

Early in the year, the RCN participated in a major exercise in anti-submarine warfare. *Operation Maple Royal* was a two-phase exercise in which ships and aircraft of the British Home Fleet combined with RCN ships and aircraft and RCAF aircraft in extensive manoeuvres in the Western Atlantic. Seventeen Canadian ships participated, made up of the aircraft carrier HMCS *Bonaventure* and units of the First, Third and Seventh Canadian Escort Squadrons and the First Canadian Minesweeping Squadron. Also participating were two Halifax-based Royal Navy submarines, four naval air squadrons, No. 404 Maritime Patrol Squadron, and RCAF and RAF *Shackleton* aircraft based temporarily at Greenwood, N.S. Later in the year, HMCS *Bonaventure* and the destroyer escorts *St. Laurent*, *Ottawa*, *Haida* and *Huron* participated in three major NATO exercises in Mediterranean and United Kingdom waters.

A new cadet-training squadron, the Fourth Canadian Escort Squadron, was formed on the Pacific Coast during 1958, to provide sea training for naval cadets from the Canadian Services Colleges, universities and HMCS *Venture*, the junior officer training establishment at Esquimalt, B.C. The Squadron took over duties formerly performed by the training cruiser HMCS *Ontario*, which was paid off on Oct. 15, 1958. The paying-off of the cruiser made available nearly 600 officers and men for anti-submarine ships of the fleet.

Training.—The major shore training establishments are HMCS *Stadacona* at Halifax, N.S.; HMCS *Naden* at Esquimalt, B.C.; HMCS *Cornwallis* near Digby, N.S.; and HMCS *Shearwater* near Dartmouth, N.S. Facilities at *Stadacona* and *Naden* include schools for general and specialized training, drafting depots, hospitals and accommodation facilities necessary for the maintenance of the ships based on each coast. New-entry or re-entry training, 15 weeks in duration, is conducted at the basic training establishment HMCS *Cornwallis*; during 1958, 2,662 men were enrolled. The new-entry training establishment HMCS *D'Iberville* at Quebec City gives all French-speaking personnel a basic knowledge of English and preliminary training in seamanship and professional naval subjects. After completing the course at *D'Iberville*, French-speaking new entries join classes at *Cornwallis*.

Trade and specialist training is conducted in various schools and training centres, including the naval supply school at HMCS *Hochelaga* in Montreal which was re-commissioned Oct. 1, 1955, and where 779 men completed training during 1958. Certain specialized training in new equipment is undertaken at the manufacturing centres by men who later become instructors.

A new Naval Technical School was opened at Esquimalt on Oct. 18, 1958, equipped to provide naval technical personnel with the best possible training from basic to advanced level. Engineering, air engineering, electrical, electronics, ordnance and shipwright courses are conducted in this new establishment. The ordnance, mechanical and electrical training establishments formerly in HMCS *Naden* and the training establishment for naval technical apprentices formerly conducted at Halifax in HMCS *Cape Breton* have been incorporated in the school.

Under the Regular Officer Training Plan, 15 graduate cadets were assigned to duty with the Navy during 1958 and another 19 went on to the final year at university in special courses. One graduate from the College Training Plan joined the fleet. At the end of the year there were 210 naval cadets in training under the Regular Officer Training Plan and 12 under the College Training Plan.

Under the *Venture* Plan, which was introduced in 1954 to train young men for seven-year, short-service appointments and which offers the opportunity of permanent commissions, 49 cadets were graduated in August 1958, promoted to midshipmen and posted for further training afloat or in shore establishments, 20 of them as naval aircrew by arrangement with the United States Navy. At the end of 1958 there were 134 cadets in training at HMCS *Venture* and at the end of March 1959 there were 41 midshipmen in training ashore or afloat.