

Rhine north of Wesel thus conforming with the Ninth U.S. Army's crossing to the south; both armies effected a junction with the airborne troops and, by March 24th, had advanced 30 miles beyond Wesel.

On the 24th troops of the 3rd Canadian Division, operating with the 51st British Infantry Division, crossed the Rhine near Emmerich. By the 30th, the whole division was across the river and the town cleared against stiff opposition.

On the 29th, the 2nd Canadian Division also crossed the Rhine and by the end of the month had advanced five miles northeast of Emmerich.

During the last week the First Canadian Army was regrouping and the 5th Canadian Armoured Division took over the left sector of 1st Canadian Corps front northwest of Nijmegen.

(c) AIR FORCE -

About 2,800 sorties were flown and over 10,000 tons of bombs were dropped by the Canadian group in Bomber Command, against communication facilities and synthetic oil plants and depots. In addition, No. 405 (Pathfinder) Squadron flew 200 sorties and dropped over 600 tons of bombs. In the course of these operations, 38 RCAF aircraft were lost.

The 18 squadrons which form the RCAF component of SHAEF, carried out 6,000 sorties against communications, enemy strongpoints, bridges, ammunition dumps, airfields and in support of our ground forces. These operations resulted in extensive damage to the enemy's transportation and equipment facilities. Nineteen RCAF aircraft were lost.

The RCAF squadrons under Fighter Command flew more than 300 sorties; destroyed six enemy aircraft and damaged sixteen with a loss of 4 of our aircraft.

RCAF General Reconnaissance Squadrons, operating with Coastal Command, carried out some 300 sorties with the loss of three RCAF aircraft. During the month, 404 Squadron participated in an attack on an enemy convoy resulting in three merchant vessels, three escort vessels and a 2,000 ton car ferry being damaged.

A total of 4,400 sorties were flown without loss by RCAF Squadrons in Transport Command.

Canada and Adjacent Territories -

(a) NAVY -

Fifteen convoys were escorted all the way across, and all were escorted in the western area by Canadian warships. Ten of these, eastbound from North American ports, carried 5,014,183 tons of cargo to the United Kingdom.

U.S. task groups co-operated with the R.C.N. to provide protection in this area. Units of this fleet probably sank a submarine on the 18th, 60 miles southwest of Sable Island. A Canadian escort group attacked a contact in the Halifax approaches on the 21st, producing an oil slick but no wreckage was sighted. H.M.C.S. "Cobalt" attacked a contact on the 25th producing some debris and large patches of oil but no samples were obtained due to high seas.

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