

(ii) North Atlantic -

The few U-Boats patrolling the shipping lanes made no offensive move during the month and consequently, presented little opportunity for successful counter action. One U-Boat was sunk by a United States Group near trans-Atlantic convoy routes, 500 miles northwest of the Azores on June 12th, and on June 26th another was probably sunk by an Anti-submarine striking force under H.M.S. 'Bulldog', northwest of Ireland. The newly commissioned Castle Class Corvette, H.M.C.S. 'St. Thomas' participated in this latter attack.

(b) Army - (reference Sketch Map attached)

The first Canadian formation to land in France on June 6th was the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, which formed part of the 6th British Airborne Division. This Battalion landed east of the River Orne and captured the Benouville-Ranville bridge intact. It then consolidated and during the following eleven days, repulsed all enemy counter-attacks. On June 17th it was relieved and went into reserve in the 6th Airborne Division area.

Early on June 6th elements of the 3rd Canadian Division, under command 1st British Corps, landed and secured their beachhead. The 7th and 8th Infantry Brigades were first ashore and immediately pushed inland to secure their objective, the highway from St. Croix Sur Mer to Tailleville, 3000 yards inland. Subsequently, during the day, the 9th Infantry Brigade with the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade were landed.

The 3rd Canadian Division, operating on the right flank of the 1st British Corps, advanced inland rapidly, capturing the villages of Le Fresne-Camilly, Cairon, Beny Sur Mer and Thaorn, the 9th Brigade reaching the outskirts of Caen to be driven back by German armoured attacks. Meanwhile, the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade had heavy fighting near Le Mesnil Patry.

At the end of the first week, the line in the Canadian sector was established at Cambes Buron and Rosel. During the next ten days, the Canadians fought a holding battle and successfully repulsed enemy counter-attacks. At the end of the month, the Canadian right flank had been advanced slightly to conform to a British move forward there.

Tactical Headquarters of the First Canadian Army landed in France on June 20th and was established at Amblie but no formations had been allotted to it.

(c) Air Force -

R.C.A.F. Squadrons based in the United Kingdom and Invasion Area, made 8,875 bomber, fighter, intruder and anti-submarine sorties for a loss of 98 aircraft. These were made as follows,-

...../4

Minutes and Documents of the Cabinet War Committee,
Volume XVI, July - December 1944, (R.G. 2, 7c, Volume 16)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA