

Up to July, 1943, when the invasion of Sicily began, the best known operations in which the Canadian Army had taken part were at Hong Kong and Dieppe. The British-Canadian-United States force which landed in Sicily included the Canadian First Division and First Armored Brigade, both of whom were given a vital position in the line of battle. In the conquest of Sicily there were more than 2,400 Canadian casualties, of whom approximately 1,800 were wounded.

The Canadian Army Overseas has been available to be used, in whole or in part, as would best serve the allied cause. Today it finds itself on two fronts. In Italy its troops are in the thick of hard fighting; in the United Kingdom they are engaged in preparations for the invasion of northwestern Europe.

The Canadians in Italy form a self-contained corps with autonomy and self-dependence equivalent to the Canadian Corps in World War I. To this corps, which is a part of the British Eighth Army, are allotted two divisions, an armored formation and a proportion of army troops. Canadians have played an important part in the Adriatic coast campaign, spearheading the attack on the stronghold of Ortona at the end of 1943. A unit of Canadians is also with the Fifth Army in Italy and Canadians participated in the establishment of the Anzio beachhead.

The Canadian land forces in the United Kingdom will form part of the group of armies under the command of General Sir Bernard Montgomery when Europe is invaded from the west.

The army in Canada comprises general service personnel, available for service anywhere in the world, and troops called up under the National Resources Mobilization Act for compulsory service in Canada and its territorial waters. By order-in-council these men may be despatched to areas outside Canada. Such troops formed a large proportion of the Canadian contingent which joined United States forces in occupying Kiska.

Canadian soldiers have served in strategic defence areas in Newfoundland, Labrador, Iceland, Alaska, Gibraltar and islands adjacent to the West Indies and the east coast of the United States.

AIR FORCE

In four years of war the Royal Canadian Air Force has expanded from a force of little importance to the fourth greatest air power among the United Nations.

The R.C.A.F. has three objectives:

1. To administer the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.
2. To maintain and supplement the air force overseas.
3. To provide for the aerial defence of Canada and to combat enemy submarines from the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

British Commonwealth Air Training Plan

The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan is based on a proposal made on September 26, 1939, by the governments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom to set up a common air-training system. The successful establishing and carrying out of this plan has been one of Canada's most important contributions to the war.