

## March/April

Canada's military past is rich with important dates. Starting in this issue, we present a calendar that will chronicle events from 1867 to the present according to the month in which they occurred. With our limited space we can list only a small portion of the events that occurred in any given month, but as time goes on, many milestones will be featured. Enjoy.

**March 1917:** Training and preparations are well under way for the Canadian Corps assault against Vimy Ridge, France. Under the command of Sir Julian Byng, the Canadian divisions rehearse their roles with precision on mocked-up versions of the battlefield.

**March 3, 1915:** General Edwin Alderson's 1st Canadian Division takes over 6,400 yards of front line near Fleurbaix, France, as part of Lieutenant-General Henry Rawlinson's 4th British Army Corps.

**March 5-7, 1960:** Using a North Star aircraft, the Royal Canadian Air Force flies medical personnel and 6,647 pounds of medical equipment to earthquake-ravaged Morocco.

**March 10, 1944:** After a five-hour chase in the mid-Atlantic, His Majesty's Canadian Ship St. Laurent, HMCS Swansea and a British destroyer force U-845 to surface. A running gunfight ends when the U-boat is sunk by a depth charge pattern fired by St. Laurent. At the time, the escorts are protecting convoy SC-154 which is delivering supplies to Britain during the buildup for the Normandy invasion.

**March 12, 1930:** William George Barker, who won the Victoria Cross in World War I, dies in a plane crash at Ottawa. At the time, the former wing commander was demonstrating an aircraft to the RCAF at Rockcliffe.

**March 17, 1945:** HMCS Guysborough is torpedoed and sunk by U-878 while on minesweeping duty in the Bay of Biscay off France. Tragically, many of her 51 casualties die while awaiting rescue on overcrowded floats.

**March 20, 1917:** The preparatory artillery bombardment begins for the assault on Vimy Ridge.

**March 21, 1898:** The Yukon Field Force is organized to maintain Canadian sovereignty and authority in the Klondike. Consisting of 203 permanent force soldiers, the force's job is to oversee law and order in the goldfields.

**March 23, 1945:** During the initial bombardment in support of Operation Plunder, the crossing of the Rhine, the first variable-time or VT fused shells are fired by 11th Field Battery. Far superior to the mechanical-time or MT fuse, the radar in the VT fuse allows

for consistent bursts above the ground. The fuse was invented by a team of American and Canadian scientists.

**March 25, 1958:** The CF-105 Avro Arrow flies for the first time at Malton, Ont. Planned to replace the aging CF-100, the Arrow is the most advanced interceptor of the period.

**March 30, 1957:** HMCS Skeena (2nd) is commissioned. Belonging to the St. Laurent-class of destroyer escorts, she and her sister ships were built in response to a NATO request. With the growing size of the Soviet submarine fleet, North Atlantic Treaty Organization desperately needed more anti-submarine vessels. The St-Laurent-class would fill this position for much of the Cold War.

**March 31, 1868:** Georges Étienne Cartier introduces the first federal Militia Bill. It calls for the creation of an Active Militia of 40,000 volunteers, supplemented by a Reserve Militia that is to include all able-bodied Canadian men between the ages of 16 and 60.

**April 1, 1915:** First Canadian Division is placed under control of General Horace Smith-Dorrien's Second British Army. Smith-Dorrien had last commanded Canadian troops during the South African War, 1899-1902.

**April 2-9, 1917:** The intensive phase begins for the preliminary bombardment for the assault on Vimy Ridge. For seven days German positions are subject to more than a million artillery rounds. The bombardment not only smashes German defences, but prevents food, water and supplies from reaching the front.

**April 4, 1942:** While flying a PBY-5 flying boat, Squadron Leader L.J. Birchall and his crew spot and report a Japanese naval force heading toward the island of Ceylon. Birchall's plane is shot down and he and the other surviving crew are taken prisoner, but their warning allows the island's defenders to prepare for the Japanese attempt to take the island. For his actions, Birchall earns the name Saviour of Ceylon and is awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

**April 9, 1917:** At 5:30 a.m. the Canadian Corps launches its attack against Vimy Ridge as part of the larger Arras offensive. The commanding position atop the ridge is to serve as hinge for further British operations in the coming weeks. This is the first occasion when all four Canadian divisions operate as a complete corps. The Germans are deluged with accurate artillery, mortar and machine-gun fire as the Canadians advance in the midst of driving wind, snow and sleet. On the left flank of the Canadian attack, 4th Div. is charged with the capture of Hill 145. Third and 2nd divisions attack in the centre of the ridge, while 1st Div. advances on the right. The entire ridge is secured on April 12 with the capture of the Pimple, a high terrain feature near Hill 145. The Canadian Corps suffers more than 10,500 casualties, including more than 3,500 killed. Four Canadians are awarded the Victoria Cross for their roles in the battle, and many Canadians see the victory as a crucial turning point in Canada's march to nationhood.

**April 14, 1944:** HMCS Swansea of the Royal Canadian Navy's Escort Group 9 and HMS Pelican of the Royal Navy's EG-7 share in the sinking of U-448. Assigned to protect convoy OS-73 as it makes its way across the Atlantic, the two ships use depth charges to destroy the enemy submarine. They later rescue 42.

**April 15, 1953:** After shelling three trains within a 24-hour period, HMCS Crusader becomes the undisputed champion of the Trainbusters Club in the Korean War. With four trains to its credit, Crusader leads the United Nations effort to destroy North Korean ammunition trains running along the coast of the peninsula.

**April 18, 2002:** An American F-16 fighter drops a 250-kilogram bomb on Canadian troops of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Afghanistan. The soldiers had been conducting a nighttime firing exercise which had been mistaken by the American pilot as hostile anti-aircraft fire. Four Canadians are killed and eight wounded. The deaths are the first Canadian combat fatalities since the Korean War.

**April 26, 1944:** Three Canadian destroyers, HMCS Athabaskan, Haida and Huron intercept three German torpedo boats off the coast of France. In a fierce gun battle, the three Canadian ships sink the flotilla leader, T-29. The other two German vessels escape, but in damaged condition.

**April 28, 1952:** A change of command for the 25th Brigade takes place in Korea with Brigadier-General M.P. Bogert replacing General J.M. Rockingham. In Italy during World War II, Bogert commanded the West Nova Scotia Regiment.

## **May/June**

**May 1-7, 1918:** The Canadian Corps, which had been holding the line on the critical Lens front during March and April, was relieved by the 17th and 18th British Corps. At the time the divisions of the Canadian Corps were among the strongest on the Western Front.

**May 1, 1961:** 415 Maritime Patrol Squadron is formed. Based at Summerside, P.E.I., the unit flies Argus anti-submarine/marine patrol aircraft, used to hunt Soviet nuclear and missile-carrying submarines.

**May 2, 1885:** At the Battle of Cut Knife Hill in Saskatchewan, Lieutenant-Colonel William Otter and 500 troops attack Chief Poundmaker's Cree camp, one of three main centres of resistance during the Northwest Rebellion. Having marched at night, the Canadian militia catches Poundmaker's party off guard. The battle continues throughout the day until Otter realizes the danger of his unprotected position and withdraws to Battleford.

**May 4, 1945:** General H.D.G. Crerar, commanding First Canadian Army, orders all planned assaults to be called off as a German surrender is imminent.

**May 7, 1945:** German forces surrender to General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander.

**May 8, 1945:** British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and United States President Harry S. Truman declare this day VE-Day.

**May 11, 1957:** 440 Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force moves from Bagotville, Que., to Zweibrucken, West Germany. The squadron, which is equipped with the CF-100, serves with North Atlantic Treaty Organization as part of 3 Wing.

**May 14, 2003:** The first modernized CF-18 fighters are accepted into service. In total, 80 of Canada's front-line Hornets receive the upgrade completed by Boeing. Known as the first phase of upgrades, the Hornets would have better radar, navigational and electronics equipment.

**May 20, 1998:** Canadian involvement in Operation Determination ends. The purpose of the operation was to blockade all Iraqi ports and intercept any shipping attempting to leave or enter the area. Canada's contribution came in the form of Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Toronto, which made more than 20 boardings of vessels during its stay in the Persian Gulf.

**May 23, 1873:** Three years after the transfer of the Northwest Territories to Canada, Parliament creates the North West Mounted Police, a semi-military force of 300 policemen. Wearing the distinctive scarlet tunic and pillbox cap, the Mounties work to maintain law and order in the North.

**May 25, 1915:** Canadian casualties from the Battle of Festubert amount to nearly 2,500. These losses are rewarded with little gain in territory.

**May 28, 2000:** With full military honours, Canada's Unknown Soldier is laid to rest in a tomb in front of the National War Memorial in downtown Ottawa. Thousands attend the ceremony while millions more watch on television. The ceremony was the culmination of more than two years of planning on the part of several organizations and government departments. The Royal Canadian Legion played the leading role after adopting the establishment of the tomb as a Millennium project.

**June 1, 1956:** The Royal Canadian Air Force and United States Air Force finalize plans for the Mid-Canada Line. Stretching from Labrador to Dawson Creek, B.C., the line is to be composed of Doppler radar stations that will serve as an early warning line of defence sandwiched between the Distant Early Warning Line and the Pinetree Line.

