

The R.C.A.F. component of SHAEF (Air) flew 7,500 sorties on bombing missions against supply and communications centres and against troop concentrations and enemy strong points. These operations resulted in extensive damage to the enemy's communications system. Seventeen R.C.A.F. aircraft were lost.

R.C.A.F. squadrons in Fighter Command carried out 560 sorties on intruder, defensive and escort patrols, destroying five enemy aircraft and damaging six others against a loss of two R.C.A.F. aircraft.

The Canadian general reconnaissance squadrons, operating with Coastal Command, flew some 250 sorties and destroyed one enemy aircraft. Numerous sightings and attacks were made and, in the latter part of the month, R.C.A.F. aircraft participated in an attack on three German midget U-boats; depth charges were dropped and were observed to have straddled one submarine while numerous machine gun strikes were made on another.

A total of 3,265 sorties was flown by R.C.A.F. squadrons in Transport Command. These operations consisted mainly of the transportation of casualties and supplies and personnel who had completed their tour of operations.

Canada and Adjacent Territories -

(a) NAVY -

This area was comparatively quiet except for the sinking of the minesweeper "Esquimalt", off Halifax on the 16th. Several contacts were investigated and attacked with one probable success by a U.S. task group, 130 miles southwest of Sable Island on the 19th. On the other hand along the U.S. coast enemy U-boats operated with considerable success against merchant shipping and without suffering any casualties to themselves.

(b) ARMY

The withdrawal from action of all anti-aircraft artillery defences at Halifax was approved during April and the units concerned were relieved of their operational role on the 28th.

The 6" Coast Artillery Battery at Esquimalt was also withdrawn from its operational role on the 28th.

There were 10 new findings in April of material connected with Japanese balloons as compared with 21 in March. Prevailing winds may have been carrying the balloons in a more northerly direction as on the 13th U.S. aircraft reported shooting down 9 in a period of four hours over Attu.

A comprehensive plan prepared by the Department of Agriculture to cope with a possible outbreak of infectious disease among animals was approved. This plan covers an extension of the Animal Diseases Research Institute, a special course of instruction to selected groups of western veterinarians, provision of special field

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