

The aircraft carrier H.M.C.S. *Magnificent* is of the Colossus type, with a flight deck 700 feet long and a speed of 25 knots. Though Belfast-built she has a number of Canadian innovations, including a system of cafeteria messing for feeding her crew of more than 1,000. Sea Fury single-seater fighters and Firefly IV fighter-reconnaissance two-seaters constitute her aircraft. The first mentioned are among the fastest carrier-borne fighters in the world. Royal Canadian Navy airmen are trained to "wings" standard by the Royal Canadian Air Force but deck landing and other advanced instruction are provided by the Navy.

H.M.C.S. *Shearwater*, recently commissioned at Dartmouth, N.S., is the shore base for the 18th and 19th Carrier Air Groups, the Training Air Groups, Fleet Requirement Unit and schools for Air Branch personnel. Formerly administered by the Royal Canadian Air Force, *Shearwater* was turned over to the R.C.N. just prior to commissioning.

The 8,000-ton cruisers, 500 feet long, mount nine six-inch guns and heavy anti-aircraft armament. They carry crews of nearly 800 each and have a speed of more than 30 knots. H.M.C.S. *Ontario*, just completed at the end of the War, is currently in commission after a lengthy refit that made her one of the best equipped ships of her type.

The Tribals, fleet destroyers, are of about 2,000 tons and are the most heavily armed vessels of their type. Three of them, British-built, saw much action in the closing years of the War. These are, in order of completion, H.M.C.S. *Iroquois*, H.M.C.S. *Huron* and H.M.C.S. *Haida*. The remaining four are products of Canadian shipbuilders and are the first turbine warships ever built in the Dominion. Two of them, H.M.C.S. *Cayuga* and H.M.C.S. *Athabaskan* were completed in 1947.

H.M.C.S. *Crescent* and H.M.C.S. *Crusader* are smaller destroyers than the Tribals, displacing 1,700 tons, and are thoroughly modern. They are on loan from the Royal Navy.

H.M.C.S. *Algonquin* and H.M.C.S. *Sioux* are Canadian "V" class fleet destroyers. They displace 1,700 tons and, while comparatively new ships, both have battle records to their credit.

The frigates and Algerine minesweepers, war-developed as anti-submarine vessels, displace 1,445 and 1,000 tons, respectively.

The allocation of major units maintained in commission calls for an aircraft carrier and three destroyers on the Atlantic Coast, based in Halifax, N.S., and a cruiser and three destroyers operating from the Pacific base at Esquimalt, B.C. Frigates and Algerines are commissioned with an eye on training requirements, the greater number being called for in the summer months when the flow of Reservists, coming from inland Divisions for their annual sea time, reaches its peak.

While specialized training for both officers and men prior to the War was almost entirely dependent on Royal Navy facilities, the development and modernization of the Halifax and Esquimalt bases, plus the facilities made available by the increased Canadian fleet, have brought the Royal Canadian Navy to a position where, with the exception of a few very highly specialized qualifications, it handles all its own instructional activity.

The actual strength of the R.C.N. permanent Force as at Oct. 31, 1948, was 7,278. Recruits, on enlistment, sign a five-year agreement, with succeeding periods of the same length where a man wishes to continue until he is pensionable.