**June 2, 1916:** Major-General M.S. Mercer's 3rd Canadian Division is mauled in a German attack against Mount Sorrel, Sanctuary Wood and Observatory Ridge, located in the most easterly portion of the Ypres Salient.

**June 5, 1944:** Stormy weather forces the Allies to postpone Operation Overlord, the massive invasion of Normandy.

**June 6, 1944:** Operation Neptune—the assault phase of Operation Overlord—begins in the early hours. Allied paratroopers, including approximately 450 Canadians, jump from aircraft or land in gliders behind German coastal defences. The Royal Canadian Air Force, which had been involved in the bombing of key targets prior to the invasion, participates in the Allied air attack. Royal Canadian Air Force bombers drop thousands of tons of explosives on German defences while Canadian fighter pilots engage the enemy in the air and on the ground. The Royal Canadian Navy provides 109 vessels and 10,000 sailors. Its minesweepers help clear the way for the invasion fleet, while its destroyers fire their guns in support of the landings. Canadian armed merchant cruisers carry soldiers and landing craft toward the coast. Approximately 15,000 Canadians participate in the landings. Of those, approximately 340 are killed, 574 are wounded and 47 taken prisoner. By 11 a.m., the Canadians are on their way inland and by evening they are further inland than any other Allied force. Overall, the operation is a huge success. By day's end, the Allies land approximately 155,000 troops, several thousand vehicles, hundreds of guns and roughly 4,000 tons of supplies.

**June 8, 1944:** Powerful enemy attacks on 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade positions west of Caen, Normandy, result in the temporary loss of Putot-en-Bessin. A counterattack by the Canadian Scottish Regiment, supported by tanks of the First Hussars, retakes the village.

**June 9, 2003:** HMCS Victoria prepares for her departure to Canada's West Coast. Victoria, a new diesel-electric submarine purchased from the Royal Navy, would be the first sub based permanently on the West Coast since 1974.

**June 11-12, 1900:** In the South African War, Canadian Mounted troops advance against Boers occupying Diamond Hill, which stands between Pretoria and the Transvaal's new capital at Machadodorp. The mounted troops fail to take Diamond Hill, in part due to a shortage of horses.

**June 13, 1916:** In the wake of devastating German attacks earlier in June, two improvised brigade groups—under the command of Major-General Arthur Currie—counterattack Mount Sorrel and restore the lines to where they were on June 2. Approximately 8,000 Canadians are killed, wounded or captured in the Mount Sorrel battles between June 2-14.

**June 24, 1944:** HMCS Haida helps hunt down U-971 off the southwest coast of England. The German sub is forced to surface after three hours of depth charge attacks. Fifty-two Germans are taken prisoner.

**June 30, 1950:** Shortly after North Korea invades South Korea, the Royal Canadian Navy's Pacific Division receives orders to sail to the Far East in support of United Nations forces.

# July/August

**July 1, 1916:** The Anglo-French Somme offensive begins astride the Somme River in Picardy, France. Canadian troops are not involved in the Somme operations until August-September, but the Newfoundland Regiment, then attached to the 29th British Division, is decimated on this date during an attack near Beaumont-Hamel.

**July 3, 1944:** Encountering a southwest German convoy off St. Malo, France, four Canadian Motor Torpedo Boats of the 65th Flotilla attack from the dark landward side. MTBs 735, 736 and 748 torpedo two merchant ships and hit the minesweeper M-133 with gunfire. The burning minesweeper reaches the harbour, but is finished off in an air attack.

**July 10, 1943:** The Allied invasion of Sicily, codenamed Operation Husky, begins just before dawn. Included in the first wave is 1st Canadian Division Infantry Div., commencing the nation's first sustained commitment to the ground war against Germany. The division lands southwest of Pachino against numerous, but erratically motivated, Italian units. By day's end, the Canadians secure all their objectives, kill 100 enemy and capture 650 prisoners at a cost of seven dead and 25 wounded.

**July 15-16, 1900:** A Squadron of the Canadian Mounted Rifles and B Sqdn. of the Royal Canadian Dragoons participate in a major battle at Wittpoort Pass against Boers under the leadership of Commander Louis Botha. The Boers aim to divert British troops from the defence of Pretoria. The Dragoons' first fatality is the popular young lieutenant H.L. Borden, the only son of Canada's minister of militia. The Boer attack is stopped, but the casualty list of two killed and several wounded is met with grief in Canada.

**July 20, 1953:** Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Athabaskan fires the last shell from a Canadian warship in the Korean War, just one week before hostilities are to cease under an armistice agreement that will be signed at Panmunjon. The troops along the front are to be withdrawn, and a Demilitarized Zone established across the 38th Parallel dividing North and South Korea. Control of the seas by United Nations naval forces was essential to the war effort in Korea, keeping supply and reinforcement lanes open. In three years of war, 3,621 officers and ratings of the Royal Canadian Navy saw active service aboard eight destroyers.

**July 22, 1940:** The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan begins operations when students start training at No. 1 Service Flying Training School at Camp Borden, Ont.

**July 26, 1936:** King Edward VIII unveils the Vimy Ridge Memorial in France. The memorial stands as a testament to Canada's sacrifice during World War I, which includes more than 10,000 casualties during the battle for Vimy Ridge. The memorial, much like the battle itself, quickly becomes a symbol of Canadian nationhood.

**July 27, 1953:** A ceasefire is declared in the Korean War. The three-year conflict involves more than 26,000 Canadian Forces personnel of which more than 500 are killed. Deemed a United Nations “police action” and not a war by the Canadian government, recognition for veterans takes almost 50 years. The ceasefire remains in place to this day.

**July 31, 1942:** The Women’s Royal Canadian Naval Service is founded, eventually to reach a wartime strength of 6,500 all ranks by 1945. Many Wrens served as motor transport drivers and in communications work in Canada and in the United Kingdom for Plymouth Command.

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**Aug. 4, 1944:** Ian Bazalgette, a Canadian in the Royal Air Force, earns the Victoria Cross for his actions on this date near Trossy, St. Maxim, France. As master bomber for the raid, it was essential that he accurately mark the target. Though his Lancaster was severely damaged, he pressed home his attack to successfully complete his job. He then kept the aircraft in the air long enough to allow his crew to escape before the aircraft blew up, killing him.

**Aug. 7-13, 1944:** In conjunction with the American breakout in late July, Anglo-Canadian forces continue to drive south toward Falaise in Normandy, France, in an attempt to encircle German forces which have launched an erratic westerly counter-attack against American troops at Mortain. Under Operation Totalize, the Canadian commander, Lieutenant-General Guy Simonds, introduces several innovations, including armoured personnel carriers to protect vulnerable infantry. The 4th Cdn. and 1st Polish Armoured divisions suffer particularly heavy losses, and the operation also reveals flaws in the Anglo-Canadian doctrine of tactical air support. By Aug. 13, the attack stalls approximately 10 kilometres short of Falaise.

**Aug. 19, 1942:** The largest single day fighter battle of the war takes place over the French channel port of Dieppe. Elements of 2nd Canadian Division, in conjunction with British commandos and a small number of American rangers, launch an audacious 5,000-man raid, codenamed Operation Jubilee, against Dieppe. Within just a few short hours of fighting on three beaches, Canadian forces suffer close to 3,300 casualties, approximately 800 of whom are killed in action and 2,000 captured. The air battle rages all day. A total of 730 Allied aircraft, including aircraft from nine RCAF squadrons, fly 2,955 sorties. The RCAF loses 13 aircraft and 10 pilots.

**Aug. 24, 1870:** The first Red River expedition under British Colonel J. Wolseley arrives at Fort Garry (Winnipeg) only to discover that Métis leader Louis Riel, just minutes before, has disappeared westward into the Canadian wilderness.

**Aug. 27, 1953:** No. 414, 422 and 444 squadrons of the Royal Cdn. Air Force begin to depart from Canada for Baden-Soellingen, West Germany. The deployment fulfills part of Canada’s responsibility to her North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies in Europe by contributing 12 fighter squadrons. All three squadrons are equipped with the CF-86 Sabre fighter.

**Aug. 29, 1911:** The Canadian government is notified that His Majesty the King has authorized that Canada's naval forces are to be designated the Royal Canadian Navy with the abbreviation RCN.

**Aug. 30, 1916:** The Canadian Corps begins relieving the 1st Australian New Zealand Army Corps on the Somme front near Pozières, France. The divisions of the Canadian Corps are in for three months of hard fighting before operations grind to a halt.

## September/October

**Sept. 3, 1943:** The Allies invade mainland Italy by crossing the Strait of Messina and then landing near the town of Reggio di Calabria. First to land in Operation Baytown are members of the Carleton and York Regiment from New Brunswick and the West Nova Scotia Regt., making them the first Allied troops to land on the European continent with the intention of staying since the British evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940. The two battalions face no opposition as the Germans abandoned the area in anticipation of larger landings further north.

**Sept. 6, 1943:** Beginning on this date—and lasting four weeks—Royal Canadian Air Force aircraft destroy four U-boats in the Atlantic.

