

WALCHEREN CONQUERED

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Under ^a/~~snow~~/^{laden} sky, a reminder that winter comes early on this coast, landing craft crossed the estuary for a direct sea-borne attack. Everything possible by bombing and flooding had been done, but remnants of German suicide-garrisons were still holding Walcheren. Dive-bombers attacked ahead of the landing craft.

(air) The harbour works of Flushing were ~~thoroughly~~ ^{damaged} ~~damaged~~ by the Germans before our troops landed.

~~Through the rain they were able to land on the beach.~~
In tip-top physical condition the tommies can stand up to the wet, cold and mud of this Dutch campaign.

Flushing was quickly subdued. The dispirited German Commander complained that the flooding of the island gave him no chance to resist any longer. His men were soon rounded up.

Much sterner than the capture of Flushing was the assault on Westkappelle on the western tip of the island.

Far worse than Dieppe was the verdict of Canadians who *experienced* ~~both.~~ ~~took part in the assault.~~ A bad turn in the weather almost made flying/impossible. Royal Marine Commandos, spear-head of the attack, knew they were in for one of the most testing battles in the history of even the Marines.

An occasional aircraft of the Fighter-Bomber kind dived on the defenders.

Smoke screens partly concealed the landing craft and rocket ships joined in the naval bombardment. A withering return fire came from the shore.

(after rocket) Although many landing craft were sunk and four out of five of the close-supporting craft sent to the bottom, the resolute invaders fought their way ashore.

approach 1/2 Antwerp is now under Allied control.
~~It was not long before the Germans were overcome and the~~
~~batteries silenced. Two months after the fall of Antwerp~~
~~itself the estuary is under Allied control. That we~~
at last have an adequate harbour close to the battlefront we owe to the valour of the British and Canadians who captured Walcheren.