

The R.C.N. has not been able to undertake its hazardous duties unscathed. Its losses in ships are listed as five destroyers, *Fraser*, *Margaree*, *Ottawa*, *St. Croix* and *Athabaskan*; two minesweepers, *Bras d'Or* and *Chedabucto*; one frigate, *Valleyfield*; six corvettes, *Windflower*, *Spikenard*, *Charlottetown*, *Levis*, *Louisburg* and *Weyburn*; and two patrol vessels, *Otter* and *Raccoon*.

The casualty lists, too, show part of the price that Canada's Navy has paid, with more than 1,146 dead, 184 wounded, 8 prisoners of war and 329 missing to the end of the first quarter of 1944.

The Army.—In the summer of 1943 the invasion of Sicily brought to an end for the Canadian Army the more than three years of watchful waiting in Britain and the long preparation for attack.

The Canadian 1st Division, commanded by Major-General Guy Simonds, took part in some of the heaviest fighting of the Allied 39-day campaign which followed. Its task was to drive through the centre of the Island, between the British and United States troops. In the closing stages of the battle the Canadians, with the British 78th Division of the Eighth Army, broke through the Mount Etna line and started the enemy retreat to the evacuation port of Messina.

Fighting men of the First Division were again side-by-side with the famous Eighth Army when the direct assault on Italy began and in the bitterly fought advance up "the boot". At first the Canadians were again on the left flank of the Eighth Army, with their tried friends of the 78th Division on their right and the Americans on their left. Later, however, the Canadians took their turn on the narrow strip along the Adriatic. On the former front their share in forcing the Sangro River was distinguished; on the latter the Canadian name is definitely associated with Ortona and the Moro River.

It was after these battles, and after the flanking drive toward Rome had been checked by the severity of winter conditions, that most of another Canadian Division came, and with them additional corps troops to complete the constitution of a Canadian Corps in Italy. The first action in which the Canadians engaged as a Corps resulted in the taking of Pontecorvo after extremely bitter fighting, a substantial contribution toward the smashing of the Adolph Hitler line. This led to the singling out of the Canadians for special mention in the official communique of May 24, 1944.

The Canadian component of a joint Canadian-American unit is taking part in operations in Italy, its roles including those of commando, airborne and parachute troops. In addition, a Canadian parachute contingent is now overseas.

It was also in the summer of 1943 that Canadians took their first offensive step against Japan. A Canadian Brigade joined with United States troops to occupy the key Aleutian Island of Kiska, which, however, had been vacated by the Japanese before the Allied landing. Troops from all across the Dominion, a large proportion of them soldiers called for service under the National Resources Mobilization Act, took part in this operation.

The Field Force of the Canadian Army Overseas now consists of the First Canadian Army of two Corps, three Infantry Divisions, two Armoured Divisions and two Armoured Brigades. Besides these there are large numbers of ancillary or corps troops, concerned with communications, repairs to equipment, transport of supplies, medical and hospital services and many other functions.