

In an attack off the Norwegian coast the Canadian ships Sioux and Algonquin, and the Nabob, British aircraft carrier manned by Canadians, took part.

Sinking of a U-boat by the Canadian destroyers, Ottawa and Kootenay, assisted by a Royal Navy corvette, Statice, was announced during October, 1944. The action took place in July. Announcement of an action in which the Canadian frigates, Saint John and Swansea, brought about the destruction of a submarine also came in October, 1944. This was the third time the Swansea had participated in a U-boat sinking.

In February, 1945, it was announced that the corvette, St. Thomas, assisted by the frigate, H.M.C.S. Seacliff, sank a submarine in the north Atlantic.

Two months later came the news that the Canadian frigate, Annan, sent a German U-boat to the bottom during a running night battle in the north Atlantic.

OFFENSIVE ACTION

Most of the ships and strength of the R.C.N. are designed for convoy work. During the war, however, it has gradually become a more balanced navy and the addition of heavier fighting ships has considerably increased its offensive might. Acquisition of a number of destroyers (four of them the modern, speedy Tribal class destroyers) turned the Canadian navy into a fighting force of real importance. The addition of cruisers and aircraft carriers as well as four more Tribal destroyers will give it further strength.

Sixteen R.C.N. corvettes joined in convoying the United Nations armada in the attack on Axis-held bases in North Africa.

In the invasion of Sicily, four complete landing craft flotillas manned by Canadians helped to land the British Eighth Army, which included the First Canadian Infantry Division.

In August, 1943, forces of the R.C.N. joined with the United States Navy in the expedition to occupy the island of Kiska in the Aleutians.

A large number of Canadian sailors who had patrolled the waters off Canada's eastern coast in submarine-chasing motor launches since the beginning of war, arrived late in 1943 in England to man motor gun boat flotillas. These Canadian sailors are fighting off British coasts with ships of the Royal Navy's famed "Mosquito Navy".

In September, 1943 when the invasion of the mainland of Italy began, the same four landing craft flotillas which assisted in the invasion of Sicily, were on duty in the straits of Messina.

Invasion Activities

More than 100 ships of the Royal Canadian Navy and almost 10,000 Canadian naval officers and men participated in the invasion of France on June 6, 1944. Canadian ships included: Two fleet destroyers, nine escort destroyers, two support groups of frigates, 19 corvettes, two flotillas of minesweepers, two flotillas of motor torpedo boats, two landing ships, 14 assault craft and 30 landing craft, infantry. While allied ships were loading supplies, equipment and men along the coast of England, flotillas of minesweepers were clearing paths for landing craft to follow. One flotilla was all Canadian. Canadian ships also formed a good proportion of another unit which was about half Canadian and half British, and others were in mixed flotillas of the United Nations. The two Canadian ships most prominent in the bombardment of coastal fortifications before the landings took place were new Fleet class destroyers, H.M.C.S. Sioux and Algonquin. German shore batteries were their targets. Anchoring off shore under fire in order to ensure the best possible gunnery, these ships had an important part in preventing casualties among allied troops.