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- ▶ [Albert](#) 1-13 Jul 16
- ▶ [Bazentin](#) 14-17 Jul 16
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- ▶ [Guillemont](#) 3-6 Sep 16
- ▶ [Ginchy](#) 9 Sep 16
- ▶ [Flers-Courcelette](#) 15-22 Sep 16
- ▶ [Thiepval](#) 26-29 Sep 16
- ▶ [Le Transloy](#) 1-18 Oct 16
- ▶ [Ancre Heights](#) 1 Oct-11 Nov 16
- ▶ [Ancre, 1916](#) 13-18 Nov 16

[Allied Offensives: 1917](#)

- ▶ [Arras 1917](#) 8 Apr-4 May 17
- ▶ [Vimy, 1917](#) 9-14 Apr 17
- ▶ [Arleux](#) 28-29 Apr 17
- ▶ [Scarpe, 1917](#) 3-4 May 17
- ▶ [Hill 70](#) 15-25 Aug 17
- ▶ [Messines, 1917](#) 7-14 Jun 17
- ▶ [Ypres, 1917](#) 31 Jul-10 Nov 17
- ▶ [Pilckem](#) 31 Jul-2 Aug 17

## Operation VERITABLE

(Note: this article describes the planning and other items of interest regarding Operation VERITABLE: discussion of the actual battles and fight other articles on the site.)

Operation VERITABLE was the code name for the offensive launched by First Canadian Army during the o the Rhineland. An operation named VALEDICTION had originally been planned for early January, l Eisenhower, supreme commander of the Allied forces in North-West Europe, was faced with a variety of c against the Germans following their failed Ardennes Offensive. Despite promptings by Field Marshal Mon Army Group, Eisenhower elected to retain his "broad front" policy. A limited allocation of American forces made for Operation VERITABLE, which was to be half of a two-pronged assault out of the Nijmegen Salie between the Maas and the Rhine River, with the intent of securing a foothold on the west bank in preparatic The second part of the assault towards the Rhine was to be Operation GRENADE, launched by the U. assault had to be cancelled; the British 2nd Army was to be employed in a holding action on the Maas, as v crossings.<sup>1</sup>

Montgomery had pressed for command of all the divisions in the U.S. 12th Army Group, perhaps unaware conference he had held in the wake of the Ardennes fighting had caused among his contemporaries. H command of the U.S. 1st and 9th Armies, press reports later gave the impression that the situation in the "I reversed due to the influence of British commanders, when in fact that influence on the battle had been mi were upset at having had the credit taken from them, and little mollified even when Montgomery held a pres later - that the entire "Allied team" had contributed to the victory over what was in actuality the German's l the western front for the war. The damage was done and strained relations had been taken to the breaking; Eisenhower had no choice but to consider the needs of the Allied cause. He ordered 12 divisions transferre for the dual operation - though some formations earmarked for GRENADE were still engaged in operation: given.<sup>2</sup>

The 1st Canadian Army by this time had a fighting strength of 380,000 men, but with attached civilian personnel, actually had a ration strength in excess of 470,000 men. General Crerar was to find himself in divisions for a time in February, including nine American divisions. A desire to have a single corps control of the attack, however, put a British headquarters in the spotlight, as XXX Corps was given operational Canadian Infantry Divisions.<sup>3</sup>

- ▶ Langemarck, 1917 .16-18 Aug 17
- ▶ Menin Road .20-25 Sep 17
- ▶ Polygon Wood 26 Sep-3 Oct 17
- ▶ Broodseinde .4 Oct 17
- ▶ Poelcapelle .9 Oct 17
- ▶ Passchendaele .12 Oct 17
- ▶ Cambrai, 1917 20 Nov-3 Dec 17

**German Offensive: 1918**

- ▶ Somme, 1918 .21 Mar-5 Apr 18
- ▶ St. Quentin .21-23 Mar 18
- ▶ Bapaume, 1918 .24-25 Mar 18
- ▶ Rosieres .26-27 Mar 18
- ▶ Avre .4 Apr 18
- ▶ Lys .9-29 Apr 18
- ▶ Estaires .9-11 Apr 18
- ▶ Messines, 1918 .10-11 Apr 18
- ▶ Baillleul .13-15 Apr 18
- ▶ Kemmel .17-19 Apr 18

