

the battlegrounds. Their sense of membership in the family of nations has been sharpened and clarified by the close international associations brought about by war. They are carrying the lessons of that experience into their active membership in the United Nations.

When war broke out in 1914, Canada had an army of some 3,000 men. During the next four years, more than 600,000 were enlisted, and over 420,000 went overseas. Their battle record was almost legendary on the Western Front. At Ypres, in 1915, Canadians withstood the first German gas attack and rolled back the enemy assault. On the Somme, at Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, Arras, Cambrai and Mons, they left their mark on the enemy, and on the pages of history. Total Canadian casualties were 236,000 including more than 66,000 dead.

At home, a shell-producing industry was created from the ground up. By 1917, nearly a third of the shells fired from British guns were manufactured in Canada. In all, more than \$1,000,000,000 worth of war material was shipped from Canada.

On September 10, 1939, a special session of the Canadian Parliament declared that a state of war existed between Canada and Nazi Germany. Ten months later, war was declared on Italy, and on December 7, 1941, a few hours after Pearl Harbour, Canada was officially at war with Japan, before either the United States or Great Britain had taken action.

When war was declared in 1939, Canada's three armed services had fewer than 11,000 men. There were virtually no essential war industries. No weapon larger than a service rifle had ever been made in Canada.

A prodigious mobilization of Canadian resources and manpower followed. More than a million—40 out of every hundred between the ages of 18 and 45—were enlisted in the armed forces. Industrial capacity was nearly trebled to produce naval and merchant ships, warplanes, tanks and military vehicles, artillery and machine guns, ammunition and hundreds of other war items.

*Sailor on corvette mans anti-aircraft gun.*

*Crew of frigate watch depth-charge explode.*



*Canadian tanks move into action at Falaise.*

About 30 per cent of the vast output of war materials was allocated to the Canadian forces and the remainder was supplied to allied nations. Canada became the world's second largest exporting nation during the war—and four-fifths of her exports were war goods.

At the outbreak of war the Royal Canadian Navy consisted of 15 ships manned by some 1,700 men. By the end of the war it had more than 940 ships. Its personnel had, meanwhile, increased to more than 95,000 men—a larger number than the British Navy mustered in 1939.

Units of the R.C.N. fought in waters around the world, though its main task was the provision of close support for North Atlantic convoys. In 1944, while the R.C.N. participated in the invasion of France, Canadian ships also handled virtually the whole of the North Atlantic convoy.

More than 181,100,000 tons of cargo and 25,000 merchant vessels were escorted across the Atlantic. Canadian ships were involved in 165 actions with enemy craft. Warships of the R.C.N., alone or assisted, put 134 enemy vessels out of action by sinking or capture. The R.C.N. itself lost a total of 24 ships and suffered 2,957 casualties.

The strength of the Canadian army had grown from 4,500 in 1939 to more than 481,000 by 1943. On VE-Day, there were 283,000 of its troops serving overseas.

The first Canadian contingent disembarked in England on December 17, 1939. Canadian troops landed on the continent before the fall of France, but were recalled before going into action. In September, 1941, Canadians participated in the commando raid on Spitzbergen. Later the same year, an entire Canadian brigade was lost at Hong Kong.

In their raid on Dieppe the Canadians suffered another 3,371 casualties—practically two-thirds of the force engaged. This was a costly operation; but the value of its results in the final planning for D-Day has since been fully recognized.