**Sept. 7-13, 1942:** During one disastrous week at sea, three Royal Canadian Navy ships are sunk by U-boats. On Sept. 7, the yacht His Majesty's Canadian Ship Raccoon is torpedoed by U-165 in the St. Lawrence River while escorting convoy QS-33 to Sydney in Cape Breton. Thirty-seven men are lost. Four days later, HMCS Charlottetown meets the same fate. The corvette is escorting convoy SQ-35 to Quebec when two torpedoes from U-517 strike. Charlottetown sinks in two minutes. Six of the nine men lost are killed when the ship's depth charges explode. On Sept. 13, the destroyer Ottawa is torpedoed by U-91 south of Greenland while escorting convoy ON-127. The convoy, which is chased by 13 U-boats, loses seven ships in three days. The intense battle marks the low point of the Battle of the Atlantic. Ottawa sinks quickly; 69 men are rescued while 114 perish in the frigid waters.

**Sept. 14, 1889:** As requested by British General Sir Garnet Wolseley, 386 Canadian voyageurs, who had helped Wolseley during the 1870 Red River Rebellion, leave Halifax



to participate in an expedition on the Nile River. The objective is to rescue British Major-General Gordon who is trapped at Khartoum in the Sudan.

**Sept. 15, 1916:** Canadian troops participate in a major attack against Flers-Courcelette on the Somme battlefield in France. The attack marks the first occasion in history when tanks are deployed in battle. The operation plays out successfully as a series of leaps and bounds. However, of the 32 British tanks initially deployed, only about 10 prove to be of any use to the infantry. The remainder are either knocked out or suffer mechanical breakdowns.

**Sept. 17-26, 1944:** Operation Market Garden fails to end the war in 1944. The operation in the Netherlands was a bold attempt by Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery to cross the Rhine using a combined airborne drop and armoured advance. While the Allied armoured column created a deep salient toward the Rhine, it was unable to reach British airborne forces at the Arnhem crossing in time to save them from being enveloped and defeated. Market Garden was doubly significant for Canadian forces because they were compelled to sacrifice many resources while waging difficult battles to secure the channel ports.

**Sept. 23-28, 1944:** Fifth Canadian Armoured Division commences its pursuit of German forces that have been broken during the battles for the Gothic and Rimini lines in Italy. However, Hitler ordered that vital northern industry and agriculture resources be defended to the last man. Making use of deep mud and countless irrigation ditches, creeks and rivers that have been swollen by heavy rains, a significantly reinforced enemy halts the Canadian pursuit along the Fiumicino River.

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**Oct. 1, 1916:** Canadian troops on the Somme battlefield in France begin a series of costly attacks against the Regina Trench as part of the Battle of the Ancre Heights. For the next several weeks the Canadians will advance a few hundred yards at a time. While it is possible to capture ground from the enemy, holding on to it proves to be a greater challenge in the face of determined counter-attacks.

**Oct. 2, 1952:** HMCS Iroquois, in a dual with North Korean shore batteries, is hit by artillery fire. Three sailors die. Ten more are wounded.

**Oct. 4, 1957:** The CF-105 Avro Arrow is unveiled at Malton, Ont. The Arrow is the most advanced interceptor aircraft of the day and can reach speed in excess of Mach 2. Only six are built by the time the project is cancelled by the John Diefenbaker government.

**Oct. 6-7, 1944:** The Royal Air Force's Bomber Command, No. 6 Group RCAF, stages its largest sortie of World War II. A total of 523 aircraft attack Dortmund, Germany, of which 293 are supplied by 6 Group. The bombing is accurate and severe damage is caused to the city. Civilian casualties amount to approximately 200 killed, while the attacking force suffers less than one per cent loss rate.

**Oct. 13, 1962:** The Cuban Missile Crisis begins when American aerial reconnaissance photographs reveal Soviet ballistic missile sites in Cuba. The Americans quickly assemble invasion forces, aircraft, and the United States Navy. Four days later, Royal Canadian Navy Rear-Admiral Kenneth Dyer, Flag Officer Atlantic Coast, is briefed on the situation. That night, Dyer's forces make their first contact with a Russian submarine 300 miles off the Canadian coast. Eleven further contacts follow as tension increases between the Americans and Soviets. The RCN and maritime patrol squadrons of the RCAF are on full alert. At the peak of operations, the RCN deploys the aircraft carrier Bonaventure, 24 escorts and two submarines over a huge area.

**Oct. 17, 1952:** During the Korean War, Canadian forces become involved in fierce combat on Hill 355. Suffering an extremely heavy bombardment, Canadian soldiers manage to hold onto the hill, dubbed Little Gibraltar. Hill 355 would be the scene of much fighting between Canadian and Communist forces during the war.

**Oct. 22-24, 1944:** 1st Canadian Corps assaults across the swollen Savio River to divert German attention from a larger American and British attack on drier ground near Bologna. The Canadians face thick mud, heavy rain and high water, making it difficult to get heavy weapons across. During the bridgehead's vulnerable early hours—on the night of Oct. 21-22—Private Ernest (Smokey) Smith earns the Victoria Cross by single-handedly destroying a German counter-attack with a hand-held anti-tank weapon and a Tommy gun.

**Oct. 29, 1899:** The first contingent of volunteer troops departs from Quebec for the “splendid little war” in South Africa. Conditions aboard the SS Sardinia are extremely overcrowded and miserable through the 7,000-mile voyage.

**Nov. 1, 1914:** Four young sailors become the first Canadians to die in World War I when the British armoured cruiser Good Hope is sunk during the Battle of Coronel off the coast of Chile.

**Nov. 1-8, 1944:** In conjunction with British commando forces and 52nd Lowland Division, the 5th Canadian Brigade launches a combined assault against Walcheren Island, the German's last bastion in the Scheldt Estuary. With the agreement of the Dutch government, the island is bombed and flooded in order to hinder the enemy's ability to defend his positions. British troops carry out amphibious landings at various points around the island as the Canadians rush the Walcheren causeway and head for Middelburg. Now that German forces have been driven from the banks of the Scheldt Estuary, the approaches to Antwerp are finally clear for Allied shipping.

**Nov. 10, 1941:** The Royal Canadian Air Force is awarded its first George Cross when Leading Aircraftman K.M. Gravell is posthumously awarded the decoration for the attempted rescue of his pilot from their crashed Tiger Moth.

**Nov. 11, 1918:** After four years and three months of fighting, World War I is suddenly ended by an armistice at 11 a.m. On this day, after three months of offensive operations originating around Arras, France, the Canadians reach Mons, Belgium, the scene of an epic British struggle during the opening weeks of the war in 1914. Canada's navy has grown to 100 vessels and 5,500 members. As well, about 3,000 men recruited for the Royal Canadian Navy served with Britain's Royal Navy. More than 619,000 Canadians served in uniform since 1914 and approximately 66,600 died.

**Nov. 16, 1885:** Louis Riel is hanged at Regina. The French-Canadian Métis leader had been found guilty of treason by an all-English Protestant jury. Riel led the Red River Rebellion of 1870 and the North-West Rebellion of 1885, seeking rights for his Indian and Métis followers as the Canadian government expanded into the Northwest territory. In a bitter debate during the trial, Ontario demanded Riel's execution while Quebec sought pardon for a man they considered a hero.

**Nov. 18, 1916:** After capturing Regina Trench on the Somme battlefield, 4th Cdn. Div. makes a second attack, this time against Desire Trench. The soldiers of the new division once again make an impressive showing, but flanking forces are held up and bad weather limits the extent of the Canadian penetration. After four months of blood attrition, the Somme campaign is about to draw to a close for 1916.

**Nov. 24, 1944:** His Majesty's Canadian Ship Shawinigan is sunk by a T-5 acoustic torpedo fired by U-1228 off Cape Breton Island. The corvette sinks almost immediately after being struck in the stern. Her demise is hastened by the explosion of her depth charges. There are no survivors.

**Nov. 25, 1950:** The 2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry sets sail for Korea. The PPCLI would arrive in December and enter the front line in mid-February under the command of the 27th British Commonwealth Infantry Bde.

**Dec. 1, 1996:** A recovery team finds the remains of crew members from RCAF aircraft KN-563. The Dakota had been declared missing on June 21, 1945 while flying supplies to British troops in Burma (now Myanmar). The aircraft is believed to have been brought down by the high winds of a monsoon.

**Dec. 6-10, 1943:** First Cdn. Inf. Div. assaults across the Moro River as the first step in a drive on the town of Ortona and its first divisional battle of the war. The attack opened the second phase of the Allied offensive to outflank Rome from the east. In four days of costly fighting, 1st and 2nd Canadian brigades establish bridgeheads and inflicted debilitating losses on the counter-attacking German 90th Panzer-Grenadier Div., which had been rushed from Venice to block the offensive.

**Dec. 7, 1941:** On the day of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the first Canadian corvette to be commissioned sinks at sea following a collision with the Dutch ship Zypenberg. HMCS Windflower is serving in dense fog as a mid-ocean escort when the collision occurs with the 5,000-ton freighter. The corvette loses 25 feet of her stern. Ten

minutes later the bulkhead gives way and number one boiler explodes. Twenty-three of her complement are lost.

**Dec. 11, 1941:** Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee Jr. of 412 Squadron of the RCAF is killed when his Spitfire collides with another aircraft during a training mission. Magee is best known as the author of the sonnet High Flight, one of the most famous poems of World War II. One of the poem's most quoted lines is: "Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth; And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings."

**Dec. 14, 1967:** While flying a CF-104 Starfighter, Wing Commander R.A. White sets a Canadian altitude record of 100,110 feet.

