

nearly all the territory which was occupied by nazi forces following the treacherous invasion launched on June 22, 1941. This tremendous drive is now being carried across Polish soil into Germany itself. In Normandy the great struggle for liberation is being fought out by combined United States, British and Canadian forces. The next few weeks, if not days, may witness battles which will go far to decide the fate of the German stronghold now beset from east and west and south.

When I reviewed the progress of the war last July it was on the very eve of Canadian landings at Pachino, in Sicily, at the beginning of the battle for the liberation of Italy. Following a campaign of thirty-eight days, which saw the complete defeat of German forces on that island, Canadian forces were in the van of allied landings on the mainland. The unconditional surrender of Italy shortly after removed this unhappy partner from the axis alignment. In the heavy fighting which pushed the nazi forces steadily northward, Canadian troops have had an important part. At the beginning of 1944 the 1st Canadian division was supplemented by other units, and by the establishment of headquarters of a Canadian corps in the field. In May this Canadian corps reached its full fighting strength, and up until the liberation of Rome it took part in many important actions.

The Canadian corps was and is a part of the British 8th army. It was moved secretly from the Adriatic front to engage the enemy. The move had decisive results. In the landings both in Sicily and Italy, and in many subsequent operations, concentrations of the Royal Canadian Air Force and ships and men of the Royal Canadian Navy have cooperated fully and effectively. In like manner the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Canadian Navy have cooperated fully and effectively in the invasion of Europe from the north. Wherever they serve, from now until the day of final victory, we may be sure that all the armed forces of Canada, rigorously trained and superbly equipped, will continue to strike telling and relentless blows in the cause of the world's freedom. I might also mention the heroic and far-reaching service on the part of Canada's merchant navy, which throughout the war has played a vital role.

The spectacular progress of the Red armies in pushing back the German enemy, and the initial successes of the allied armies in Normandy and Italy, should not obscure the importance of allied offensives elsewhere. In the battle of the Atlantic increased air coverage over vital routes and new methods of combat

have made possible a greater concentration of weapons against the U-boat menace than ever before. The bridge of ships upon which victory depends has been kept intact. The menace of the U-boat may never entirely disappear during war-time. Since the beginning of the year, however, in the north Atlantic, the number of U-boats sunk by the combined resources of escort vessels, carrier-based aircraft and land-based aircraft has been at least five times the number of merchant ships lost by enemy action.

In the western Pacific, Japanese forces are being steadily hemmed in and driven back from the fringes of a vast area of sea and islands. It is of interest that in an area where what at first was a war of survival, and for many months a war of attrition, has now become in part a war of liberation. In a part of Netherlands New Guinea, for example, Netherlands civil affairs officers are already at work in the first sizeable area of Dutch soil to be wrested back from the Japanese. United States task forces have been reducing Japanese outposts by the occupation of strategic islands, of which Saipan, Guam and Tinian are recent examples. The air war against Japan has been pursued actively from land as well as from sea. From lately-constructed bases in China new super fortresses of the United States 20th air force have rained destruction on some of the most important industrial areas under Japanese control. On land also, on the Indo-Burmese front, dogged efforts are being made to whittle down the Japanese lines and keep open the supply routes to China upon which her own military effort against Japan now so largely depends.

As might be expected, the weight of Allied bombing over Europe, the relentless patrolling of European seaways, and now the actual fighting on land, have aroused the resistance movements. These movements have been kept alive through underground channels in many European nations whose governments are in exile. It is known, for example, that full-scale fighting by underground warriors in some parts of France has engaged large numbers of nazi troops who might otherwise be serving elsewhere. In Yugoslavia the "partisan" forces serving under Marshal Tito have taken control of extensive areas, and at least one constituent assembly has met in the midst of a country still outwardly under nazi domination. In still other countries, always at great personal risks, organized sabotage of transportation and communication facilities has slowed down the enemy's plans. These underground forces have played a vital part throughout the war in hampering the enemy,