

Service Battalion, which served as the Canadian component of the combined Canadian-United States Special Service Force, were formed. Both of these units subsequently saw service in Europe.

As in previous years, the organization of the Army Overseas continued to require detailed changes in units and establishments in order to reflect similar changes in organization of the British Army made in the light of battle experience. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1944, the main effort was directed towards the completion of the requirements of the Overseas Forces and the consequent movement from Canada of the necessary units and personnel estimated to be required to maintain the Army in the offensive operations then anticipated. The reorganization of the Canadian Forces in order to obtain a greater degree of conformity to British Army organization continued, and included the formation in February, 1944, of a Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. This new Corps assumed responsibility for all engineering and maintenance functions, both mechanical and electrical, formerly carried out by the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps, and certain engineering and maintenance functions which up to this time had been carried out by the Royal Canadian Artillery, Royal Canadian Engineers, and Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.

During 1943 the 1st Canadian Infantry Division and the 1st Canadian Tank Brigade took part in the Sicilian campaign; later in the year they were joined by Headquarters 1st Canadian Corps and the 5th Canadian Armoured Division. As part of the British Eighth Army, the 1st Canadian Corps fought in Italy. In 1944-45, the First Canadian Army, under the command of General H. D. G. Crerar, including the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Infantry Divisions, the 4th Canadian Armoured Division, and the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade, together with British and Polish formations, contributed to the Allied victory in northwest Europe, and participated in the closing phases of the War against Germany.

The repatriation and demobilization of the Canadian Army Overseas began shortly after V-E Day in May, 1945, and was virtually complete by the spring of 1946.

The Army in Canada.—At the beginning of the War, the operational troops of the Army in Canada were employed in guarding vulnerable points throughout the country, and in manning the defences of the east and west coasts. Subsequently "Vulnerable Points" became the responsibility of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. By the end of March, 1940, the strength of the Army in Canada, exclusive of units being organized for despatch overseas, amounted to 31,451.

During the year 1940-41, fixed fortress defences were improved and augmented on the east and west coasts. Steps were taken to increase the strength of the coastal defences by the concentration of a force comprising a complete division within the Atlantic area. The organization of Atlantic and Pacific Commands to provide for improved operational control of the field forces within the Military Districts adjoining coastal areas was authorized.

In May, 1940, the Veterans Guard of Canada, comprised of men who had served in the War of 1914-18, was formed to undertake the guarding of prisoners in Internment Camps and other duties in connection with internal security. The National Resources Mobilization Act was passed in June, 1940, authorizing the Governor General in Council to require "persons to place themselves, their services