**Dec. 18, 1941:** Three Japanese regiments launch an attack against Hong Kong from the Chinese mainland. The next seven days will witness sharp and bloody fighting as the Japanese forces advance across the island against British, Indian and Canadian defences. Two Canadian battalions, the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles of Canada, will be cut off and overrun.

**Dec. 21, 1883:** The Second Militia Act is passed, establishing a standing army for Canada. With a strength not to exceed 750 men, its primary duty is to train the militia. The two existing batteries of artillery at Kingston, Ont., and Quebec are renamed the Regiment of Canadian Artillery. The act authorizes the creation of a regular troop of cavalry and three regular companies of infantry. The cavalry school corps and the infantry school corps later became the Royal Canadian Dragoons and the Royal Canadian Regiment, respectively.

**Dec. 21-28, 1943:** Second Cdn. Inf. Bde., backed by Three Rivers Regt. tanks, enters the town of Ortona, Italy. Exhausted and expecting the town to be abandoned after defeating the German 90th Panzer-Grenadier Div., they encounter fresh troops from the elite 1st Parachute Div., rushed forward to stem the Canadian breakthrough. For seven days, 2nd Bde. fights house to house using innovative tactics until the Germans, defeated in the streets and nearly outflanked to the west by 1st Cdn. Bde., abandon the town.

## January / February

**Jan. 2-6, 1945:** After waiting for the sodden dike country to freeze solid, 1st Canadian Corps launches well-co-ordinated attacks on two strong German positions east of the Senio River in Italy. On the left, 1st Canadian Infantry Division captures Granarolo and Cotignola in a textbook infantry-artillery attack. On the right, 5th Cdn. Armoured Div. makes a daring charge against a larger enemy force to seize the south shore of Lake Comacchio.

**Jan. 8, 1998:** The onset of a massive ice storm in Eastern Canada brings about the beginning of Operation Recuperation. With power lines and towers destroyed and approximately four million Canadians left in the cold, Canadian Forces personnel begin to deploy. More than 15,000 CF personnel from more than 200 units respond in what is the largest deployment for a natural disaster in Canadian history.

**Jan. 13, 1943:** Operating out of Gibraltar, HMCS Ville de Québec is assigned to escort TE-13 in the Atlantic. Ninety miles west of Algiers, the Canadian corvette zigzags ahead of the 15-ship convoy when it picks up a contact directly ahead. A full pattern of 10 depth charges bring U-224 to the surface where Ville de Québec destroys the U-boat with Oerlikon fire and ramming.

**Jan. 16, 1991:** The Persian Gulf War begins with an American-led coalition offensive against Iraq. For the first time, Canada's primary commitment to a military alliance is naval. Captain Duncan Miller of the Canadian Navy becomes commander of the Combined Logistics Force, the only non-American to hold such an important command at sea during the war.

He is responsible for a force of approximately 30 supply and escort ships from several different countries.

**Jan. 19, 1950:** The prototype of the CF-100 flies for the first time. The CF-100 is a purely Canadian aircraft built to replace the Sabre. Belgium purchases and flies the CF-100, being the only other nation to do so.

**Jan. 25, 1900:** The first contingent of nurses to serve overseas has been in South Africa for three months when the Canadian government passes Militia Order No. 20, giving a nursing sister the rank and pay of a lieutenant.

**Jan. 29, 1944:** HMCS Huron acts as part of the destroyer escort for 17 ships of the Murmansk convoy JW-56B out of Scotland. After a week at sea, they cross paths with patrolling U-boats. U-956 fires three acoustic torpedoes at the convoy escorts. One British destroyer and a U-boat are sunk in the exchange that follows. The convoy reaches the Soviet Union a few days later without loss to its merchant ships.

**Jan. 31, 1916:** 6th Canadian Brigade (2nd Div.) stages a raid against the Spankbroekmolen salient. In a matter of minutes two parties from the 28th and 29th battalions cross no man's land, capture prisoners, destroy German dugouts, and use grenades to inflict heavy casualties on the enemy before returning to the Canadian lines.

**Feb. 1, 1944:** 1st Cdn. Corps Headquarters takes over the front in Italy north of Ortona under the command of Lieutenant-General H.D.G. Crerar. For the first time since WW I, a Canadian Corps was operating in the front line.

**Feb. 4, 1917:** An order is issued by the German high command under the codename Alberich for the German armies between Arras, France, and the western edge of the

Chemin des Dames ridge to shorten their lines through a large-scale withdrawal to new positions along the Hindenburg Line. German troops will leave much devastation and “scorched earth” in their wake, and the relocation will also upset Allied offensive plans for the spring of 1917, the so-called Nivelles offensive.

**Feb. 8, 1948:** The RCAF Flyers win the Olympic gold medal and are declared the world’s amateur ice hockey champions during the Winter Olympics at St. Moritz, Switzerland. The team is comprised of players selected from RCAF stations across Canada.

**Feb. 14, 1945:** The 29th Motor Torpedo Flotilla is stationed at Ostend Harbour, Belgium, to conduct nighttime sweeps aimed at preventing German E-boats from laying mines and attacking shipping off the French and Belgian coasts. An accidental leak of high-octane fuel—touched off by a spark—sets the entire harbour on fire. Five Canadian torpedo boats are destroyed in the resulting explosions.

**Feb. 18-27, 1900:** The Battle of Paardeberg Drift is Canada’s first great victory overseas, a defining moment in Canadian history. The Royal Canadian Regiment scores the first real victory in the South African War with its defeat of Boer forces under General Piet Cronje. In a fierce and parching battle, the Canadians persist against effective Boer marksmen and determined troops. In the first day of fighting, RCR casualties are 18 men killed, 63 wounded. The battle continues for 10 days of horrid weather, bitter fighting and inadequate supplies and rations. The RCR holds the line to force the Boers to surrender on Feb. 27, the highly symbolic Majuba Day, the anniversary of the Boer triumph over the British in 1881. Paardeberg becomes the first British success in a war that, to that point, was a long succession of disasters.

**Feb. 20, 1959:** In a surprise announcement, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker rises in the House of Commons to announce the cancellation of the CF-105 Avro Arrow fighter jet project. This decision ends the development of Canada’s most sophisticated fighter-interceptor. A.V. Roe, the manufacturer of the Arrow, responds by immediately laying off 13,800 people. The government, meanwhile, orders all existing aircraft to be cut up into scrap.

**Feb. 27, 1945:** The bloody struggle for the Hochwald gap begins as Canada’s 4th Armd. Div. drives into the fray during the Battle of the Rhineland. Senior commanders are anxious to expedite matters by plunging headlong into the gap, against the advice of experienced field officers. In this phase of Operation Blockbuster, heavy casualties result from the decision to abandon methodical planning and preparation.

## March / April

**March 1916:** Captain A.M. Plunkett’s Dumbells begin entertaining soldiers of 3rd Canadian Div. Plunkett, of Orillia, Ont., founded the Dumbells with his two brothers

Albert and Morley. The troupe, which was comprised entirely of soldiers, performed comic sketches dealing with various aspects of army life.

**March 1, 1917:** Fourth Canadian Div. launches a gas raid against German positions on Vimy Ridge. Aggressive trench raiding had become an increasingly common, if not reckless, activity in the Canadian Corps. During this aborted attack, many Canadian soldiers became victims of their own gas when retaliatory German artillery fire ruptured gas cylinders in the Canadian lines.

**March 4, 1885:** The first contingent of returning Nile voyageurs arrives in Halifax. Taken into service in the autumn of 1884 to guide a British expeditionary force up the Nile River, the Canadian boatmen played a crucial role in navigating the infamous Nile cataracts, thereby assisting in the effort to relieve a besieged British Army garrison at Khartoum, Sudan.

**March 10, 1944:** A Sunderland aircraft from 422 Squadron attacks and destroys U-boat U-625. The submarine takes more than two hours to sink, during which time the aircraft keeps a watchful eye. While abandoning their boat, German sailors send a signal to the aircraft stating: "Fine Bombisch!"

**March 16, 1943:** One of the worst convoy battles in the Battle of the Atlantic begins. Shortly after being transferred from a Royal Canadian Navy to Royal Navy escort in the western Atlantic, convoys SC-122 and HX-229 are attacked by U-boats. The three-day battle ends in the sinking of 21 Allied merchant ships, with no German losses.

**March 20, 1944:** A major leadership shuffle takes place in Italy. After a short tenure over 1st Canadian Corps on the static Ortona front to gain battlefield command experience, Lieutenant-General H.D.G. Crerar returns to England to lead 1st Canadian Army. His successor, Lt.-Gen. E.L.M. Burns, takes command after a similar seasoning period with 5th Canadian Armoured Div. The shuffle creates advancement opportunities for junior commanders who proved themselves in Sicily, at the Moro River and during the battle for Ortona.

**March 21, 1955:** The Canadian government announces that a Distant Early Warning Line will be constructed in northern Canada. The DEW Line, as it became known, would consist of different types of radar facilities used to detect possible Soviet invasion, missile or air attacks directed across the Arctic.

**March 24, 1999:** Four CF-18 fighter aircraft hit targets in Kosovo. The attack, which involved other North Atlantic Treaty Organization aircraft, was part of Operation Allied Force. The goal was to reduce the resistance by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's forces, and their role in ethnic cleansing.