**Advance to Victory: 1918**

- ▶ Amiens 8-11 Aug 18
- ▶ Arras, 1918 .26 Aug-3 Sep 18
- ▶ Scarpe, 1918 26-30 Aug 18
- ▶ Drocourt-Queant .2-3 Sep 18
- ▶ Hindenburg Line .12 Sep-9 Oct 18
- ▶ Canal du Nord .27 Sep-2 Oct 18
- ▶ St. Quentin Canal .29 Sep-2 Oct 18
- ▶ Epehy 3-5 Oct 18
- ▶ Cambrai, 1918 .8-9 Oct 18
- ▶ Valenciennes .1-2 Nov 18
- ▶ Sambre .4 Nov 18
- ▶ Pursuit to Mons .28 Sep-11 Nov

**Second World War  
War Against Japan**

**South-East Asia**

- ▶ Hong Kong 8-25 Dec 41

**Italian Campaign**

**Battle of Sicily**

- ▶ Landing in Sicily 9-12 Jul 43
- ▶ Gramscio 15 Jul 43
- ▶ Piazza Armerina 16-17 Jul 43
- ▶ Valguarnera 17-19 Jul 43
- ▶ Assoro 20-22 Jul 43
- ▶ Leonforte 21-22 Jul 43
- ▶ Agira 24-28 Jul 43
- ▶ Adrano 29 Jul-7 Aug 43
- ▶ Catenanuova 29-30 Jul 43
- ▶ Regalbuto 29 Jul-3 Aug 43
- ▶ Centuripe 31 Jul-3 Aug 43
- ▶ Troina Valley 2-6 Aug 43
- ▶ Pursuit to Messina 2-17 Aug 43

**Southern Italy**

- ▶ Landing at Reggio 3 Sep 43
- ▶ Potenza 19-20 Sep 43
- ▶ Motta Montecorvino 1-3 Oct 43
- ▶ Termoli 3-6 Oct 43
- ▶ Monte San Marco 6-7 Oct 43
- ▶ Gambatesa 7-8 Oct 43
- ▶ Campobasso 11-14 Oct 43
- ▶ Baranello 17-18 Oct 43
- ▶ Colle d'Anchise 22-24 Oct 43
- ▶ Torella 24-27 Oct 43

