

Subsection 1.—The Royal Canadian Navy

Role and Organization.—The primary role of the Royal Canadian Navy is anti-submarine warfare in all its aspects. Because of the prospect of long-range submarines capable of launching nuclear missiles hundreds of miles off-shore against coastal and inland targets, the RCN and the RCAF have placed primary emphasis on the development of forward operational systems and new techniques for locating and dealing with hostile submarines far out at sea.

The Royal Canadian Navy comes under the central authority of the Chief of the Naval Staff at Naval Headquarters in Ottawa. The Flag Officer, Atlantic Coast, at Halifax, N.S., and the Flag Officer, Pacific Coast, at Esquimalt, B.C., exercise operational and administrative command of ships and establishments within the Atlantic and Pacific Coast Commands. The Naval Comptroller organization was established in 1956 to assist in the effective control of the use of manpower, material and financial resources of the Navy. The recruiting and training of officers and men of the Royal Canadian Navy (Reserve) is conducted mainly through 22 Naval Divisions across Canada under the overall command of the Flag Officer, Naval Divisions, with Headquarters at Hamilton, Ont. There are naval missions in London, England, and Washington, U.S.A., to maintain liaison with the Royal Navy and the United States Navy. As a result of Canada's NATO commitments, officers of the Royal Canadian Navy serve on the Staffs of: the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, at Norfolk, Va., in the United States; the Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Atlantic Area, at Northwood in the United Kingdom; and the Commander-in-Chief, Western Atlantic Area, at Norfolk, Va. The Flag Officer, Atlantic Coast, holds the appointment of Commander, Canadian Atlantic Sub-Area.

The strength of the RCN on July 31, 1957, was 19,228 officers and men in the Regular Force and 5,156 in the Reserve Force.

Operations at Sea 1956.—The first of the RCN's new anti-submarine escort vessels, HMCS *St. Laurent*, commissioned late in 1955, participated in the Royal Escort of Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her state visit to Sweden in June 1956. This was the first occasion on which a ship designed and built in Canada had been so honoured. Earlier in the year important evaluation trials were carried out on the *St. Laurent*, not only by the RCN but also in co-operation with the Royal Navy and the United States Navy. These tests proved conclusively that the anti-submarine requirements of this class of vessel had been met and in certain instances expectations were exceeded. Three additional warships of the *St. Laurent* class—HMC Ships *Assiniboine*, *Ottawa* and *Saguenay*—joined the fleet during the year.

The Arctic patrol ship, HMCS *Labrador*, carried scientific parties into the icebound Gulf of St. Lawrence in February for the purpose of gathering marine data and conducting Gulf Stream surveys. During the summer months the *Labrador* surveyed hitherto uncharted waters in the Arctic and provided navigational aids for United States and Canadian ships carrying equipment and stores for supply of the Distant Early Warning radar system.

Goodwill missions were combined with normal training in the visit of RCN ships to more than 60 foreign ports in cruises ranging from the Arctic to South America and from Europe to Japan. During March, 16 warships from the Atlantic and Pacific Commands held combined exercises in the Caribbean area. Sailing from the Great Lakes Training Centre at Hamilton, Ont., ten ships provided sea training for more than 1,000 officers and men of the naval reserve. Canada provided an aircraft carrier, five destroyers and three submarines for the important NATO exercises "New Broom V" and "New Broom VI" in the spring and late summer. The RCN's new Bay class minesweepers participated in exercises with both NATO forces and the USN.

By the latter part of 1956 the RCN's light fleet carrier *Bonaventure* had successfully completed contractor's trials in anticipation of commissioning on Jan. 17, 1957. The *Bonaventure*, the first Canadian-owned aircraft carrier, incorporates an angled deck of the