**March 28, 1961:** The Royal Canadian Air Force takes delivery of the first CF-104 Starfighter. Capable of flying at over 1,400 miles per hour, and carrying nuclear bombs, the CF-104 fulfills Canada's NATO commitment in Europe as a nuclear strike aircraft.

**March 30, 1951:** Flight-Lieutenant Omer Levesque shoots down a North Korean MiG-15 fighter aircraft in combat while attached to the United States Air Force, becoming the first Canadian pilot to score a jet-to-jet victory in the Korean War.

**April 1, 1924:** The RCAF officially comes into existence. Its first director is Wing Commander W.G. Barker, VC.

**April 4, 1949:** Canada signs the agreement creating NATO. Initially involving Canada, the United States and 10 Western European countries, NATO would continually grow over the years in response to the perceived threat posed by the Soviet Union.

**April 9, 1917:** At 5:30 a.m. the Canadian Corps launches its attack against Vimy Ridge as part of the larger Arras offensive. The commanding position atop the ridge is to serve as hinge for further British operations in the coming weeks. This is the first occasion when all four Canadian divisions operate as a complete corps. The Germans are deluged with artillery, mortar and machine-gun fire as the Canadians advance in the midst of driving wind, snow and sleet. On the left flank of the Canadian attack, 4th Div. is charged with the capture of Hill 145. Third and 2nd divisions attack the centre of the ridge, while 1st Div. advances on the right. The entire ridge is secured on April 12 with the capture of the Pimple, a high-terrain feature near Hill 145. The Canadian Corps suffers more than 10,500 casualties, including more than 3,500 killed. Four Canadians are awarded the Victoria Cross for their roles in the battle, and many Canadians see the victory as a crucial turning point in Canada's march to nationhood.

**April 11, 1954:** Squadron Leader R.G. Christie flies from Vancouver to Ottawa in record time. Flying a CF-86 Sabre fighter jet, he makes the journey in just 3:46 hours.

**April 14-17, 1945:** The fight to liberate Apeldoorn in the Netherlands begins when 1st Canadian Inf. Brigade—supported by tanks of the 1st Hussars, tried to seize control of the main bridge over the Apeldoorn Canal. Stiff opposition is encountered and new plans to encircle the city are made. On April 16, 2nd Bde. crosses the canal south of the city, outflanking the enemy who withdraw to the west. When Canadian soldiers enter the city, they are greeted by thousands of cheering Dutch citizens.

**April 21, 1997:** The Canadian Forces launches Operation Assistance in response to the flooding of the Red River in Manitoba. The CF would send 8,500 regular and militia troops to the region along with 135 military vehicles. Participating units include the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and 1st Bn. Royal Canadian Regiment. The operation continues until May 19.

**April 22, 1944:** Two frigates of Escort Group 9, HMCS Swansea and HMCS Matane, destroy U-311 while on convoy duty in the North Atlantic. Their success brings to an end the two-month "high period" of RCN successes against U-boats.

**April 27, 1999:** Eight hundred additional Canadian soldiers prepare to depart for the Balkans. This comes a month after Canadian CF-18 fighter jets began participating in



bombing missions against Serbian targets. The troops will join 12,000 NATO soldiers already stationed in Macedonia.

## May /June

**May 1, 1945:** As part of the Pacific Fleet, His Majesty's Canadian Ship Uganda and elements of Task Force 57 place themselves to intercept Japanese air strikes headed for the island of Okinawa south of Japan. Along with other cruisers and battleships, Uganda bombards air bases on the Shakashima Islands and comes under attack by two kamikazes. Two support British aircraft cruisers are hit.

**May 2, 1945:** The Royal Canadian Army Service Corps begins the transport of relief supplies by truck convoy to the people of western Netherlands.

**May 5, 1945:** In a small hotel in Wageningen, Holland, Canadian Lieutenant-General Charles Foulkes, commander of the 1st Canadian Corps, accepts the surrender of German forces in Holland. Effective at 8 a.m., May 7, the war in Europe is over.

**May 8, 1945:** Victory-in-Europe Day. While millions celebrate, Allied leaders focus on the war in the Pacific.

**May 12, 1958:** Canada and the United States sign the North American Air Defence Agreement. The signing comes at a time when the threat of Soviet bombers transiting the Arctic to attack North America is seen as a real possibility. Over the next three decades, early warning lines, radar stations, air bases and missile sites are constructed to defend against any possible Soviet attack.

**May 16-17, 1943:** Nineteen specially modified Lancaster bombers from 617 Squadron, Royal Air Force, including members of the Royal Canadian Air Force, strike at German dams in the Ruhr Valley. The attack breaches a number of dams causing a spectacular flood that disrupts the water and power supply systems serving Germany's industrial heartland.

**May 17, 1944:** First Canadian Infantry Division faces sharp fighting against strong German delaying forces as it advances towards the Adolf Hitler Line in the second phase of the Battle for Rome.

**May 18, 1917:** Prime Minister Robert Borden announces that the voluntary system of recruitment no longer suffices for the war effort.

**May 26, 1953:** HMCS Haida, determined to join HMCS Crusader as a member of the Trainbusters Club in Korea, is patrolling near Tranch'on when it spots a train under clear midnight skies. Haida's guns hit the train's engine dead centre with three- and four-inch shells. The ship continues firing for the next three hours, destroying the train's 10 boxcars. Within three days, Haida's crew destroys another train.

**May 28, 2000:** With full military honours, Canada's Unknown Soldier is laid to rest in a tomb in front of the National War Memorial in downtown Ottawa. The Royal Canadian Legion played a leading role after adopting the establishment of the tomb as a Millennium project.

**June 1, 1876:** The Royal Military College opens on Point Frederick, a small peninsula east of Kingston, Ont.

**June 5, 1900:** To the collective relief of the British and colonial troops, the Boers decide not to defend the city of Pretoria. Instead, they withdraw to collect themselves and prepare for the next phase of the South African War. The Canadian Mounted Rifles and Royal Canadian Dragoons screen Pretoria and act as a rearguard while a triumphal British entry, which includes the Royal Canadian Regiment, advances into the city and prepares for its formal surrender. The fall of the Transvaal capital is symbolic in the eyes of the public and the army who believe that with the capture of Pretoria the end of the war must be near. The RCRs and Gordon Highlanders are assigned to garrison the city, unaware it will be another two years before the Treaty of Vereeniging brings an end to the war.

**June 6, 1944:** Operation Neptune—the assault phase of Operation Overlord—begins in the early hours. Allied paratroopers, including approximately 450 Canadians, jump from aircraft or land in gliders behind German coastal defences. The RCAF, which had been involved in the bombing of key targets prior to the invasion, participates in the Allied air attack. RCAF bombers drop thousands of tons of explosives on German defences while Canadian fighter pilots engage the enemy in the air and on the ground. The Royal Canadian Navy provides 109 vessels and 10,000 sailors. Its minesweepers help clear the way for the invasion fleet, while its destroyers fire their guns in support of the landings. Canadian armed merchant cruisers carry soldiers and landing craft toward the coast. Approximately 15,000 Canadians participate in the landings. Of those, approximately 340 are killed, 574 are wounded and 47 taken prisoner. By evening, the Canadians are further inland than any other Allied force. Overall, the operation is a huge success. By day's end, the Allies land approximately 155,000 troops, several thousand vehicles, hundreds of guns and roughly 4,000 tons of supplies.

**June 11, 1917:** Canadian Prime Minister Robert Borden introduces the Military Service Bill to the House of Commons. Some form of compulsory service would be required if Canada's military commitment to the war in Europe was to be maintained at the four-division level.

**June 15, 2003:** HMCS Iroquois relinquishes command of Task Force 151 and heads for home. The multi national task force had been stationed in the Arabian Gulf. Iroquois had been responsible for surveillance and inspection of foreign vessels in the area. HMCS Fredericton was to remain with the force.

**June 24, 1944:** Flight Lieutenant David Hornell, a Canso pilot with 162 Sqdn., RCAF, sinks the German submarine, U-1225. Hornell's aircraft is shot down during the

engagement and crashes in the Atlantic. Before the crew can be rescued, Hornell and two other men die from exposure. As a result of his actions to destroy the U-boat and save his crew, Hornell is awarded the Victoria Cross.

**June 30, 1950:** Following the invasion of South Korea by North Korea, HMCS Cayuga, Sioux and Athabaskan (2nd) set sail for the Far East in support of United Nations forces. They are accompanied for several days by HMCS Ontario, one of the RCN's two cruisers. For the first time since World War II, ships' crews are brought up to full complement; the dockyard and supply depots at Halifax and Esquimalt are running at full capacity. Capt. V.J. Brock is in command of the Pacific Destroyer Div., sailing in HMCS Cayuga on her first tour. The RCN's budget, building program and recruitment all increase dramatically over the following weeks.

## July

**July 1, 1867:** With Confederation, the Dominion of Canada becomes a nation in its own right with national responsibilities that include defence, even though there are very strong ties to the British Empire. Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald, forms his first cabinet, with his longtime associate, George-Étienne Cartier, appointed as the first minister of militia and defence. Both were to be knighted for their contributions in bringing the nation together.

**July 1940:** After the fall of France in June 1940, Britain braces itself for a German cross-Channel invasion of the home islands. As an emergency anti-invasion measure, the 1st Canadian Division, already stationed in England, is incorporated into 7th British Corps under command of Canadian General A.G.L. McNaughton.