**The Sangro and Moro**

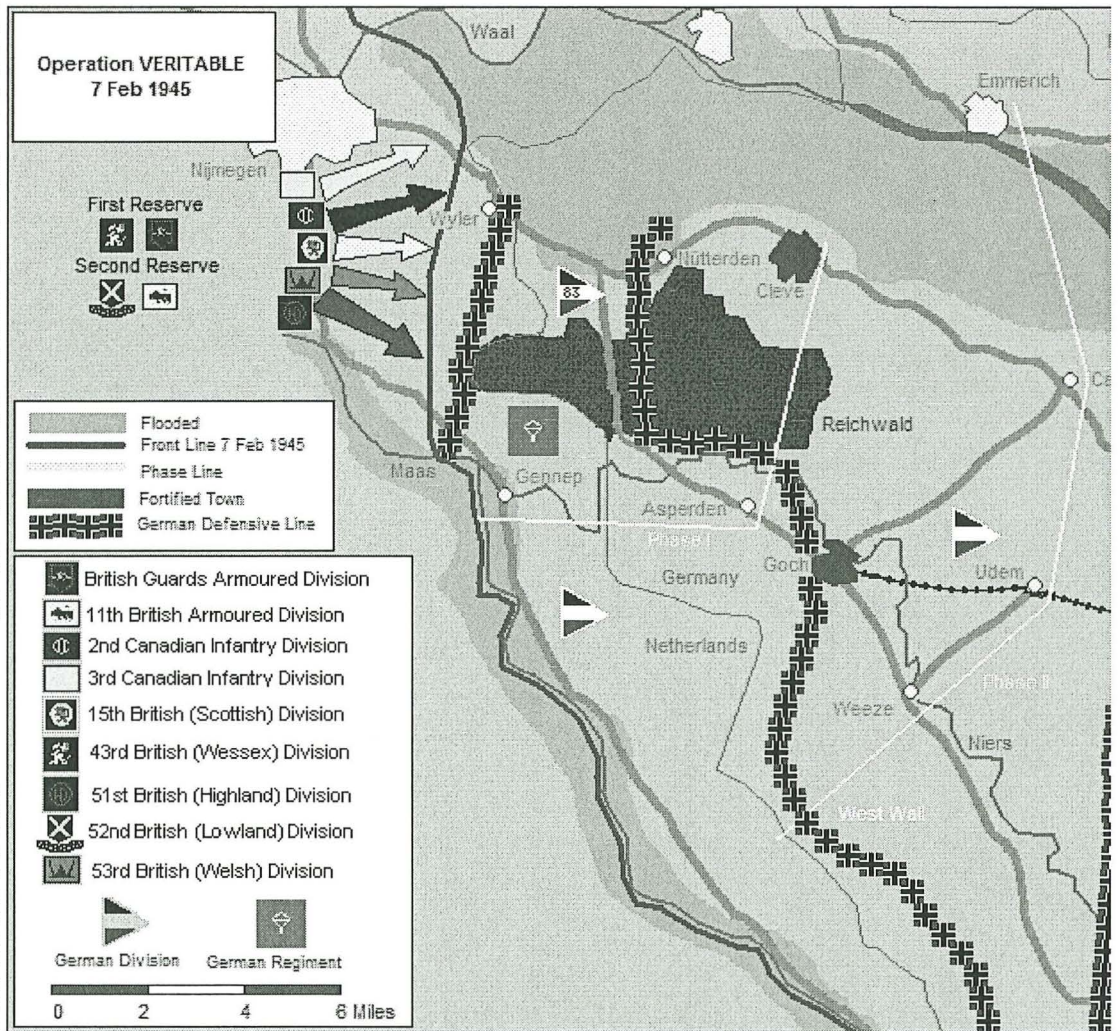
- ▶ The Sangro 19 Nov-3 Dec 43
- ▶ Castel di Sangro .23-24 Nov 43
- ▶ The Moro 5-7 Dec 43
- ▶ San Leonardo 8-9 Dec 43
- ▶ The Gully .10-19 Dec 43
- ▶ Casa Berardi .14-15 Dec 43
- ▶ Ortona 20-28 Dec 43
- ▶ San Nicola-San Tommaso .31 Dec 43

- ▶ Point 59/ Torre Mucchia 29 Dec 43-4 Jan 44

**Battles of the FSSF**

- ▶ Monte Camino .5 Nov-9 Dec 43
- ▶ Monte la Difensa- Monte la Remetanea. 2-8 Dec 43
- ▶ Hill 720 25 Dec 43
- ▶ Monte Majo 3-8 Jan 44
- ▶ Radicosa 4 Jan 44
- ▶ Monte Vischiataro 8 Jan 44
- ▶ Anzio 22 Jan-22 May 44
- ▶ Rome .22 May-4 Jun 44
- ▶ Advance .22 May-22 Jun 44

- to the Tiber.
- ▶ Monte Arrestino 25 May 44
- ▶ Rocca Massima 27 May 44
- ▶ Colle Ferro 2 Jun 44



The enemy was convinced of a need for holding the territory west of the Rhine; despite protestations by the Commander-in-Chief West, Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt (Eisenhower's opposite number in the German field forces), Hitler personally forbade the retreat from any German soil. Militarily, Rundstedt felt it far more prudent to defend behind the natural obstacle of the Rhine river but his wishes did not prevail. Nonetheless, there were a series of concrete fortifications - the West Wall - along the frontier. Also known as the Siegfried Line, these fortifications had been begun before the war, and consisted of weapons bunkers and "dragon's teeth" anti-tank obstacles.<sup>4</sup> There were in fact three separate lines of defences in the sector earmarked for VERITABLE. A series of outpost positions to the west of the Reichswald forest; the West Wall, running through the forest itself, and the Hochwald "Layback" position, which covered the approaches to the Rhine river near Xanten.<sup>5</sup>

One historian has speculated as to why the Germans continued to resist into 1945:

*There is strong evidence, borne out by the testimony of many Allied and German commanders, that (the) no-compromise approach (of unconditional surrender) merely stiffened the German will to fight and prolonged the war. Hitler managed to convince even the most reasoned and influential anti-Nazis that because of the Allied insistence upon unconditional surrender, there could be no alternative to stubborn resistance, no thought of a negotiated peace.<sup>6</sup>*

