

they brought with them into the reserve, were built to negotiate the inlets of the coast. Large and sturdy, these craft were easily converted into patrol boats.

The fishermen's reserve has done much more than patrol the coast. Boats were fitted up for minesweeping, and when the war broke out this dangerous, but most essential job was undertaken by men of the reserve. They had charge of rounding up Japanese fishing boats on the British Columbia coast and took into their charge more than 1,000 boats. The main purpose for which they were organized they have discharged very satisfactorily. The present situation is different from what it was in the early days of the war. The menace from Japanese boats has disappeared. Canada has a stronger naval force on the Pacific coast than at the beginning of the war. In all the circumstances it was felt that the fishermen's reserve might be disbanded, and this has been done.

The men who belonged to the fishermen's reserve had the choice of joining the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve or the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve or of going back to their regular pursuit of fishing.

#### ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY ENCOUNTERS

From the beginning of the war to March, 1945, Canadian ships have destroyed or shared in the destruction of 23 enemy submarines, have probably destroyed eight submarines, and probably damaged seven more. In the same period Canadian ships have participated in the sinking of at least 44 enemy surface vessels, in the severe damaging of 26 enemy surface vessels, and in the capture of one. The enemy vessels sunk or damaged included destroyers, minesweepers, trawlers, E-boats and merchant ships.

Canadian ships of war, therefore, have sunk or helped to sink at least 67 enemy vessels of various types, have damaged 26 others, have captured one, have probably sunk eight and probably damaged seven more.

While the principal role of the Canadian navy has been protection of the north Atlantic convoy route, Canadian ships and personnel have been assigned various types of offensive and protective duty in many war theatre.

#### 1939-41

H.M.C.S. Assiniboine aided a British cruiser in capturing and salvaging a big German freighter, the Hanover, in West Indies waters early in the war.

H.M.C.S. Bras d'Or, a converted minesweeper, captured S.S. Capo Noli, an Italian ship on June 9th, 1940. The foreign vessel was caught as it tried to escape from the St. Lawrence River. This was the first Canadian naval success against the Italians. The Capo Noli was placed in the empire merchant service.

The destroyers Restigouche and St. Laurent aided in the evacuation of the 51st Division of the British Army at St. Valery-en-Caux, June 11, 1940. While engaged in evacuating British troops from Bordeaux, H.M.C.S. Fraser was cut in two by another warship as a result of having to travel without lights in a danger zone. Restigouche, which was participating in this action, at the risk of attack by aircraft and submarines turned on all search-lights and performed a "miracle of navigation" to rescue 115 of the crew of the Fraser. Forty-five of the crew were lost.

The German express cargo boat Weser was captured off the west coast of Mexico in September of the same year, by the auxiliary cruiser, Prince Robert, one of three former passenger liners converted to Canadian naval use.

Early in December of 1940 the Canadian destroyer Saguenay was