

SECTION I - GENERAL

(a) NAVY -

Submarine warfare during October was very quiet. No merchant ships were sunk in the north Atlantic and very few elsewhere; two U-boats were known to have been destroyed.

Eight trade convoys sailed from North American ports and landed four and a half million tons of cargo in the United Kingdom.

Fast convoys are now sailing at five day intervals and slow convoys at fifteen day intervals. The average size of convoys has been reduced in order to facilitate manoeuvring in winter weather, and the Canadian escort groups, which had escorted all summer convoys, were reinforced by three British Escort Groups in order to provide protection for the increased number.

(b) ARMY -

The task of freeing the approaches to the port of Antwerp was under the direction of the First Canadian Army and Canadian formations played prominent roles. This port is capable of handling the bulk of Allied supplies and its opening will enable the Allied Command to build up its forces in preparation for a major assault into Germany.

German losses during the month continued to be heavy in manpower and in armour, and it is estimated that the Allied armies will be able to mount this next offensive with a great superiority in troops, guns and material. Although several new German divisions have appeared in the line, the increase has been offset by the removal of some armoured formations for refitting in Germany. No large mobile reserve has become evident and the enemy were forced to move their depleted resources laterally from point to point to deal with local break-throughs.

In Italy, the drive for Bologna was hampered by heavy rains. The defence of that key point was bolstered by the withdrawal of troops in the Adriatic sector and this forced the enemy to give some ground in this area. The low nature of the coastal area and the ease with which it can be flooded afforded some protection to the enemy on this flank. In spite, therefore, of the advance of the 1st Canadian Corps up the Adriatic Coast, Bologna continued to be defended successfully and the U.S. Fifth Army made little progress towards that objective.

(c) AIR FORCE -

Unfavourable weather seriously interfered with air activity during the first two weeks in October. In the latter part of the month, however, the Allied air forces were enabled to provide effective support for Allied troops in

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