**Order of Battle**

**Allied**

Fi  
twi  
C  
  
p  
col

**Cassino**

- ▶ Cassino II 11-18 May 44
- ▶ Gustav Line 11-18 May 44
- ▶ Sant' Angelo in Teodice. 13 May 44

- ▶ Pignataro 14-15 May 44

**Liri Valley**

- ▶ Liri Valley 18-30 May 44
- ▶ Hitler Line 18-24 May 44
- ▶ Aquino 18-24 May 44
- ▶ Melfa Crossing 24-25 May 44
- ▶ Ceprano 26-27 May 44
- ▶ Torrice Crossroads 30 May 44

**Advance to Florence**

- ▶ Advance to Florence. 17 Jul-10 Aug 44
- ▶ Trasimene Line 20-30 Jun 44
- ▶ Sanfatuocchio 20-21 Jun 44
- ▶ Arezzo 4-17 Jul 44
- ▶ Cerrone 25 - 31 Aug 44

**Gothic Line**

- ▶ Gothic Line 25 Aug-22 Sep 44
- ▶ Monteciccardo 27-28 Aug 44
- ▶ Montecchio 30-31 Aug 44
- ▶ Point 204 (Pozzo Alto) 31 Aug 44
- ▶ Monte Luro 1 Sep 44
- ▶ Borgo Santa Maria 1 Sep 44
- ▶ Tomba di Pesaro 1-2 Sep 44
- ▶ Coriano 3-15 Sep 44

**Winter Lines**

- ▶ Rimini Line 14-21 Sep 44
- ▶ San Martino-San Lorenzo. 14-18 Sep 44
- ▶ San Fortunato 18-20 Sep 44
- ▶ Casale 23-25 Sep 44
- ▶ Sant' Angelo in Salute. 11-15 Sep 44

- ▶ Bulgaria Village 13-14 Sep 44
- ▶ Cesena 15-20 Sep 44
- ▶ Pisciatello 16-19 Sep 44
- ▶ Savio Bridgehead 20-23 Sep 44
- ▶ Monte La Pieve 13-19 Oct 44
- ▶ Monte Spaduro 19-24 Oct 44
- ▶ Monte San Bartolo 11-14 Nov 44
- ▶ Lamone Crossing 2-13 Dec 44
- ▶ Capture of Ravenna 3-4 Dec 44
- ▶ Naviglio Canal 12-15 Dec 44
- ▶ Fosso Vecchio 16-18 Dec 44
- ▶ Fosso Munio 19-21 Dec 44
- ▶ Conventello-Comacchio. 2-6 Jan 45

- ▶ Granarolo 3-5 Jan 44

**Northwest Europe**

- ▶ Dieppe 19 Aug 42

**Battle of Normandy**

- ▶ Normandy Landing 6 Jun 44
- ▶ Authie 7 Jun 44
- ▶ Putot-en-Bessin 8 Jun 44
- ▶ Bretteville -l'Orqueilleuse 8-9 Jun 44
- ▶ Le Mesnil-Patry 11 Jun 44
- ▶ Carpiquet 4-5 Jul 44
- ▶ Caen 4-18 Jul 44
- ▶ The Orne (Buron) 8-9 Jul 44
- ▶ Bourguébus Ridge 18-23 Jul 44
- ▶ Faubourg-de-Vaucelles 18-19 Jul 44
- ▶ St. André-sur-Orne 19-23 Jul 44
- ▶ Maltôt 22-23 Jul 44
- ▶ Verrières Ridge-Tilly-la-Campagne 25 Jul 44
- ▶ Falaise 7-22 Aug 44
- ▶ Falaise Road 7-9 Aug 44
- ▶ Quesnay Road 10-11 Aug 44
- ▶ Clair Tizon 11-13 Aug 44
- ▶ The Laison 14-17 Aug 44
- ▶ Chambois 18-22 Aug 44
- ▶ St. Lambert-sur-Dives 19-22 Aug 44
- ▶ Dives Crossing 17-20 Aug 44
- ▶ Forêt de la Londe 27-29 Aug 44
- ▶ The Seine, 1944 25-28 Aug 44

