

THE ARMED
FORCES

More than 35% of Canada's male population between the ages of 18 and 45 have joined the Canadian navy, army or air force since war began. Growth of the services in four years of war has been as follows:

(September)	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Navy	1,800	10,000	24,000	40,000	67,000
Army	4,500	155,000	230,000	350,000	460,000
Air Force	4,000	30,000	80,000	115,000	200,000
Total	10,300	195,000	334,000	505,000	727,000

Including members of the women's services, the strength of the armed forces in March, 1944, was:

Navy	more than	80,000
Army	more than	479,000
Air Force	more than	206,000
Total	more than	765,000

Enlistments of women in the armed forces have been as follows:

Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service.....	more than	4,672
Canadian Women's Army Corps.....	" "	17,006
Royal Canadian Air Force (Women's Division).....	" "	16,549
Nursing Services.....		3,216
Women doctors in the armed forces.....		40
Total.....	more than	41,483

NAVY

In this world war, as in the last, the Allies are fighting at the end of supply lines stretching across the world's widest water spaces. Keeping open the North Atlantic route, "the lifeline of Europe", has been of first importance. It is in the work of convoy protection and U.boat hunting that the Royal Canadian Navy has found its chief role.

Six days after the war started, the first Canadian convoy was escorted into the open Atlantic. Since that day, Canadians have escorted over 18,000 ships from North America to Europe - about 114,000,000 dead-weight tons of shipping - and about 10,000 ships from the United Kingdom to America. Another 20,000 ships in Canadian coastal convoys (going from one port to another on the North American continent) have been escorted almost entirely by ships of the Canadian navy.

After Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States' naval strength has been largely centred in the Pacific, with the result that the protection of the Atlantic routes has rested almost entirely on the United Kingdom and Canada. It has been estimated that escort vessels for trade convoys have been supplied in this percentage:

United Kingdom	51%
Canada	47%
United States	2%

In the last two years, Canadian convoy escort has sometimes risen as high as 48% and has never fallen below 40%.

Other tasks of the Canadian navy are to guard Canadian shores, to destroy or capture enemy merchant and fighting ships, and to assist in blockade operations.