

Canada House Speaker Apologizes For Honouring Nazi Veteran

Why In The News?

- In A Major Embarrassment For Ottawa, The Canadian Lawmakers Gave A Standing Ovation To A Man Who Was Introduced As A War Hero After Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Address In The House Of Commons Only To Later Realise That **He Had Served In A Nazi Unit During World War II.**
- The Speaker Of Canada's House Of Commons Apologized For Recognizing **98-year-Old Yaroslav Hunka** As A "Ukrainian Hero" Before The Canadian Parliament. Hunka Served In World War II As A Member Of The 14th Waffen Grenadier Division Of The SS.

B B C NEWS

Trudeau calls praise for Nazi-linked veteran 'deeply embarrassing'

Who Is Yaroslav Hunka?

- During World War Two, Mr Hunka Served In The **14th Waffen SS Grenadier Division**, Also Known As The **Galicia Division** - A Voluntary Unit Made Up Mostly Of Ethnic Ukrainians Under Nazi Command.
- Division Members Are **Accused Of Killing Polish And Jewish Civilians**, Although The Unit Has Not Been Found Guilty Of Any War Crimes By A Tribunal.
- The Unit Was Renamed The First Ukrainian Division Before Surrendering To The Western Allies In 1945.
- The Division Mr Hunka Was Part Of Had Attracted Thousands Of Ukrainian Volunteers, Many Joining With Hopes They Could **Achieve Ukrainian Independence.**



What Do We Know?

- Canadian Parliament Was Hosting **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky**. Mr Hunka Was Sitting In The Gallery Of The House Of Commons When Mr Rota (Speaker Of Canada's House Of Commons) Pointed To Him, Saying The Man Was **"A Ukrainian Hero, A Canadian Hero, And We Thank Him For All His Service"**.
- Those Present In The Building Responded With Applause. Thousands Of **Ukrainians Fought On The German Side** During The War, But Millions More Served In The Soviet Red Army. Currently The House Speaker Is Facing Calls From Opposition Politicians To Resign.



What Were The Reactions?

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Said This Was **“Clearly Unacceptable.”** "This Is Something That Is Deeply Embarrassing To The Parliament Of Canada And By Extension To All Canadians," He Told Reporters.
- A **Jewish Advocacy Group** Called The Incident "Shocking" And "Incredibly Disturbing". **Rota, A Liberal MP, Apologized**, Saying That He Had "Subsequently Become Aware Of More Information" Which Caused Him To "Regret" His Recognition Of Hunka.

