Canadian destroyers aided in the evacuation of British troops from France — the St. Laurent, the Restigouche, and Fraser. The last-named ship was lost during the evacuation of troops from Bordeaux.

Five ships of the Canadian Naval Service took part with units of the American Navy in action in the Aleutian Islands.

17 R.C.N. corvettes joined in convoying the United Nations armada in the attack on Axis-held bases in North Africa. 1,200 R.C.N. officers and ratings also manned landing barges in this action.

Canadian destroyers and corvettes helped the Royal Navy and the R.A.F. to blockade the enemy's main submarine fleet in the Bay of Biscay just before the acquisition of new bases by the Allies in the Azores. The heavy toll taken of Axis U-boats in the Bay of Biscay was an important factor in reducing Allied shipping losses in the North Atlantic to their present low level.

In the invasion of Sicily, two complete Canadian landing craft flotillas helped to land the British-Canadian Eighth Army.

........A large number of Canadian sailors who had, since the beginning of the war, patrolled the waters off Canada's eastern coast in submarine-chasing motor launches, recently arrived in England to man a motor gun boat flotilla. These Canadian sailors will fight off the British coast with ships of the Royal Navy's famed "Mosquito Navy." These men volunteered when the British Admiralty asked for Canadian sailors for this work.

........In line with this growing strength and with the expanding functions of the navy, Canada in January sent Vice-Admiral Percy W. Nelles, chief of the naval staff, to the United Kingdom as senior Canadian flag officer there, a new rank. This step followed closely the appointment of Lieutenant-General Kenneth Stuart, chief of the army general staff, to the new permanent post of chief of staff at Canadian military headquarters in London, and the transfer of Air Marshal L. S. Breadner, chief of the air staff, to the post of air officer commanding-in-chief, Royal Canadian Air Force Overseas. Air Marshal Breadner is responsible to the minister of national defence for air directly and not through the chief of air staff.

.... Navy Minister Macdonald commented:

.... "The sending of Admiral Nelles, General Stuart and Air
Marshal Breadner to the United Kingdom is a sign that
we mean business over there."

The shifts were arranged in view of the preparations being made in the United Kingdom for an invasion of Europe from the west. The navy felt that the senior Canadian naval officer in the United Kingdom should be an officer of high rank. Admiral Nelles will remain senior ranking naval officer and will have general oversight of Canadian naval forces overseas, although he will not be in command of them, for Canadian units will be intermingled with other allied forces.

Rear Admiral George C. Jones, vice-chief of the naval staff, was appointed chief to succeed Admiral Nelles.

Men with the Royal Navy

Canadians on loan to the Royal Navy have served under fire in the Mediterranean and in the Indian Ocean, north to the Arctic Circle, and south to the Equator. Canadian ships fly the White Ensign of the Empire's naval services. R.C.N. ships have been assigned duties of naval patrol in the Caribbean and in other special territories from time to time.

GUARDING
CANADIAN
SHORES
The R.C.N. is constantly on guard in Canadian coastal waters. The monotonous but vital work of submarine patrol is carried on in the St. Lawrence River itself.