

During the War this force was expanded and became a very substantial naval force, with submarine-hunting corvettes, frigates and escort minesweepers predominating in the 368 warships in commission by 1945.

There were few naval operational areas that were not, sooner or later, the scene of R.C.N. activity. Its greatest undertaking was, of course, the war-long Battle of the Atlantic, in which merchant ships carrying 181,643,180 tons of supplies from North America to the United Kingdom, received Canadian escort protection. As the invasion of Europe approached, Canadian warships took over the entire close escort of North Atlantic convoys and provided many of the hunting groups. The actual invasion saw 109 R.C.N. ships and 10,000 officers and men engaged.

The 18 enemy submarines definitely destroyed by the R.C.N. and the 10 in whose destruction it shared, were hunted down in as widely separated waters as the Caribbean and the Mediterranean. Canadian warships became familiar with the waters of North Russia and the Aleutians, with the South Pacific and the China Sea. In addition to serving in their own vessels, 1,634 Canadian officers and 4,149 men were loaned to the Royal Navy and particularly outstanding contributions were made in the Fleet Air Arm and in Light Coastal Forces.

The second radical change has come with the return of peace. While it has brought a great reduction of the wartime force, the new fleet is many times more powerful than any peacetime Navy Canada has previously possessed. Designed as a balanced, two-ocean organization, it is, for the first time in R.C.N. history, built around big ships and makes allowance for the increasing importance of air power.

The Main Fleet.—Main units of the new force will be two "light fleet" aircraft carriers of 18,000 tons, one of which was in commission by the spring of 1946. Two 8,000 ton cruisers, seven large Tribal class destroyers, six lighter destroyers, make up the balance of the fleet. The now obsolete corvette has vanished from the picture; eighteen frigates and 12 Algerine type minesweepers are retained in reserve and for training purposes.

The following are the ships:—

Light Fleet Aircraft Carriers—

H.M.C.S. *Warrior*

H.M.C.S. *Magnificent*

6-inch Cruisers—

H.M.C.S. *Ontario*

H.M.C.S. *Uganda*

Tribal Class Destroyers—

H.M.C.S. *Micmac*

H.M.C.S. *Huron*

H.M.C.S. *Haida*

H.M.C.S. *Iroquois*

H.M.C.S. *Cayuga*

H.M.C.S. *Nootka*

H.M.C.S. *Athabaskan*

V Class Destroyers—

H.M.C.S. *Sioux*

H.M.C.S. *Algonquin*

Crescent Class Destroyers—

H.M.C.S. *Crescent*

H.M.C.S. *Crusader*

River Class Destroyers—

H.M.C.S. *Gatineau*

H.M.C.S. *Qu'Appelle*

The aircraft carriers are of the Colossus class, with a speed of 25 knots. Each will carry 30 'planes and a ship's company of more than 1,000. Personnel of the Royal Canadian Naval Air Arm is rounded out with men on loan from the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm, in which force a number of Canadian members of this new division received their original training and served throughout the War of 1939-45.

The cruisers, 550 feet long, mount nine six-inch guns, and heavy anti-aircraft armament. They carry crews of nearly 800 and have a speed of more than 30 knots. H.M.C.S. *Uganda* was the one large Canadian ship of the present fleet to go into action during the War. H.M.C.S. *Ontario* was completed just in time to reach Japanese waters as hostilities ended.