

Fifty-eight Canadians drowned en route to Sicily when enemy submarines sank three ships of the assault convoy; 500 vehicles and a number of guns were lost.

After fighting through 240 kilometres of mountainous country side, Canadians had helped in the success of the 38-day Sicilian Campaign.

Canadian soldiers sailed across the Strait of Messina onto mainland Italy, to battle the Germans who had seized control of Italy.

Canadians fought their first battle against the Germans in Italy at Motta.

Canadians edged forward to Ortona where the fighting was difficult, due to the castles and stone buildings. The battle ultimately led to the fall of the city of Ortona.

In the spring of 1944, determined to hold Rome, the Germans constructed two lines of fortifications, the Gustav Line and the Adolf Hitler Line.

Rome fell to the Americans in June 1944, just before the long awaited D-Day invasion of Northwest Europe began on the beaches of Normandy.

With the objective of capturing Rimini, the Canadians' next move was to break through the Gothic Line, the last major German defensive line separating the Allies from Northern Italy.

The Allies entered Rimini and the rain came; streams turned into raging torrents, mud replaced the powdery dust, and the tanks bogged down in the swamplands. The Germans, however, still resisted the enemy.

For three weeks, the Canadians fought in the water-logged Romagna, breaching the German defences of the Savio River.

While the Canadians were in reserve at the end of October into early November, Lieut.-General Charles Foulkes succeeded Lieut.-General Burns as commander of the 1st Canadian Corps.

The Canadians began to move to Northwest Europe to be re-united with the First Canadian Army, where they would join in the drive into Germany and Holland and see the war to its end.