**Southern France**

- ▶ Southern France 15-28 Aug 44

**Channel Ports**

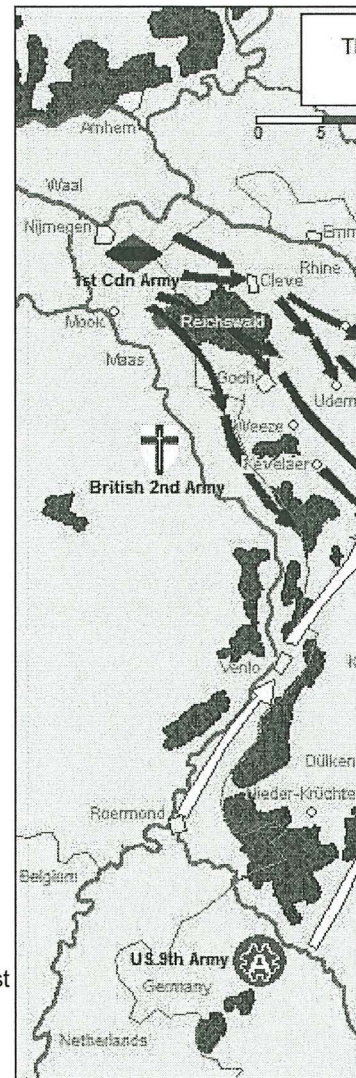
- ▶ Dunkirk, 1944 8-15 Sep 44
- ▶ Le Havre 1-12 Sep 44
- ▶ Moerbrugge 8-10 Sep 44

(Formations involved in Operation VERITABLE)

- 21st Army Group
  - First Canadian Army
    - II Canadian Corps
      - British 11th Armoured Division
      - 4th Canadian (Armoured) Division
      - 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade
    - British XXX Corps
      - Guards Armoured Division
      - 2nd Canadian Infantry Division
      - 3rd Canadian Infantry Division
      - 15th (Scottish) Division
      - 51st (Highland) Division
      - 53rd (Welsh) Division
      - 43rd (Wessex) Division
      - 6th Guards Tank Brigade
      - 34th Armoured Brigade
  - Elements of 79th Armoured Division attached (including 1st Canadian Armoured Carrier Regiment)

(Formations involved in Operation GRENADE)

- US 9th Army
  - XIII Corps
    - 5th Armored Division
    - 84th Infantry Division
    - 102d Infantry Division
  - XVI Corps
    - 8th Armored Division
    - 35th Infantry Division
    - 79th Infantry Division
  - XIX Corps
    - 2nd Armored Division
    - 29th Infantry Division
    - 30th Infantry Division
    - 83d Infantry Division



- ▶ Moerkerke 13-14 Sep 44
- ▶ Boulogne, 1944 17-22 Sep 44
- ▶ Calais, 1944 25 Sep-1 Oct 44
- ▶ Wyneghem 21-22 Sep 44
- ▶ Antwerp-Turnhout Canal 24-29 Sep 44

#### Canal

#### The Scheldt

- ▶ The Scheldt 1 Oct-8 Nov 44
- ▶ Leopold Canal 6-16 Oct-44
- ▶ Woensdrecht 1-27 Oct 44
- ▶ Savojaards Platt 9-10 Oct 44
- ▶ Breskens Pocket 11 Oct -3 Nov 44
- ▶ The Lower Maas 20 Oct -7 Nov 44
- ▶ South Beveland 24-31 Oct 44
- ▶ Walcheren 31 Oct -4 Nov 44

#### Causeway

#### Nijmegen Salient

- ▶ Ardennes Dec 44-Jan 45
- ▶ Kapelsche Veer 31 Dec 44-21 Jan 45
- ▶ The Roer 16-31 Jan 45

#### Rhineland

- ▶ The Rhineland 8 Feb-10 Mar 45
- ▶ The Reichswald 8-13 Feb 45
- ▶ Waal Flats 8-15 Feb 45
- ▶ Moyland Wood 14-21 Feb 45
- ▶ Goch-Calcar Road 19-21 Feb 45
- ▶ The Hochwald 26 Feb-4 Mar 45
- ▶ Veen 6-10 Mar 45
- ▶ Xanten 8-9 Mar 45

