

engaged in clearing the Schelde river approaches to the port of Antwerp.

German synthetic oil plants and industrial centres of the Ruhr and Rhineland continued to be the major strategic targets. In one 72-hour period, 10,000 tons of bombs were dropped on Cologne.

SECTION II - OPERATIONS

Central Mediterranean Theatre

(a) NAVY - Nil

(b) ARMY -

The Italian campaign during October was characterized by slow advances from river to river with bad weather holding up the attack for several days at a time. In the early part of the month, progress of the 1st Canadian Corps in the Adriatic coastal sector was very slow due to stubborn enemy resistance and to heavy rains which made the roads impassable for tanks and the Rubicone river unfordable except by ropes. On October 11th, two bridge-heads were established over the Rubicone river by the 2nd New Zealand division and the slow advance was continued.

When the Canadian Corps was relieved on October 28th by the 5th British Corps, the enemy had been pushed back to the west bank of the Ronco river, 17 miles from the starting point at the Rubicone.

(c) AIR FORCE -

No. 417 (Fighter) Squadron, based at Fano, operated without loss against enemy lines of communication and gun positions.

United Kingdom and Northwestern Europe

(a) NAVY -

United Kingdom and European Waters H.M.C.  
Frigates "Annan" and "Loch Achanalt", sank a U-boat west of the Shetland Islands on October 16th and took most of the crew prisoners. These ships formed part of a group operating against U-boats passing between Norwegian waters and the North Atlantic.

H.M.C.S. "Mulgrave" was seriously damaged by an acoustic mine while sweeping off Le Havre on October 9th.

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