

the White Ensign of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, R.C.M.P.,
ships have been stationed during of Naval Patrol in the
Caribbean and in other special territories from time to
time.

Canadian R.C.M.P. is constantly on guard in Canadian coastal
waters. The monotonous but vital work of submarine patrol
is carried on in the St. Lawrence River itself.
The R.C.M.P. works closely with several reconnaissance
expeditions of the R.C.M.P. in this vital task, every day
minesweepers steam out from Canadian ports to do about their
dangerous job.

Fishermen's Reserve

The West Coast of Canada, with its deep indentations and
varied small islands, presents a special problem for patrol.
The mainland itself stretches 1,500 miles; the islands are
another 5,000 miles -- a total of 6,500 miles to watch over.
No ordinary naval force that Canada could put in the water
could guard this great length of coastline. But Canada found
the answer to this problem ready at hand.

In the early months of 1939, a third reserve for the Navy was
formed, drawn from men in the west coast fishing industry. These
men know the waters as only fishermen could. Their boats, which
they brought with them into the reserve, were built to withstand
the trials of the coast. These crews were quite large and sturdy,
and were easily converted into patrol boats.
But the fishermen's reserve was ready to do more than patrol work.
Boats were fitted up for minesweeping, and when the war broke out
this reserve, the most essential job was undertaken by them on
the west coast.