

North Atlantic 14 trans-Atlantic convoys, 9 of which were entirely escorted by Canadian warships, crossed the Atlantic safely. H.M.C.S. "Chebogue", however, while engaged in escort duty was torpedoed in mid-Atlantic on October 4th, and seriously damaged. She was towed to the United Kingdom and docked.

On October 25th, H.M.C.S. "Skeena" was driven ashore by a gale at Reykjavik and seriously damaged.

(b) ARMY -

Operations to clear the south shore of the Schelde began on October 6th when the 3rd Canadian Division forced a bridgehead over the Leopold Canal. Very strong opposition was encountered but on October 9th, the Canadians, making a landing on the Hoofdplaat, outflanked the Canal line. Good progress was made in spite of heavy casualties and by the end of the month the enemy were compressed in a three mile pocket around Knocke on the channel coast.

The initial phase of the operation to clear the north shore of the Schelde was carried out by the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division and 4th Canadian Armoured Division. This force was subsequently strengthened by a British Division which came under command. The 2nd Division attacked westward onto the Beveland Isthmus and, by joining with the British troops that had crossed from the south shore of the Schelde, cleared the whole of the Zuid Beveland. Further east on the mainland, the 4th Canadian Armoured Division attacked northward towards Bergen Op Zoom and overcame strong opposition to capture this key point on October 27th.

For the first time, United States forces operated under Canadian command. This occurred on October 23rd when a United States Division served with the 1st British Corps within the First Canadian Army.

(c) AIR FORCE -

The Canadian group in Bomber Command flew 2,570 sorties and dropped 10,442 tons of bombs mainly on synthetic oil plants in western Germany and on munitions works in the Ruhr and Rhine Valleys. In addition, 405 (Pathfinder) Squadron flew 162 sorties and dropped 733 tons of bombs. From these operations, 19 aircraft were missing.

The R.C.A.F. component of SHAEF (Air) (twenty squadrons) flew 4,244 sorties against enemy communications and troop concentrations; 39 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 23 damaged, while 6 of ours were lost.

General Reconnaissance Squadrons of the R.C.A.F. (including No. 162 in Iceland) operating under Coastal Command, flew 342 sorties and lost two aircraft. Aircraft of No. 404 Squadron participated in an attack on a convoy of 11 German ships, of which 5 were probably destroyed.

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