

later. Before she returned, however, other Canadian units were on their way to the battle zone and it was the intention of the Royal Canadian Navy that 60 warships should serve in that area. These were to include two cruisers, two light Fleet class aircraft carriers, an anti-aircraft cruiser, Tribal class, Fleet class and Crescent class destroyers, and frigates.

Canadian minesweepers continued to operate in European waters long after V-E Day and other ships continued their patrol of Canada's long Pacific coast line.

During the European War, Canadian warships destroyed or shared in the destruction of 23 enemy submarines; the probable destruction of eight submarines and the damaging of seven others. Twelve U-boats were known sunk or probably sunk in the year ended Mar. 31, 1945. Two U-boats surrendered to the Royal Canadian Navy after V-E Day. Canadian warships also took part in the sinking of at least 68 enemy surface vessels, the severe damaging of 41 others and the capture of one merchant ship and one armed trawler.

Losses suffered by the Royal Canadian Navy between Mar. 31, 1944, and the end of the European phase of the War included the destroyers *Athabaskan* and *Skeena*, the corvettes *Regina*, *Alberni*, *Shawinigan* and *Trentonian*, the frigate *Valleyfield* and the Bangor-class minesweepers, *Clayoquot* and *Guysborough*.

The Royal Canadian Naval College at Esquimalt, B.C., was in operation throughout the academic season. Forty-five cadets graduated in the spring of 1945 and are serving at sea with the Royal Canadian Navy, on loan to the Royal Navy, or as members of the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve, as midshipmen. The Royal Canadian Sea Cadets throughout Canada continued during the year to receive training under the supervision of the naval service and large numbers of them joined the Navy during the year.

The following casualties had been sustained by the Canadian Naval Forces up to July 31, 1945:—

	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Ratings</i>	<i>Total</i>
Killed on Active Service.....	176	1,493	1,669
Other deaths.....	35	235	270
Missing.....	4	3	7
Wounded.....	52	384	436
Prisoners of war ¹	2	Nil	2

¹ Eighty-five officers and men taken prisoner before D-Day were liberated during the advance into Europe or following V-E Day.

The Army.—Canadian Army operations from D-Day to June, 1945, are covered in the following paragraphs. These connect up with earlier operations dealt with in former editions of the Year Book.

On June 6, 1944, the invasion of northwestern Europe began with Allied landings on the coast of Normandy, and the gradual reduction of the Nazi Fortress of Europe was under way. Of the Canadian Army, only the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division and the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade were in action in the initial stages as part of the 1st British Corps. The 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, the 4th Canadian Armoured Division and the 2nd Canadian Corps Headquarters arrived in France in July. These formations were welded into the 2nd Canadian Corps which, with the British and Allied formations, soon comprised the First Canadian Army under General H. D. G. Crerar, who was made responsible for the operations on the Allied left. The Canadian role was to smash the northern hinge of the German defences; cross the Seine and Somme rivers; clear the French and Belgian coasts of rocket installations; and recover the Channel ports.