

lost about fifty to sixty feet of her stern and was towed into harbour. Casualties were one died of injuries and three missing - believed killed.

Mid-ocean

On the 17th, H.M.C.S. "Guysborough", a Bangor minesweeper, suffered two torpedo hits and sank about 220 miles north of Cape Finisterre, while proceeding independently from Horta to Plymouth. Casualties were 51 missing - believed killed.

During March twenty trade convoys crossed the North Atlantic with the loss of two ships which were torpedoed and sank in the Western approaches on the 2nd.

(b) ARMY -

Canadian operations in March consisted first of the continuation of the attack launched in mid February and later, after regrouping, of a fresh phase attacking across the Rhine.

In the initial stage, British divisions, under command of the First Canadian Army, joined with the Ninth U.S. Army at Geldern on the 4th and both forces fanned out towards the Rhine.

At the same time, the 2nd Canadian Division broke through the Hochswald Forest and advanced in the direction of Xanten against fierce enemy opposition. By the 9th, the town was cleared by the 2nd Canadian and 43rd British Infantry Divisions. The 3rd Canadian Division mopped up the area.

Meanwhile, the 4th Canadian Armoured Division was engaged in operations south of Xanten, suffering heavy casualties. The division moved back into the reserve area on the 11th and remained there for the balance of the month.

By March 12th the Ninth U.S., the Second British and First Canadian Armies were disposed along the west bank of the Rhine on these army fronts.

During the following ten days, preparatory to the next phase of operations, the First Canadian and Second British Armies were regrouped. The Second British Army (to which the 30th British Corps had reverted on the 8th) took over the front from Wesel to Emmerich and the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Divisions moved to a jumping-off area west of Emmerich. On the 20th the Second British Army took under command the 2nd Canadian Corps (consisting of the Canadian 2nd Infantry and 4th Armoured Divisions, plus the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade) while the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division passed to the command of the 30th British Corps. In the meantime, on the 15th, the 1st Canadian Corps, having been moved from Italy, came under command of the First Canadian Army, and took under its command the 49th British Infantry Division and later, the 5th Canadian Armoured Division.

On March 23rd the attack across the Rhine opened. The First Allied Airborne Army dropped one U.S. and one British division (which included the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion) northwest of Wesel. Units of Second British Army crossed the

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