**July 5, 1900:** Almost surrounded by Boer troops, only about 300 yards from their opponents, and completely out of touch with their supports, Canadian troops of the advance guard find themselves in a desperate position. Under covering fire, Sergeant Arthur Richardson of the Lord Strathcona's Horse rides back through heavy crossfire on a wounded horse to rescue Private Alex McArthur, who has been shot through the arm and hip. The two soldiers are taken prisoner but later released. The rest of the regiment escapes under heavy fire and takes up new positions, which they defend until dark. For his gallantry, Richardson earns the Victoria Cross.

**July 6, 2003:** Operation Caravan comes to an end. The operation was Canada's role in the French-led United Nations operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. By the end of the operation, two Canadian Hercules transports and 50 Canadian Forces personnel had made 50 flights in support of the operation.

**July 6-7, 1944:** Two River-class destroyers, HMCS Ottawa (2nd) and HMCS Kootenay, as part of the powerful Escort Group 11, engage in a submarine hunt while under Commander J.D. “Chummy” Prentice. Conditions for U-boat hunting in the English Channel are difficult with its shallow, irregular bottom providing a haven for hidden submarines among the sunken ship wrecks. The two destroyers launch depth-charge and hedgehog attacks, putting an end to U-678 before it is ever able to make an attack on Allied shipping.

**July 10, 1943:** The Allied invasion of Sicily, codenamed Operation Husky, begins just before dawn. Included in the first wave is 1st Cdn. Infantry Div., commencing the nation’s first sustained commitment to the ground war against Germany. The division lands southwest of Pachino against numerous, but erratically motivated Italian units. By day’s end, the Canadian secure all their objectives, kill 100 enemy and capture 650 prisoners at a cost of seven dead and 25 wounded.

**July 24-25, 1944:** Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery launches Operation Spring, the first phase of a general southward drive from Caen to Falaise in France. The plan for Spring is complex, and demands careful control at the corps level that is ultimately not forthcoming. Confusion often results, although several Canadian battalions fight brilliant actions around Verrieres Ridge. Perhaps the operation is best remembered for the destruction of the Black Watch on the western slope of the ridge. While some historians interpret the operation as a failed breakout attempt, others maintain it successfully diverted German resources away from an American breakout on the western end of the Allied front in Normandy.

**July 27, 1953:** A ceasefire is declared in the Korean War. The three-year conflict involves more than 26,000 Canadian Forces personnel of which more than 500 are killed. Deemed a UN “police action” and not a war by the Canadian government, recognition for veterans takes almost 50 years. The ceasefire remains in place to this day.

## August

**August 1941:** The British Lieutenant-General A.E. Grasett visits the Canadian Chief of Staff, General H.D.G. Crerar, in Ottawa. He indicates that “two or more” extra infantry battalions in Hong Kong would help British forces withstand a possible Japanese assault. With Grasett’s visit, the seeds are planted for the dispatch of two Canadian battalions to the colony, both of which will be destroyed in the Japanese invasion of December 1941.

**Aug. 4-5, 1914:** With the declaration of war, HMCS Rainbow sets out to sea from Esquimalt, B.C., manned with an untried crew and lacking proper ammunition. Rainbow sails out toward San Diego, Calif., to protect two British sloops from German cruisers reported to be steering north.

**Aug. 7-8, 1944:** In conjunction with the American breakout in late July, Anglo-Canadian forces continue to drive south toward Falaise, France, in an attempt to encircle German

forces that have launched an erratic westerly counterattack against American troops at Mortain. Under Operation Totalize, the Canadian corps commander, Lieutenant-General Guy Simonds, introduces several innovations, including armoured personnel carriers to protect vulnerable infantry. The 4th Canadian and 1st Polish Armoured divisions suffer particularly heavy losses, and the operation also reveals flaws in the Anglo-Canadian doctrine of tactical air support.

**Aug. 9, 1945:** Five days before the end of the war in the Pacific, Lieutenant Robert Hampton Gray, a Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve pilot serving aboard the British aircraft carrier HMS Formidable, attacks a Japanese destroyer in Onagawa Bay. Gray presses the attack home despite severe anti-aircraft fire. His bomb strikes the ship causing it to sink rapidly. Unfortunately, Gray's aircraft was badly damaged and moments after the attack it rolled over and crashed into the bay. Gray was awarded the Victoria Cross.

**Aug. 15, 1917:** After delays due to bad weather, much assault training and careful artillery planning, the 1st and 2nd Canadian divisions launch an attack against Hill 70 near Lens, France. Under a powerful barrage and smokescreen, Canadian troops advance steadily. Success is almost immediate, although later in the day some elements are held up by strong defensive positions and the absence of any smokescreens.

**Aug. 19, 1942:** The largest single-day fighter battle of the war takes place over the French port of Dieppe. Elements of 2nd Cdn. Div., in conjunction with British commandos and a small number of American rangers, launch a 5,000-man raid, codenamed Operation Jubilee, against Dieppe. Within a few hours of fighting on three beaches, Canadian forces suffer close to 3,300 casualties, approximately 800 of whom are killed in action and 2,000 captured. The air battle rages all day. A total of 730 Allied aircraft, including aircraft from nine RCAF squadrons, fly 2,955 sorties. The RCAF loses 13 aircraft and 10 pilots.

**Aug. 22, 2001:** The beginning of Canadian involvement in Operation Forage in Macedonia. Two hundred Canadian Forces personnel work with 3,500 NATO troops to collect and destroy weapons which are used by militia during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

**Aug. 27-29, 1944:** First Canadian Infantry Div. smashes through German positions along the Arzilla River in Italy, known as the Red Line. Meant to provide warning of a major Allied offensive along the Adriatic Coast, these defences were to hold for 7-10 days until reserves could arrive to fully man the Gothic Line. Instead, 1st and 2nd Canadian Infantry brigades swarmed the Red Line, quickly killing or capturing most of the defenders and throwing German headquarters into panic.

# September

**Sept. 3, 1943:** The Allies invade mainland Italy by crossing the Strait of Messina and then landing near the town of Reggio di Calabria. First to land in Operation Baytown are members of the Carleton and York Regiment from New Brunswick and the West Nova Scotia Regt., making them the first Allied troops to land on the European continent with the intention of staying since the British evacuation from Dunkirk, France, in 1940. The two battalions face no opposition as the Germans abandoned the area in anticipation of larger landings further north.

**Sept. 9, 1944:** As part of a mid-ocean escort group operating in the Irish Sea, His Majesty's Canadian Ship Dunver and HMCS Hespeler detach from a convoy to hunt down a submarine reported nearby. Picking up a good asdic contact, Dunver launches depth-charge and hedgehog attacks. No results are seen immediately and five hours later Hespeler makes two "squid" attacks followed by more depth charges and hedgehog from Dunver. A torpedo narrowly misses Hespeler's bow. A final squid attack finishes off U-484, although formal credit is not granted until after the war. A squid was a three-barrel, 12-inch mortar, with the mortars mounted in series, one behind the other.

**Sept. 13, 1915:** After 2nd Canadian Division is raised, a Canadian corps consisting of two divisions is formed under the command of Lieutenant-General E.A.H. Alderson.

**Sept. 15, 1993:** Canadian Forces personnel, while peacekeeping in Croatia, become involved in a fierce firefight. The forces involved are the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and Croat troops in the Medak Pocket.

**Sept. 15-20, 1944:** In Italy, 1st Canadian Inf. Div. captures San Fortunato Ridge in the Rimini Line, the last defensible high ground in the Apennines. The Germans resisted fiercely, playing into Allied hands by committing forces scheduled to leave Italy to stop the onrushing Allies in Northwest Europe. After six days of intense and bloody fighting, the Germans retreat to the low-lying polder country of the Po Valley.

**Sept. 16, 2003:** Operation Peregrine ends. The operation saw 2,200 Canadian Forces personnel helping to combat a massive outbreak of forest fires in the British Columbia interior. For more than a month, the CF personnel aided firefighters in containing and extinguishing fires in one of the largest CF operations in Canada.

**Sept. 17-26, 1944:** Operation Market Garden fails to end the war in 1944. The operation in the Netherlands was a bold attempt by Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery to cross the Rhine using a combined airborne drop and armoured advance. While the Allied armoured column created a deep salient toward the Rhine, it was unable to reach British airborne forces at the Arnhem crossing in time to save them from being enveloped and defeated. Market Garden was doubly significant for Canadian Forces because they were compelled to sacrifice many resources while waging difficult battles to secure the channel ports.

**Sept. 28, 1942:** A Royal Canadian Air Force aircraft flown by Squadron Leader K.A. Boomer destroys a Japanese seaplane over Kiska in the Aleutian Islands. This is the only air combat fought by the RCAF in the North American theatre.

# October

**Oct. 2, 1944:** The 2nd. Canadian Div. advances north of Antwerp, Belgium, and into the South Beveland isthmus. For the next few weeks, Canadian troops will wage a costly struggle for control of the low-lying approaches to Antwerp along the Scheldt Estuary.

**Oct. 11-12, 1899:** The South African War between Great Britain and the Boers of Transvaal and Orange Free State begins. On the 12th, the Canadian government announces its decision to spend \$600,000 to equip and aid the passage of a volunteer Canadian regiment to fight under its own commanders as part of the British Army. Once in Africa, the costs of pay, rations and transport are to be borne by Britain.

