

which had been the best at sea since the war began. Destruction of U-Boats continued at a satisfactory level, as well, and will likely exceed twenty in number.

(b) Army -

For the opening assault on France the First Canadian Army was not committed, but the 3rd Canadian Division with the 2nd Armoured Brigade under command was employed in the initial sea-land attack, and the 1st Canadian Paratroop Battalion was among the first troops actually to land in France.

3rd Canadian Division, prior to the invasion, had been separated from other Canadian formations in England and had undergone special training for its assault role. Although these formations had not had previous battle experience, their performance was most satisfactory - the 3rd Canadian Division was, in fact, the first formation in the Second British Army to reach its objective, and received the congratulations of the Army Commander on its performance.

Casualties during the first stages of the operation were lower than anticipated. At the same time, progress of the fighting in France has been satisfactory. The German Command has been unable to bring up reinforcements at the same rate as the Allied Command has been able to land new Divisions in spite of the weather being generally adverse for landing operations. As of July 6th, the Allied Command had concentrated the equivalent of some 33 Divisions, which were opposed by about 22 German Divisions in the immediate area. Of these Divisions, eight were armoured, most of which had been contained by the Second British Army on the left flank, while the United States Forces were clearing the Cherbourg Peninsula.

(c) Air Force -

More than 14,100 sorties were made on June 6th by the Allied Air Forces in support of landing operations. The damage done to the German transport system helped Allied ground forces to establish themselves and land reinforcements before the enemy could bring up the reserves necessary for an effective counter-offensive. 160,000 sorties were carried out in June by Allied aircraft over enemy territory. 1,000 enemy aircraft were destroyed for the loss of approximately 1,450 Allied planes.

June saw a noteworthy change in the use of air power. Separate Allied Air Forces, without losing their identity, were employed as one force in support

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Minutes and Documents of the Cabinet War Committee,  
Volume XVI, July - December 1944, (R.G. 2, 7c, Volume 16)

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