

The First Canadian Corps, consisting of one infantry and one armoured division as well as its allotted service troops, is in action in Italy as part of the British Eighth Army. A unit of Canadians is also serving with a special service force, a combined Canadian-United States group of super-commandos, which established the Anzio beachhead, first entered Rome and took key points off the south coast of France in preparation for the invasion there.

The first Canadian paratroop battalion ever dropped into battle took part in the pre-dawn landings made by the allies in France of June 6, 1944. It later became part of the First Allied Airborne Army.

Up to July, 1943, when the invasion of Sicily began, the best known operations in which the Canadian Army had taken part were at Hong Kong and Dieppe. The British-Canadian-United States force which landed in Sicily included the Canadian First Division and First Armoured Brigade, both of whom were given a vital position in the line of battle.

In Italy the Canadians had an important part in the Adriatic coast campaign which ended in the capture of the stronghold of Ortona at the end of 1943. Spearheading the allied attack on the Gustav and Hitler lines in the spring of 1944, the First Canadian Corps drove the first wedge into the strategic Liri Valley defences and opened the way for the Eighth Army drive toward Rome. Much of the success of the early stages of the campaign around Cassino was attributed to the initial hammering of Canadian tanks. All along the Casilian Way the Canadians were in the van of the fighting.

When the autumn offensive was unleashed against the Gothic Line, it was the Canadians who opened the way for the fall of Rimini and consequent collapse of the eastern hinge of the Line.

From the beginning of the fighting in Normandy, Canadian troops have been given some of the toughest and least spectacular assignments. They have fought for every inch of ground gained and have engaged the cream of German warriors.

Posted on the allied left flank, Canadians and British held a large part of Hitler's crack armored troops while the United States armies were completing the capture of Brittany and racing across France. Successful accomplishment of their assignment helped insure the success of the whole campaign in western Europe.

The first real offensive for the Canadians was the drive on Carpiquet, which opened the way for the British-Canadian drive from Caen to Falaise to smash German control of this area and join the United States forces driving up from farther south. From Normandy the Canadians pushed north across the Seine, through Rouen, across World War I battlefields, toward the Channel coast to capture enemy-held ports and destroy their rocket gun installations.

These mopping-up operations have been of vital importance to the allies. While, farther west, the first stage of the war on the Siegfried Line was in progress, the Canadian Army took Le Havre, Dieppe, Boulogne, Calais and Ostend, all ports that the allies need to rush supplies from England to the front. Capture of the French, Belgian and Netherlands Channel coast brought an end to enemy shells falling on the south coast of England and drove the Germans to seek other means of sending off their rocket bombs.

The army in Canada comprises general service personnel, available for service anywhere in the world, and troops called up under the National Resources Mobilization Act for compulsory service in Canada and its territorial waters. By order-in-council these men may be despatched to areas outside Canada. Such troops formed a large proportion of the Canadian contingent which joined United States forces in occupying Kiska.

Canadian soldiers have served in strategic defence areas in Newfoundland, Labrador, Iceland, Alaska, Gibraltar and islands adjacent to the West Indies and the east coast of the United States.

In five years of war the Royal Canadian Air Force has expanded from a force of little importance to the fourth greatest air power among the United Nations.

The R.C.A.F. has three objectives:

1. To administer the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.
2. To maintain and supplement the air force overseas.
3. To provide for the aerial defence of Canada and to