**Oct. 13, 1937:** The Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion experiences combat for the first time. The engagement between the Canadian volunteers and Franco's Fascist troops takes place at Fuentes de Ebro, Spain.

**Oct. 14, 1914:** Canada's first overseas contingent starts to disembark at Plymouth, England. For the next four months the soldiers of 1st Canadian Div. will train on the rain-soaked and wind-swept Salisbury Plain.

**Oct. 16, 1944:** His Majesty's Canadian Ship Annan and HMCS Loch Achanalt are patrolling as part of Escort Group 6 in the Atlantic south of the Faeroes Islands when they pick up radar contacts from a surfaced submarine that is moving away at maximum speed. The two frigates open fire and several of Annan's crew are wounded from the returned fire. Annan fires two shallow-set depth charges that sink U-1006 in two minutes. HMCS New Waterford and Outremont provide support with starshell and gunfire, assisting in the rescue of the U-boat's 46 survivors.

**Oct. 17, 1952:** Canadian Forces are involved in fierce combat on the strategically important Hill 355 in Korea. Despite an extremely heavy bombardment, the Canadians manage to hold onto the hill, dubbed Little Gibraltar.

**Oct. 20, 1871:** The Canadian government establishes A and B batteries of the Regiment of Artillery in Kingston, Ont., and Quebec, respectively. The units are manned by Canadian militiamen on call and commanded by British officers. Within two years, although still a makeshift operation, these batteries are serviced by full-time professional soldiers, making them the first units of Canada's permanent force.

**Oct. 21, 1942:** Royal Roads is commissioned as the Royal Navy College of Canada. Opened at Esquimalt, B.C., as a training site for reservists in 1941, Royal Roads later becomes a military college with an increased focus on academic education.

**Oct. 27, 1918:** William Barker, a Canadian flying with 201 Sqdn., is involved in an air combat with a much superior enemy force. During the course of the dogfights, Barker is seriously wounded in his legs and elbow. However, he manages to shoot down four enemy aircraft before crash-landing near Allied lines. The severity of his wounds would keep him out of further combat, but he is awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions.

# November

**Nov. 1-2, 1944:** After making a first attempt on Oct. 31, the 5th Canadian Infantry Brigade forces its way across the 1,200-yard Walcheren causeway, linking South Beveland to Walcheren Island in the Netherlands. The narrow causeway is dominated on the German end by heavy artillery and plenty of machine-guns. The brigade suffers 135 casualties by the time the causeway is cleared Nov. 2. The 8th Cdn. Reconnaissance Regiment also captures the island of North Beveland during Nov. 1-2.

**Nov. 6, 1914:** 1st Cdn. Division settles into a routine training schedule on England's Salisbury Plain. It will be a difficult winter for Canadian troops, with record levels of rain and cool temperatures. By the time spring arrives, the Canadians will be glad to leave for active service on the other side of the English Channel.

**Nov. 11, 1918:** After more than four years of fighting, World War I is suddenly ended by an armistice at 11 a.m. On this day, the Canadians reach Mons, Belgium, the scene of an epic British struggle during the opening weeks of the war in 1914. Canada's navy has grown to 100 vessels and 5,500 members. As well, about 3,000 men recruited for the Royal Canadian Navy served with the Royal Navy. More than 628,000 Canadians served in uniform since 1914 and approximately 66,500 died.

**Nov. 12, 1944:** Along with RN ships of the 26th Destroyer Flotilla, His Majesty's Canadian Ship Algonquin takes part in Operation Counterblast, a surface operation against German vessels along the south coast of Norway. Radar reveals an enemy force of 11 ships. The Canadian destroyer illuminates with star shell and opens fire with semi-armour-piercing shells on one of the minesweeper escorts, scoring a hit on the first salvo. Along with two RN destroyers, Algonquin also fires at minesweeper M-416, which blows up and sinks. Shore batteries fire on the force as the remaining ships are pursued, with minesweeper M-427 being run ashore. In all, eight targets are sunk and one damaged.

**Nov. 20, 1943:** In a joint action involving the RCN and RN in the Atlantic, Canadian corvettes Snowberry and Calgary, and the British frigate Nene, provide extra protection northeast of the Azores for combined convoy SL-139 and MKS-30, consisting of 66 ships en route to the United Kingdom via Gibraltar. Shadowed by eight U-boats, Nene and Snowberry pick up a contact and drop depth charges. U-536 is blown into a nearly upright position by the explosion and, following a surface action with the three Allied ships, sinks stern first while circling to port with its engines still running.

**Nov. 25, 1950:** The 2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry sets sail for Korea. The PPCLI would arrive in December and enter the front line in mid-February under the command of the 27th British Commonwealth Inf. Bde.



# December

**December 1939:** The 1st Div., Canadian Active Service Force, boards ships in Halifax for the transatlantic crossing to England. A few of these men will serve for a brief period on the continent prior to the fall of France in 1940. The remainder will wait a long time before they enter into direct combat with the enemy.

**Dec. 5, 1952:** Second-Lieutenant A.R. MacKenzie is shot down during the Korean War. MacKenzie was an exchange pilot flying Sabres with the United States Air Force. He was mistakenly shot down by one of his squadron mates. MacKenzie was captured by the Chinese and imprisoned for two years. He was released on Dec. 5, 1954, a year and a half after the conclusion of the armistice.

**Dec. 5-11, 1944:** As part of the larger Allied effort to prevent enemy forces in Italy from withdrawing to participate in the final battles for Germany, 1st Cdn. Corps assaults across the Lamone River near Ravenna in cold, wet weather and sodden terrain. 1st Cdn. Brigade's initial hasty bridgehead was destroyed with heavy losses. Five days later, a more determined attack forces the enemy out of the riverbanks.

**Dec. 6, 1917:** Canadian sailors show great bravery when the French-registered SS Mont Blanc, laden with explosives, is involved in a collision with the Belgian relief ship Imo in Halifax Harbour. Sparks from the collision ignite highly flammable benzol aboard Mont Blanc. Sailors from HMCS Niobe try to tow the burning ship away from the crowded Halifax waterfront, but a violent explosion destroys the ship and much of the city, killing more than 2,000 people.

**Dec. 10-20, 1943:** Hoping the Germans were broken in the battle for the Moro River, 1st Cdn. Inf. Div. rushes for Ortona, Italy. They run into strong German defences dug into a steep-banked ravine known as The Gully. This new line was breached after nine days of intense fighting, highlighted by the heroic defence of Casa Berardi by the Royal 22nd Regt. and the capture of the Cider Crossroads by the Royal Cdn. Regt.

**Dec. 18, 1941:** Three Japanese regiments launch an attack against Hong Kong island from the mainland. The next seven days will witness sharp and bloody fighting as the Japanese forces advance across the island against British, Indian and Canadian defences. Two Canadian battalions, the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles of Canada, will be cut off and overrun.

# January

**January 1915:** Canada's Department of Militia and Defence grants authority for McGill University in Montreal to provide a complete overseas company of troops for the 38th Battalion.

**Jan. 8, 1944:** His Majesty's Canadian Ship Camrose, with Escort Group 6, is supporting the westbound combined convoy OS-64 and KMS-38 in the mid-Atlantic when, along with a British frigate, she carries out a depth-charge attack on a fast-diving U-boat. Eight attacks and two hours later, a flood of oil is seen on the surface, marking the destruction of U-757.

**Jan. 11, 1957:** HMCS Magnificent arrives at Port Said, Egypt, with a large force of Canadian army personnel and their equipment. The Canadians are contributing to the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) which was established to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities between Israel and Egypt.

**Jan. 12, 1945:** In the face of setbacks caused by the Germans' Ardennes counteroffensive of December 1944, the (British) War Cabinet fears the war may continue until late 1945.

**Jan. 16, 1991:** The Persian Gulf War begins with an American-led coalition offensive against Iraq. Captain Duncan Miller of the Canadian Navy becomes commander of the Combined Logistics Force, the only non-American to hold such an important command at sea during the war. He is responsible for a force of approximately 30 supply and escort ships from several different countries.

**Jan. 23, 1953:** Flight Lieutenant E.A. Glover is awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions during the Korean War. Glover was an RCAF exchange officer flying Sabres for the United States Air Force. During his time in Korea, he saw frequent air combat, shooting down three MiG-15s and damaging three more.

**Jan. 26, 1945:** The Lincoln and Welland Regt. takes the lead in Operation Elephant, an attack against a German bridgehead at Kapelsche Veer in the Netherlands. Launched under freezing conditions in canoes along the Bergsche Maas, the Canadians are turned back with heavy losses.

**Jan. 30, 1944:** The Hastings and Prince Edward Regt. assaults the high ground dominating the Arielli Valley in Italy. The attack was aimed at preventing inactive German units on the Ortona front from leaving to intervene in the desperate fighting at Anzio and the Rapido River. The attack was broken up with heavy losses, but achieved its goal of pinning enemy units in the sector.

# February

**Feb. 4, 1915:** Lieutenant W.F. Sharpe is killed at Shoreham, England, during his first solo flight, becoming the first Canadian military aviator killed in World War I.

