

of the R.C.N.V.R. Nearly 15,000 sea cadets in 86 sea cadet corps across Canada are receiving training at summer camps and weekly lectures; 5,000 former cadets are now in the naval service.

Training given at 20 R.C.N.V.R. Divisions throughout the provinces is supplemented at H.M.C.S. *Cornwallis*, N.S., where more than 7,000 officers and men are accommodated for special courses. About 4,500 men have been trained in civilian schools since the outbreak of war in their chosen trades; 1,000 more are under training; 1,500 enrolments have been received in the university naval training divisions, in which 15 Canadian universities are taking part.

With the addition of Tribal destroyers, the R.C.N. is equipped with the newest and fastest destroyers in the world. Almost the entire number of smaller Canadian fighting ships has been built in Canadian shipyards which have also built nearly 100 ships for the Royal Navy and a few for the United States Navy.

In addition to its early war tasks of guarding the coasts of Canada, the escorting of convoys, the destruction of enemy submarines and shipping, the R.C.N. has joined with the R.N. and the U.S.N. in taking offensive action, serving in every sea of the world. Canadian corvettes took part in the Mediterranean campaign in 1943; corvettes and a flotilla of motor launches saw duty in the Caribbean area; Canadian ships participated in the Aleutian Islands campaign; four Canadian flotillas of landing craft took part in the invasion of Sicily and were on duty in the Straits of Messina during the invasion of Italy.

In the summer of 1943 enemy mines were cleared from the path of convoys at the mouth of Halifax harbour without loss of life or convoyed shipping. Canadian Tribal destroyers were with the convoys off Bear Island on the way to Murmansk when the *Scharnhorst* was torpedoed in December, 1943. H.M.C.S. *Athabaskan* was engaged in offensive operational work in the Bay of Biscay when she was the first ship to be attacked by the newly-developed aerial German bomb. She was later sunk off the coast of France, while on patrol duty in the English Channel.

In 1944 the Naval Minister announced the acquisition from the Admiralty of two modern cruisers and two aircraft carriers to be manned by Canadian naval crews. Many officers and some ratings who have served with the Royal Navy in British ships of larger types but will now have the opportunity of manning larger Canadian ships. Besides these larger vessels, 100 other fighting ships as well as a considerable number of auxiliary craft are to be added to the strength of the Canadian Navy.

The Canadian Navy is operating in many waters but its special area is the north Atlantic over which must pass supplies produced in Canada and the United States for the United Nations overseas. On this route Canada has supplied sometimes 48 p.c. (never less than 40 p.c. in the past two years) of the convoy escort. From the beginning of the War to the end of 1943 the Canadian Navy escorted or assisted in escorting more than 18,000 ships from North America to Europe and about 114,000,000 dead-weight tons of shipping safely made this perilous crossing. In addition the R.C.N. assisted in the conveying of some 10,000 ships from United Kingdom ports to ports on this continent, and 20,000 ships have sailed in Canadian coastal convoys from one point to another on the North American Continent. Nearly 50,000 ships in one way or another have come under the protection of the Canadian Navy.