

A Canadian corvette, H.M.C.S. Regina, sank an Italian submarine in a night action in the Mediterranean, Naval Services Headquarters announced March 13, 1943. The submarine was forced to the surface by depth charges and finished off at close range by the corvette's cerlikon guns. More than 20 prisoners were taken.

In early June of 1943 enemy submarines mined the approaches to Halifax harbor, in an arch intended to close the port to all shipping. Minesweepers of the Royal Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy undertook the extremely dangerous and exacting job of sweeping the mines. In one day they cleared a channel 1,200 yards wide to permit a convoy to sail. The minesweepers, having opened the harbor for the convoys, then proceeded to mop up the whole minefield. The work was performed "like clockwork", Navy Minister Macdonald said.

The crew of the Canadian destroyer Athabaskan demonstrated masterly seamanship after the destroyer was damaged by a Nazi aerial glider bomb in the Bay of Biscay during August, 1943. The Athabaskan was operating as senior ship of a group of Royal Navy vessels when attacked by German bombers. Three bombers dropped their bombs at the Athabaskan. The destroyer succeeded in avoiding the bombs dropped by two of the aircraft. A glider bomb from the third Nazi aircraft hit the Athabaskan, killing five and wounding 12 of the crew. With one boiler room and two fuel tanks flooded with sea water, the Athabaskan made home port at the remarkable speed of 12 knots, and is now again at sea.

Losses of the Royal Canadian Navy in ships are as follows:

Destroyers

Fraser	Bay of Biscay
Margaree	Mid-Atlantic
Ottawa	Mid-Atlantic
St. Croix	Mid-Atlantic

Minesweepers

Bras D'Or	Gulf of St. Lawrence
Chedabucto	St. Lawrence

Patrol Vessels

Otter	Coast of Nova Scotia
Raccoon	Western Atlantic

Corvettes

Windflower	Western Atlantic
Spikenard	South of Newfoundland
Charlottown	Gulf of St. Lawrence
Levis	Western Atlantic
Louisburg	Mediterranean
Weyburn	Mediterranean

There are three personnel components of the Royal Canadian Navy:

- 1) Royal Canadian Navy
- 2) Royal Canadian Naval Reserve
- 3) Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve

At the beginning of September, 1939, Canadian Naval personnel consisted of:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>RATINGS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
R.C.N.....	131	1,643	1,774
R.C.N.R.....	66	196	262
R.C.N.V.R.....	115	1,453	1,568
TOTAL.....	312	3,292	3,604