

PART I - GENERAL(a) NAVY -

In September few U-boats were sunk, but, apart from sinking three merchant ships just north of Ireland, their successes were restricted to the low level of the summer months.

Four trade convoys under Canadian escort, arrived in the United Kingdom from North American ports.

By mid-October, fast transatlantic convoys will be sailed at five-day intervals; slow ones every fifteen days.

(b) ARMY -

Following their rapid advance across France, the attacking Allied armies came up against the prepared defences of the Siegfried Line. Operations, being considerably ahead of schedule, had outrun supply lines so that full advantage could not be taken of Allied superiority in men and equipment. The Germans reacted to our airborne invasion of Holland and our constant probing of their line by committing reserves piecemeal and there is no indication of a general reserve force being available. The principal role of the Canadian troops was the reduction of enemy garrisons at Boulogne and Calais, and the occupation of other channel ports.

Canadian troops in Italy played an important part in breaking the Gothic Line - a role comparable to the one they had previously been allotted in breaking the Hitler Line at Frossinone.

(c) AIR FORCE -

Allied air activity during September in the European theatre was materially reduced because of unfavourable weather and was largely of a tactical nature.

The Allied Expeditionary Air Force was very active with 45,032 sorties to its credit, - the largest expeditions being in connection with the airborne invasion of Holland. The speed of the Army advances made the support of the ground forces particularly difficult and the Allied Expeditionary Air Force was assisted in this work by heavy bombers.

Strategic targets for the air force continued to be synthetic oil plants, communication centres and forward oil storage installations.

PART II - OPERATIONSCentral Mediterranean Theatre(a) NAVY -

Nil.

(b) ARMY -

Early in September, the Foglia River bridgehead was enlarged and a 14 mile advance to the Marano River was made against strong opposition. The Marano was crossed on

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