

REFERENCE PAPERS

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CANADA AND THE PACIFIC WAR

What will be the size of Canadian armed forces now that Germany is defeated?

The Royal Canadian Navy will have a strength of 37,000 for the Pacific war. Of this number, 13,500 will be required to man the 60 Canadian warships destined for Pacific service. The remaining 23,500 will be used as replacements and for administration and shore duty.

The Canadian Army will keep approximately two-thirds of its men under arms during the forthcoming year. A force of 30,000 will be maintained in the Pacific, and a considerably larger number of men will be required for reinforcements, administrative and training personnel in support of the Far East force.

Royal Canadian Air Force strength will be 100,000 for Pacific duty, occupation of Germany and training and administrative staffs.

Why are Canada's Pacific units so much smaller than forces used against Germany?

Size of the three services has been determined not by Canadian wishes but by the overall program for the war against Japan as drawn up by allied chiefs of staff. Naval participation is limited to ships which are suitable for primarily offensive warfare in the Pacific. Army strength is as large as the United States felt could be effectively integrated with United States forces in time to be of fighting value against Japan. Air force strength was determined on the basis of air bases that will be available, range of Canadian planes and duties for which Canadian squadrons will be suitable.

Where will Canadian forces operate?

The army force will fight under American command with United States forces now advancing on the Japanese homeland. Canadian naval units attached to the British Pacific Fleet will be in action in Pacific areas close to Japan, the Chinese coast and islands between Japan and the Philippines. Royal Canadian Air Force squadrons operating with the Royal Air Force are promised a crack at the Japanese homeland as well as other strategic enemy positions in the Pacific.

When will Canadians be fighting the Japanese?

The cruiser, H.M.C.S. UGANDA, already in action in the Pacific, has