

Veteran ships of the war against Germany are now returning to Canada - a large number have already arrived. The first Pacific-bound warship to go to the west coast from the north Atlantic was H.M.C.S. WASKESIU. This frigate is undergoing "tropicalization" and refitting at Esquimalt, British Columbia, Canada's greatest western naval base.

Ships which cannot be used in the Pacific will be stripped of whatever armament and equipment may be useful in the fight against the Japanese. The process of armament stripping is now well under way in east coast Canadian harbors.

PERSONNEL

Canadian naval personnel for the Pacific war will number approximately 37,000 of whom 13,500 will be required to serve afloat in the Far East. This represents one-third of sea-going strength at the end of the war against Germany. From the additional 23,500 will come the necessary replacements for sea duty, reserves and administrative personnel at headquarters and naval bases in Canada.

Personnel for sea duty in the Pacific are being selected from those who volunteer for operations against Japan. Many volunteers will be retained in Canada for shore duty, and some who do not specifically ask to be sent to the Pacific will also be used for necessary service in Canada. Actually every man who has entered the navy at any stage of the war volunteered for active service anywhere in the world for the duration of hostilities. Because of the smaller number of ships of the R.C.N. capable of Pacific service and consequently the smaller number of Canadian naval personnel needed for the Pacific campaign, surplus personnel will not be required to remain in the navy.

By means of a questionnaire, naval men on sea, land and in training were given the opportunity of revolunteering to remain in the service until the end of the war with Japan. Recruiting is being continued only for those who wish to sign up for Pacific duty.

On June 21, 1945, Navy Minister Abbott announced that more than 32,000 officers and ratings had volunteered for the Pacific theatre to that date. This represents approximately 35% of the R.C.N.'s present total strength, and all returns had not been tabulated. Mr. Abbott added:

"We have more than enough volunteers to man the Pacific fleet and supply an adequate pool of reserves."

Special campaign pay will be provided for those who serve in the Pacific theatre. The scale will run from 30 cents a day for ordinary seamen to \$1 for lieutenant-commanders and higher ranks. This practice has already been established by the Royal Navy and brings Canadian navy pay more in line with rates in the United States Navy.

UGANDA

First of the Canadian warships to go into offensive action against the Japanese was H.M.C.S. UGANDA. In its first action against Japanese soil, under command of Captain E.R. Mainguy of the R.C.N., its nine six-inch guns hurled 183 rounds of high explosive shells at Sukama airfield in Miyaka Island, just south of Okinawa. Uganda was so close to shore that shell bursts could be seen by the naked eye. On going into action, the executive officer gave