**Feb. 8, 1943:** His Majesty's Canadian Ship Regina is one of 17 Royal Canadian Navy corvettes assigned to protect supply convoys in support of Operation Torch and subsequent operations in North Africa. Escorting convoy KMS-8 to Gibraltar, Regina manages to avenge the sinking of HMCS Louisburg when she depth-charges the Italian submarine Avorio off Algeria. Avorio's crew abandons ship, many to be rescued by Regina.

**Feb. 11, 1944:** A Wellington bomber of 407 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force, piloted by Flying Officer P.W. Heron, sinks the German submarine U-283 in the North Atlantic between Scotland and Iceland. The U-boat had shot down a Royal Air Force Wellington, but during the encounter Heron accurately dropped six depth charges. Heron is awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions.

**Feb. 13, 1945:** First Canadian Corps launches Operation Goldflake by moving to the Italian port of Leghorn for transport by ship to the south of France and by rail to the Netherlands, reuniting them with 2nd Corps and making 1st Canadian Army wholly Canadian again. The reunification was a matter of national policy in mid-1944, but not resolved until the new year because of shipping shortages and reluctance to part with the successful Canadians at Allied headquarters in Italy.

**Feb. 15, 1901:** Lord Strathcona's Horse becomes the first unit to receive the Queen's South Africa Medal for service in the South African War. The ceremony is held shortly after Queen Victoria's death and the medal is presented by King Edward VII. The distinctive unit, with its Stetson hats and Lee-Enfield rifles, is affectionately known as the "Queen's cowboys." Under the leadership of Lieutenant-Colonel Sam Steele, the unit proves its mettle against the Boers as shock troops and advance guard for the main column under Lord Dundonald.

**Feb. 18, 1991:** While patrolling the Persian Gulf as part of the Coalition offensive against Iraq, HMCS Athabaskan (3rd) is called to assist the U.S. Navy, whose cruiser USS Princeton has been crippled by a mine off Kuwait. The Canadian ship assists rescue efforts by escorting a tug through the minefield and back again. The operation succeeds in bringing the cruiser out of the minefield.

**Feb. 24, 1944:** HMCS Waskesiu sails out of Londonderry in very rough seas to escort the 32 merchant ships of convoy SC-153 from Sydney, N.S. Picking up a U-boat on asdic, the newly built frigate uses hedgehog and depth-charge attacks to force U-257 to surface. The U-boat is then finished off by Waskesiu's four-inch guns.

**Feb. 26, 1945:** With 6th Infantry Brigade (2nd Div.) in the lead, Canadian forces launch Operation Blockbuster and clear the Calcar Ridge in Germany. Progress is slower on 3rd Div.'s front. In the face of strong resistance and a sudden enemy counter-attack at Mooshof, Sergeant Aubrey Cosens of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada takes charge and directs fire from a 1st Hussars tank against German strongpoints. After breaking through the hard core of resistance in Mooshof, Cosens gives the order to consolidate the position. He then sets off to report to his company commander, but is killed by a sniper's bullet. His display of courage earns him the Victoria Cross. Operation Blockbuster continues into March and, through a series of methodical set-piece attacks, draws the enemy out of its Rhineland defences.

## March

**March 1917:** Training and preparations are well underway for the Canadian Corps assault against Vimy Ridge, France. Under the command of Sir Julian Byng, the Canadian divisions rehearse their roles with precision on mocked-up versions of the battlefield. To increase chances of success, a detailed artillery program is planned with particular emphasis on effective counter-battery fire. Engineers build plank roads and railways to move vast quantities of supplies and ammunition into forward dumping areas, while tunnelling companies excavate miles of underground passageways that offer protected approaches for assault troops and safe routes through which to evacuate casualties.

**March 1, 1945:** The 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade launches an attack on enemy positions on the Hochwald Forest defence line covering Xanten, the last German bastion west of the Rhine. Major F.A. Tilston of the Essex Scottish Regiment leads his company across 500 yards of flat, open country to capture fiercely defended positions. Although wounded three times, the major continues to inspire and command his men throughout the action which earns him the Victoria Cross.

**March 4, 1943:** While escorting convoy KMS-10 to the Mediterranean during the buildup for the invasion of Sicily, Escort Group C-1, including His Majesty's Canadian ships St. Croix and Shediac, detects an enemy submarine off Portugal. After a two-hour depth charge attack, the escorts succeed in sinking U-87.

**March 6, 2002:** Nearly 130 Canadian combat troops are sent to Afghanistan. The soldiers, part of 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, are based at Kandahar. They will participate in the ongoing search for terrorists and their hideouts. Joining the PPCLI are 21 Canadian Forces personnel from CFB Kingston, Ont., who will become part of a communications detachment.

**March 10, 1966:** French President Charles de Gaulle announces France's intent to partially withdraw from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This decision directly affects the Royal Canadian Air Force units stationed in France. With April 1, 1967, slated as the deadline for withdrawal, Canada is required to relinquish its airbases at Marville and the air divisional headquarters at Metz.

**March 15, 1900:** The Royal Canadian Regt. arrives in Bloemfontein after taking part in the British 9th Division's drive to seize the Boer capital of the Orange Free State in South Africa. Although the Boers evacuated the city without a fight, the Canadians suffer heavy losses, owing to heat exhaustion and disease.

**March 19, 1978:** The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon is created with a goal of observing and confirming the withdrawal of Israeli military forces from southern Lebanon. Canadian participation in Operation Angora was to begin officially on April 13 with the arrival of 117 personnel from 1st Canadian Signal Regt.

**March 21, 1945:** Not long after the loss of HMCS Guysborough, HMCS New Glasgow fatally damages U-1003 in waters off Londonderry. Thirty-one German survivors are subsequently rescued by Escort Group 25.

**March 27, 1916:** Third British Div. launches an attack against the St-Éloi salient south of Ypres, Belgium, by exploding a series of mines under the German lines. It was understood that once the British troops had gained their initial objectives, soldiers of 2nd Canadian Div. would relieve them. Unfortunately, the mine explosions changed the geography of the salient to such an extent that the British assault troops inadvertently left some of the craters unoccupied, which the Germans encroached upon.

**March 31, 1945:** The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan is terminated. In total, the BCATP produced 131,553 pilots, navigators, bombardiers, wireless operators, air gunners and flight engineers of which 72,835 were Canadian.

## April

**April 1, 1986:** Canadian Forces Station Inuvik closes, reducing the number of Canadian military personnel in the Arctic by 40 per cent.

**April 2, 2003:** Canadian navy ships Iroquois (2nd) and Fredericton (2nd) arrive in the Arabian Gulf. They join HMCS Regina as part of Task Force 151. The U.S.-led task force had been taking part in Operation Apollo in which Canadian vessels were responsible for the surveillance and inspection of any vessels in the area.

**April 6, 1945:** With the Royal Canadian Navy now officially the third largest in the world, HMCS Uganda arrives in the Pacific to join the war against Japan. Near Okinawa, Uganda joins the task force assigned to screen British aircraft carriers and she becomes

fully engaged in the offensive, shooting down enemy aircraft and surviving kamikaze attacks.

**April 9, 1917:** At 5:30 a.m. the Canadian Corps launches its attack against Vimy Ridge as part of the larger Arras offensive. The commanding position atop the ridge is to serve as a hinge for further British operations in the coming weeks. This is the first occasion when all four Canadian divisions operate as a complete corps. The Germans are deluged with accurate artillery, mortar and machine-gun fire as the Canadians advance in the midst of driving wind, snow and sleet. On the left flank of the Canadian attack, 4th Div. is charged with the capture of Hill 145. Third and 2nd divisions attack in the centre of the ridge, while 1st Div. advances on the right. The entire ridge is secured on April 12 with the capture of the Pimple, a high-terrain feature near Hill 145. The Canadian Corps suffers more than 10,500 casualties, including more than 3,500 killed. Four Canadians are awarded the Victoria Cross for their roles in the battle, and many Canadians see the victory as a crucial turning point in Canada's march to nationhood.

**April 10, 1937:** The Foreign Enlistment Act is passed in Canada. Its purpose is to dissuade people from volunteering for service in the Spanish Civil War. Under the act, any Canadian who serves in the "international brigades" is considered a criminal. This, however, does not stop more than 1,500 Canadians from volunteering for the Mackenzie-Papineau battalion that serves in the Spanish Civil War.

**April 16, 1945:** While conducting an anti-submarine sweep, the Canadian minesweeper Esquimalt is torpedoed and sunk by U-190 off Halifax. After the impact of the German acoustic torpedo, Esquimalt sinks before it can send a distress signal. Forty-four Canadian sailors die, many from exposure while awaiting rescue.

**April 19, 1916:** The Germans force the Canadians out of craters six and seven at St-Éloi in Belgium. Ammunition supplies for Canadian guns are also restricted in anticipation of the coming Somme offensive, thus making it increasingly more difficult to dislodge the Germans from the craters. From this point on, the Canadians and their enemies pursue more static approaches to the situation as both grow increasingly exhausted.

**April 20, 1953:** Operation Little Switch begins with the intention of exchanging wounded and sick prisoners between United Nations forces and Communist forces of North Korea and China. Only two Canadians are returned between Canadian and Chinese lines. However, Little Switch opens the door for an armistice between the two sides.

**April 29, 1944:** In the English Channel, the German navy avenges its earlier losses by sinking HMCS Athabaskan. The ship's captain and 128 men are lost. Eighty-three others are taken prisoner.