

How Canadians Trained For D-Day



Employed as fighter or fighter-bomber, the swift and redoubtable Typhoon is one of the most deadly weapons in the armory of invasion forces. Schooled by forays over Europe, many Canadian pilots are equipped to add the Typhoon's might to the Allies' Sunday punch.—(RCAF Photo).



Poised for the kill, this team of corklin gunners on a Royal Canadian Navy landing craft help guard their human cargo of assault troops from enemy aircraft overhead. Canada's fighting craft flotillas are busily engaged in combined operations activities. To each RCN crew are entrusted the lives of some 200 troops. —(RCN Photo)



REHEARSAL FOR INVASION — Split-second timing is the secret for an operation like this to be successful. Undergoing intensive training for their task in the invasion of Europe, hundreds of Canadian paratroopers float earthwards in a mass jump while the troop-carrying aircraft which bore them aloft, pass overhead. These soldiers took their initial training with parachutes in Canada, added polish and finesse in Britain.—(Canadian Army Photo).



Air supremacy is the first essential of amphibious invasion—unless the invader dominates the skies above and beyond landing beaches, his ground forces face the danger of being stopped by bombs and strafing. Here a squadron of peerless Spitfires from a Canadian fighter squadron takes off to cover the fast medium bombers whose "pattern bombing" is intended to pulverize defences on the beachhead and behind it. —(RCAF Photo)



A typical group of Canadian fighter pilots tell their bare-headed leader, Wing Commander Hugh C. Godfrey, DFC and Bar of Toronto, about a heavy flak area spotted during a pre-invasion sweep over Europe.—(RCAF Photo).



ORDERS MUST GET THROUGH—Coordinated action by all units engaged in assault operations is vital to success and contact between commands is often dependent on the motorcycle despatch rider. In Italy dispatch riders with the Canadian forces rode hundreds of miles carrying orders and messages and the Canuck riders will play a major role in the invasion of Europe. — (Canadian Army Photo).



All-Canadian fighter wings form an important section of the Second Tactical Air Force, whose job is close support of invasion ground forces. Here an RCAF Spitfire pilot, geared for high-altitude combat, is about to take off to hunt enemy planes.—(RCAF Photo).



ENEMY SHORE IS THEIR OBJECTIVE — Ready for their assault on the enemy's Fortrea Europa these Canadian soldiers went through grimly realistic landing exercises to master every detail of taking and holding a beachhead on hostile territory. Leap-

ing from boats under protection of a thin smoke screen the men half-wade, half scramble ashore through waist deep water, carrying their equipment, while bullets whine overhead and shells toss geysers of water around them.—(Canadian Army Photo).



Naval Commandos land with the first wave of the landing of troop and material-bearing craft attacking troops and signal the remainder of the assault force to land and maintain close contact with the assault flotillas off shore.—(RCAF Photo).



Veteran war-seasoned crews from all parts of the Dominion man these Canadian Landing Craft Flotillas now attached to the Royal Navy. Movements must be co-ordinated with precision to land their craft on the beaches and assure the complete success of their operations. — (RCN Photo).



THE SNIPER PLAYS HIS PART — The man with the rifle is still a main cog in battle and Canadian soldiers, many of them expert marksmen like this sniper drawing a bead on the enemy from his post in a shell-ruined house will take a heavy toll of Nazi defenders of Europe on invasion day. — (Canadian Army Photo)