

September 13th and eight days later Greek troops of 1st Canadian Corps entered Rimini, five miles to the north.

On September 3rd the 5th Division, following a brief rest, re-entered the line, advanced six miles and established a bridgehead over the Rubicone River. They were later forced to withdraw under enemy pressure to firm positions on the south bank.

1st Canadian Armoured Brigade, under the command of 13th British Corps, participated in the advance northeast of Florence towards Bologna.

(c) AIR FORCE -

No. 417 (Fighter) Squadron moved from Perugia to Fano and continued successful operations against the enemy communication system. One plane was lost.

United Kingdom and Northwestern Europe

(a) NAVY -

As a result of the disappearance of enemy shipping from the Bay of Biscay and the English Channel, RCN ships had little contact with the enemy. Vigorous patrolling was carried out but the only success was an attack against a submarine on September 1st off Land's End by a group under HMCS Swansea.

(b) ARMY - (reference map attached)

The 2nd Canadian Corps advanced 60 miles up the French coast, overcoming enemy rearguards at the Somme, to reach the general line - Calais, St. Omer, Aire, by September 5th. 4th Armoured and Polish Armoured Divisions led the advance while the 3rd Division mopped up the by-passed areas and 2nd Division remained at Dieppe.

From September 6th - 18th, a further 50 mile advance was led by 2nd Division and Ypres, Ostend and Bruges were captured, leaving coastal pockets to the 3rd Division which took Boulogne on September 22nd and Calais on October 1st. The 2nd Division moved to Antwerp, leaving the 4th Armoured Division to contain the pocket north of Bruges, after the West Schelde river had been cleared from Antwerp to Terneuzen.

(c) AIR FORCE -

The Canadian component of Bomber Command flew 3,043 sorties and dropped 10,071 tons of bombs, mainly on garrisons and military installations in the Boulogne, Calais and Le Havre districts. In addition, 405 (Pathfinder) Squadron flew 112 sorties and dropped 345 tons of bombs.

The twenty RCAF squadrons in the Allied Expeditionary Air Force flew a total of 3,330 sorties (an increase of 50% over August). These were flown in direct support of ground formations and against enemy-held airfields and communication centres. 49 German aircraft were destroyed for a loss of 22 RCAF planes.

General Reconnaissance Squadrons of the RCAF (including No. 162 in Iceland) carried out 384 anti-U-boat and 135 anti-shipping sorties. During the latter operations, No. 404 (Fighter) Squadron was provisionally credited with sinking one enemy vessel and damaging eight others. Five RCAF aircraft were lost.

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