

until junction with the Halifax Section, was under the escort of H.M.S. "AUSONIA". The combined convoy sailed under the ocean escort of H.M.S. "ASCANIA". The 44 ships consisted of 29 British, 5 Norwegian, 4 Dutch, 3 Greek, 1 Swedish, 1 Belgian and 1 Polish, all but two of which were bound for the United Kingdom. One British and 1 Greek vessel were travelling to Eire. 12.9.40

(ii) On the 17th September the Halifax (21) and the Sydney (12) Sections of a Convoy left their assembly ports to effect junction at sea. The combined convoy sailed under the ocean escort of H.M.S. "MONTCLARE". The 33 ships consisted of 24 British, 5 Norwegian, 2 Dutch, 1 Egyptian and 1 Greek, all of which were bound for the United Kingdom. There was no Bermuda Section to this convoy. Because of a threatened hurricane, all ships were diverted to Halifax. 17.9.40

(iii) There were 5 independent trans-ocean sailings during the week, 3 from the Atlantic Coast and 2 from the Pacific.

4. Works.

- (a) A total of 103 ships were inspected at D.E.M.S. ports throughout Canada during the week. These inspections were carried out at the following ports: 42 at Sydney, 26 at Halifax, 22 at Montreal, 8 at Esquimalt and 5 at Saint John.
- (b) The Dutch vessel "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" is being stiffened for the installation of defensive armament and the erection of bridge protection at Halifax. The provision of a 4-in. gun for this ship exhausts the supply in Canada of this type of weapon for merchant ships, but more (32) 4-in. guns are expected in the near future.
- (c) The Norwegian vessels "RISANGER", "MURENA" and "EGDA" have refused to sail without armament. They have been taken in hand for stiffening at Halifax and will await the arrival of the new equipment.
- (d) Twenty vessels were provided with Thompson machine guns during the week for defence against attack by enemy aircraft. It is expected that the stock of high angle machine guns will be replenished in the near future.
- (e) Sixty-nine vessels were inspected for defects in their degaussing gear during the week. Of these 64 were found to be satisfactory, 3 in need of repairs, 1 unsatisfactory and 1 to have been wiped.
- (f) Seventeen vessels are now in hand in Canadian ports, either for the installation of degaussing gear or for repairs to their present equipment.