

The Lessons From History (LFH) Newsletter

September 2010

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Welcome to the latest edition of the semi-annual [newsletter](#) showcasing new articles and deliverables from our departments and highlighting useful advice.

1.) News

[The Project Lessons from the Great Escape Workshop, at ProjectWorld in Toronto](#) brought the participants a pleasant surprise when the daughter and grandson of POW Harold Garland attended. Read "Making the Connection" by Godfrey Jordan. <http://lessons-from-history.com/node/114>

The 70th Anniversary of 1940 is important to Lessons From History. It marks the anniversary of Winston Churchill ascent to the PM office, Dunkirk (Operation Dynamo), and the Battle of Britain. All these events link to the book - Churchill the Agile PM. This book analyzes a period of time from WW II when Winston Churchill faced near defeat for the British in the face of sustained German attacks. The book describes the strategies he took to overcome incredible odds and turn the tide on the impending invasion. Aimed at business executives, IT managers, and project managers, the book extracts learnings from Churchill's experiences that can be applied to business problems today. Read more on this book. <http://lessons-from-history.com/node/15>

The Province of Nova Scotia Public Service Commission (NSPSC) (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/psc>) has adopted Lessons from History seminars as a key component in their Executive Leadership Development Program, preparing senior directors for business transformation planning and execution. Read more [http://lessons-from-history.com/Newsletters/2010_Sep/Govt%20of%20NS_Sept_10_newsletter\[1\].pdf](http://lessons-from-history.com/Newsletters/2010_Sep/Govt%20of%20NS_Sept_10_newsletter[1].pdf)

New Articles and Videos:

Public Safety Communications – April 2010 <http://lessons-from-history.com/Presentations/Articles/Final%20PSC%20article.pdf>

The History of Project Management <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1uxCBx2-UQ>

Articles in Project Management Today World UK in the September and October 2010 issues are titled 'PM Lessons from the Battle of Britain'. These are a collaboration with Martin Price. The articles summarise Churchill's project and use the Engagement Work models of a project 'regime'. This then presents a very clear picture of how Churchill created a project organisation and a working regime able to deliver results that few at the time believed possible. <http://www.pmtoday.co.uk/> and www.engagementworks.com

Join the [LinkedIn](#) Lessons from History group.

<http://www.linkedin.com/groupInvitation?gid=2885686&invID=21616913&sharedKey=pp7zRST9&mboxltemID=1907018818>

YouTube Channel [Project Lessons From History](#) presents video recordings of selected conference presentations from the series.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/projectlessons#g/a>

2.) Articles

[Project Management and the Romans](#)

A brief article on Caesar's bridge over the Rhine, 50 BCE

The Romans were masters of project management and nothing exemplifies this better than this project. Julius Caesar was leading 8 legions (40,000 men) North through Gaul (France). No Roman commander had been able to cross the Rhine River to Germania (Germany) and hold ground.

As he stood on the banks of the colossal river his options were to cross by boat but this would be risky because of the fast current, and he had to bring across his cavalry with horses. He also had hostile Germanic tribes on the other side ready to do battle. The other option was to build a bridge but, the scope of this required a bridge to cross a river 300 meters (1000 feet) wide and 9 meters (30 feet) deep, and carry the weight of 40,000 men, horses, and equipment.

The project had to be completed very quickly. The technical challenges required a very stable bridge, which was achieved with double timber pilings rammed into the bottom of the river at an angle, using huge pile-drivers in wooden frames. An immense volume of timber was required for the pilings, connecting beams (2 feet thick), lengths of timber for the walkway, and tightly wrapped bundles of sticks. This is where the mastery in project management came through in organizing the army to feed this supply-chain, and to work in very a confined space bringing all the different skill sets available to bear.

Every hour the project progressed it had a psychological impact on the on looking tribes who eventually fled. Just 10 days after initiating the project Caesar crossed without any opposition and roamed around for 18 days. He had expected an opposing force of 400,000. The project could not be replicated today

with this kind of technology. It underlines the organizational ability of the Romans. <http://lessons-from-history.com/node/46>

For more details look for [The History of Project Management](#)

3.) Upcoming books

The LFH series has the following books in its production schedule:

The History of Project Management - The manuscript is now complete and has gone into editing and layout. Draft layouts will be ready by in the fall of 2010, and PDFs will be available for reviewers. Target publication is January 2011, although advanced copies will be available. The book traces back and heavily challenges the notion that project management was initiated and evolved in the 20th century. <http://lessons-from-history.com/history-project-management/history-project-management-page>

Polaris: Lessons in Risk Management - This exciting manuscript is in now complete. The book is designed to make risk management easier, less time consuming to perform. Thus allowing organizations to improve their performance in this critical area. This book covers methods listed in the Project Management Book of Knowledge (PMBOK) Guide® and many newer methods not listed. The book explains each method and provides examples based on the Polaris submarine project. <http://lessons-from-history.com/node/116>

IT Governance and Pearl Harbor - This exciting collaboration manuscript is in progress, and tells a compelling story that is a must read for every IT Governance professional. The book explores the governance of two large organizations managing the most complex technology of their time, and the challenges they faced. It will go into editing in 2011, and expected to be released to the public in 2011 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. <http://lessons-from-history.com/node/117>

Do you have a passion for history? Are you a budding author? Have you thought about collaboration? If so please **contact us at Lessons-from-History**.

4.) Interesting books and sites

The first recommendation is the: [The BBCs coverage of the Battle of Britain](#)

Explore the key events of the Battle of Britain with clips from over 50 years of BBC television and radio programmes.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/battle_of_britain/

The second recommendation is: [Crucial Conversation](#) by [Kerry Patterson](#)

Although this is not recent the book comes highly recommended. It covers interpersonal exchanges at work or at home that people dread having but know cannot be avoided. How do you say what needs to be said while avoiding an argument with a boss, child, or relationship partner?

5.) Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming events

October 5,6,7,12,13,14, 20 - [Presentation - Project Lessons from Titanic](https://www.apm.org.uk/APMEvents.asp?page=2&ibranch=-101&iMonth=0&iYear=0&sSearch=) APM UK Branches Sheffield, York, Hadfield, Southampton, Manchester, Newcastle, Bradford

October 11 - The topic is Project Management as a 21st century skill. PMI Global Congress, Washington, D.C.

October 19th,RAF Museum, Cosford, Shropshire [Presentation - Project Lessons from the Great Escape](http://lessons-from-history.com/Events/Brochure_for_Great%20Escape_Cosford_v4.pdf)

[History in the making is a series of seminars](#) that are a joint collaboration between EQ seminars and Lessons-from-History. These will be piloted through 2010 with selected PMI Chapters, with venues in:

September 16th, Anchorage, PMI Alaska

November 4th, Washington, PMI WDC

http://lessons-from-history.com/Events/PM_History_In_the_Making_Flyer_PDF.pdf

If you are interested in having one of our authors present to your organization, send us a [note](#) describing:

The organization (business, PMI Chapter, etc)

The dates

The theme of the meeting

Your budget for speakers

We will respond to you with a proposal that will meet your needs.

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