#### Final Phase

- ▶ The Rhine 23 Mar-1 Apr 45
- ▶ Emmerich-Hoch Elten 28 Mar-1 Apr 45
- ▶ Twente Canal 2-4 Apr 45
- ▶ Zutphen 6-8 Apr 45
- ▶ Deventer 8-11 Apr 45
- ▶ Arnhem, 1945 12-14 Apr 45
- ▶ Apeldoorn 11-17 Apr 45
- ▶ Groningen 13-16 Apr 45
- ▶ Friesoythe 14 Apr 45
- ▶ Ijselmeer 15-18 Apr 45
- ▶ Küsten Canal 17-24 Apr 45
- ▶ Wagenborgen 21-23 Apr 45
- ▶ Delfzijl Pocket 23 Apr-2 May 45
- ▶ Leer 28-29 Apr 45
- ▶ Bad Zwischenahn 23 Apr-4 May 45
- ▶ Oldenburg 27 Apr-5 May 45

#### Korean War

- ▶ Kapyong 21-25 Apr 51

#### Domestic Missions

- ▶ FLQ Crisis

#### International Missions

- ▶ ICCS Vietnam 1973
- ▶ MFO Sinai 1986-

#### Peacekeeping

- ▶ UNMOGIP India 1948-1979
- ▶ UNTSO Israel 1948- ....
- ▶ UNEF Egypt 1956-1967
- ▶ UNOGIL Lebanon 1958 ....
- ▶ ONUC Congo 1960-1964
- ▶ UNYOM Yemen 1963-1964
- ▶ UNTEA W. N. Guinea 1963-1964
- ▶ UNIFCYP Cyprus 1964- ....
- ▶ DOMREP D. Republic 1965-1966
- ▶ UNIPOM Kashmir 1965-1966
- ▶ UNEFME Egypt 1973-1979
- ▶ UNDOF Golan 1974- ....
- ▶ UNIFIL Lebanon 1978 ....
- ▶ UNGOMAP Afghanistan 1988-90
- ▶ UNIMOG Iran-Iraq 1988-1991
- ▶ UNTAG Namibia 1989-1990
- ▶ ONUCA C. America 1989-1992
- ▶ UNIKOM Kuwait 1991 ....
- ▶ MINURSO W. Sahara 1991 ....
- ▶ ONUSAL El Salvador 1991 ....
- ▶ UNAMIC Cambodia 1991-1992
- ▶ UNAVEM II Angola 1991-1997
- ▶ UNPROFOR Yugosla. 1992-1995
- ▶ UNTAC Cambodia 1992-1993
- ▶ UNOSOM Somalia 1992-1993
- ▶ ONUMOZ Mozambiq. 1993-1994
- ▶ UNOMUR Rwanda 1993 ....
- ▶ UNAMIR Rwanda 1993-1996
- ▶ UNMIH Haiti 1993-1996

#### o VII Corps

- 3d Armored Division
- 104th Infantry Division
- 8th Infantry Division

#### German

#### • Army Group "G"

#### o 1st Parachute Army

- II Parachute Corps
  - Infanterie Division 190
  - Parachute Division 7
  - Parachute Division 8

#### ■ LXXXVI Corps

- Infanterie Division 84
- Infanterie Division 180
- Elements of Parachute Division 2

#### ■ XVII Panzer Corps

#### ■ XLVII Panzer Corps

- Panzer Division 116 (reserve)
- Panzergrenadier Division 15 (reserve)<sup>7</sup>

#### Artillery Plan

Much has been written about the artillery preparation for VERITABLE; even decades after the event, the 5 Canadian Artillery held the operation up as an example of the penultimate in artillery preparation:

*General Crerar had to make a frontal attack against three successful fortified zones, each firmly a River. The defences included two and three lines of trench works linking strongpoints and reinforced small towns and villages between the second and third zones had been extensively fortified. ( objective lay 40 miles from his front lines. Due to this depth, VERITABLE was planned in three stages between each to regroup infantry and armour and to bring supporting artillery to within range of their Crerar had XXX British Corps under command, while I British Corps would provide a secure anchor South. Due to the narrow distance between the Rhine (to the north) and the Maas River (to the south) would be made by the five divisions of XXX Corps (including 2nd Canadian Infantry Division), widened, II Canadian Corps would join in on the left flank.*

*The artillery support for the operation was intended as a major battle-winning factor. The XXX designed to take advantage of a 14:1 advantage in Allied versus German artillery to use massive gun the infantry into the enemy's defences. The Fire Plan called for:*

- preliminary bombardment to prevent the enemy from interfering with the initial assault;
- complete saturation of enemy defences;
- destruction of known concrete positions;
- immediate supporting fire for the attack; and
- maximum fire of the medium regiments on the Materborn feature 12,000 yards from the s having to move forward.

