the casualty numbers from across all of Canada's history (CBC 2018, 0:35). Using numbers sourced from the respective governments of each country

mentioned is greatly beneficial to the actual and perceived quality of the video. While many people would likely accept the numbers presented even if they did not come with sources, their inclusion gives the video more credibility. The same can be said about the inclusion of Mikhail Shuvarikov. Chris Brown's narration presents the facts of the battle as well as insight into the recovery, commemoration, and burial of Soviet war dead that have been discovered in the present day (CBC 2018, 2:31). Having Shuvarikov explain how many soldiers have been buried beneath and around the "The Motherland Calls" monument (CBC 2018, 2:10) helps to cement its significance as a war monument, as he is the main expert on the Battle of Stalingrad seen in the video. Suvarikov's work as a volunteer recovering the war dead from Stalingrad is also helpful in this regard, as it shows the audience that he is very familiar with topics such as casualty numbers (CBC 2018, 2:40). One of Shuvarikov's fellow volunteers, Andrey Oreshkin, also made an appearance discussing his collection of artifacts from the battle (CBC 2018, 3:41). His status as both a volunteer like Shuvarikov as well as curator of a collection is a boost to his credibility when discussing archaeological material such as the two helmets that were stuck together (CBC 2018, 3:58). As Oreshkin has access to documents such as soldier's letters, the audience is more likely to trust the validity of his claims than if Brown were to talk about the helmet without Oreshkin.

Overall, "75 Years After Stalingrad" is an informative piece of media. Although not heavy on the history, the look into the search for the Soviet Union's missing soldiers from the battle provided a new perspective on how battles and battlefield sites should be commemorated.