

in the closest co-operation with the Royal Navy, the Royal Canadian Navy has aided in the convoy overseas of troops, war material and foodstuffs.

In September, 1939, the mobilized strength of the Royal Canadian Navy was 1,600 men; by the middle of July, 1941, it stood at 21,626 men, or slightly more than thirteen and one-half times its original strength. These men have been recruited mainly through the 19 Divisions of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve located in principal cities across the country.

The growth in the number of ships of the Royal Canadian Navy has been equally striking. In this same period the Navy has expanded from 15 ships to approximately 250 ships and numbers are steadily increasing. There are now 13 destroyers in service; 2 of these were purchased from the Royal Navy and 7 were acquired from the United States. Three liners have been converted into armed merchant cruisers and are now patrolling the seas. In addition, 15 armed yachts equipped for anti-submarine patrol are in operation.

Ships have been lost: H.M.C.S. *Fraser*, while engaged in what was described in the House of Commons by Prime Minister King as "the pursuance of hazardous duties . . . near Bordeaux, France;" H.M.C.S. *Margaree*, while performing convoy duty; H.M.C.S. *Bras d'Or* due to heavy seas and a strong gale in the St. Lawrence; H.M.C.S. *Otter* by fire while on patrol duty on the East Coast.

Equally important in actual defence operations is the construction program by which the strength of the Navy is being rapidly augmented. Shipyards from coast to coast are working to capacity, occupied with the construction of vessels for the Navy and for the merchant marine. Many of these vessels, particularly minesweepers and corvettes, manned by R.C.N. officers and crews, are now in service both in home waters and in the more hazardous combat zones. Orders placed for naval construction to June, 1940, include 70 corvettes, 48 minesweepers, 12 motor torpedo-boats, and 36 Fairmile-class motor-boats. In addition, 10 corvettes are on order for the Royal Navy.

The casualty list as of July 10, 1941, gave 28 officers and 308 ratings as killed on active service.

**The Army.**—In the early stages of the War, Canada's contribution was limited to the provision of: two Divisions with necessary ancillary troops for service abroad, including the necessary reinforcement and training establishments to provide for these forces; guards at vulnerable points throughout Canada; and defences on the East and West Coasts.

By April, 1940, the 1st Canadian Division and certain corps troops had been dispatched abroad and Canadian Military Headquarters had been set up in London. Canadian forces overseas totalled 23,408, and the Active Army in Canada, 53,234 all ranks. By May, 1941, a great expansion had been effected, bringing the total strength to 376,000 all ranks, including the Active Army overseas and in Canada, the Reserve Army in Canada, and reserve recruits trained or in training under the provisions of the National Resources Mobilization Act.

The sequence of enemy successes in Europe, during the months of May and June, 1940, brought prompt decisions leading to a strengthening of the forces overseas and the defences at home. The dispatch abroad of the 2nd Canadian Division and of reinforcements for the 1st Division, already overseas, was accelerated. The 3rd Canadian Division was authorized to mobilize, involving the selection, administration of and provision for, some 72 additional units.