

In the final ten months of hostilities, the Canadian Army had captured 190,000 prisoners. Since the initial landing on June 6, 1944, Canadian battle casualties numbered 43,000.

The Canadian Occupational Force in Germany consists of 25,000 all ranks including replacements. These are selected from volunteers and recently arrived men. In the autumn of 1944 the disproportionate (though not unexpected) losses in infantry led to adjustments from other arms to infantry, and also the despatch to Europe of over 12,000 men recruited under compulsory service of whom over 4,000 saw service with field units. Earlier, a surplus of officers in certain corps led to a voluntary loan of nearly 700 Canadian officers to the British infantry, where they have been outstandingly competent and resourceful.

The Canadian Occupational Force in Germany and the strength of the Pacific Force are considerably smaller than the Canadian Forces from September, 1939, to June, 1945. As a result, repatriation plans are well advanced and Army personnel are being returned to Canada as transportation facilities become available.

Plans were completed for Canada's participation in the War against Japan. The Army component of the Canadian Pacific Force was set at 30,000 all ranks, which included an Infantry Division, a Tank Battalion and miscellaneous ancillary and other units to serve as part of the United States Army but with Canadian uniforms, insignia and badges.

In the meantime, and consequent on the changed strategical situation, Canadian Atlantic and Home Defence establishments, and to some extent Pacific Defences, have been reduced in strength or disbanded, releasing men for new duties overseas or for discharge.

The Air Force.—On Mar. 31, 1945, as originally planned in the 1942 Agreement, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan was brought to a close. Since its inception on Dec. 17, 1939, the Plan had trained and graduated a total of 131,553 aircrew personnel of which 72,835 were R.C.A.F. The peak of production was reached in the spring of 1944, and the story since then was one of gradual reduction until the final termination. On Dec. 31, 1944, the number of Plan schools was reduced to 50 and the R.A.F. transferred to two. Efforts were made to close as many as possible of the remaining schools and ancillary units prior to Mar. 31, 1945. After that date, units still operating ceased to be part of the B.C.A.T.P. Two factors made possible the termination of the Plan on the originally scheduled date: (a) the fact that, due to Allied air supremacy, actual casualties were considerably less than anticipated; and (b) the fact that the end of hostilities in Europe was definitely in sight.

The total number of R.C.A.F. squadrons overseas as at Mar. 31, 1945, was 47, of which approximately one-third were heavy bomber units equipped with Lancaster or Halifax aircraft and operating in the R.C.A.F. Group of Bomber Command. R.C.A.F. units operating in Coastal Command from bases in the British Isles, Ceylon and Iceland, included general reconnaissance (flying boat and landplane) and fighter reconnaissance squadrons. Day and night fighter, ground attack, fighter reconnaissance, photographic reconnaissance and intruder squadrons operated in R.C.A.F. and R.A.F. wings of the 2nd Tactical Air Force, Allied Expeditionary Air Force, while day and night fighter and air-observer-post squadrons operated under Fighter Command. One fighter squadron was in Italy, a bomber reconnaissance squadron was in Iceland, two transport squadrons were operating in Burma and one