▶ <u>UNMIBH</u>	Bosnia/Herz. 1993-1996
▶ <u>UNMOP</u>	Prevlaka 1996-2001
▶ <u>UNSMIH</u>	Haiti 1996-1997
▶ <u>MINUGUA</u>	Guatemala 1994-1997
▶ <u>UNTMH</u>	Haiti 1997 ....
▶ <u>MIPONUH</u>	Haiti 1997 ....
▶ <u>MINURCA</u>	C.Afr.Rep. 1998-1999
▶ <u>INTERFET</u>	E. Timor 1999-2000
▶ <u>UNAMSIL</u>	Sie. Leone 1999-2005
▶ <u>UNTAET</u>	E. Timor 1999-2000

## Exercises

*The fire of seven divisional artilleries would be augmented by five AGRA's and two anti-aircraft brigades of Corps and Army level artillery, for a total of 1034 guns (in addition to the 17-pounders and 40mm used with tanks, mortars and machine-guns to "Pepperpot" selected targets). All known enemy IC and communications sites were targeted. An estimated six tons of shell would fall on each target. 7 of the Materborn would be subjected to the fire of the 8-inch and 240mm guns of the 3rd Super located in the 1st British Corps area to the South.*

*The Fire Plan would open with the preparatory fire from 5:00 to 9:45 A.M. on D-Day (8 Feb) followed by a Block Barrage planned to support the three central divisions in their advance. This lasted seventy minutes on the initial positions and was 500 yards deep. At H Hour the barrage would lift 300 every twelve minutes to allow for the advancing speed of the infantry and armour over the difficult terrain.*

*A novel feature was introduced into the schedule for the preliminary bombardment. Between 7:00 and 7:30 screen would be fired across the front, followed by 10 minutes of complete silence. It was hoped that that the screen heralded the main assault, would engage with his artillery, thereby exposing his spotters, sound rangers and pen recorders of the locating batteries would attempt to pinpoint the enemy allowing counter battery fire to neutralize the exposed enemy guns before H-Hour.*

*A massive ammunition dumping program was carried out by II Canadian Corps prior to the assault. One million rounds, weighing more than 10,000 tons were dumped - 700 rounds per gun on field gun positions per gun on medium positions. In addition 120 truck loads per division of 40mm, 17-pounder, ammunition was dumped for the "Pepperpot" requirement. More than 10,000 three-inch rockets and 1 Battery were brought in.*

*Stunned by the ferocity of the preliminary bombardment of over 500,000 rounds of various nature pinned down by the tremendous barrage which had expended more than 160,000 shells, the badly equipped troops offered little resistance to the assaulting infantry and armour. The effectiveness of the counter mortar programs was seen in the almost complete lack of German shelling and mortaring. Most of which were relatively light, came from mines rather than artillery or small arms fire. Interrogative bombardment had a devastating effect upon morale, producing a feeling of complete helplessness and the prospect of any possible reinforcement. The artillery fire had also succeeded in seriously disrupting communication and resupply.*

*The day's success owed much to the contributing factors of well-prepared gun programs, careful meteorological data and recently-calibrated guns. The massive preparations had provided effective artillery support to the operation. It didn't end there, however. The artillery would support with barrages, screens, direct support and counter battery fire until the enemy was finally later.<sup>8</sup>*



Infantrymen of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles in a Buffalo amphibious vehicle taking part in Operation VERITABLE en route from Germany, 9 February 1945.

### Notes

1. Stacey, C.P. *The Canadian Army 1939-1945* (Queen's Printer, 1948) p.237
2. Whitaker, Denis *Rhineland* p.21
3. Stacey, *Ibid*, p.238
4. Whitaker, *Ibid*, pp.24-25
5. Stacey, *Ibid*, p.238
6. Whitaker, *Ibid*, p.27
7. Hogg, Ian. *Great Land Battles of World War II* (Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, NY, 1987) ISBN 0385242409 p.177
8. RCA Standing Orders