

Pacific volunteers have top priority for return from overseas and, ever since early June, have been arriving back in Canada. All overseas personnel are given 30 days clear leave at home plus whatever special leave may be owing them. Special pay is being added to basic rates of all three services for personnel serving in the Pacific war theatre.

## ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

### Ships

Canadian warships that will be used in the war against Japan will number approximately 60 vessels, excluding replacements, and will serve with the British Pacific Fleet in primarily offensive action.

As the Royal Canadian Navy was built up mainly for the purpose of north Atlantic convoy, its greatest numerical strength was in frigates, corvettes and other smaller ships for escort and patrol duty. Addition of destroyers and larger warships gradually turned it from a defensive to a more balanced navy with a strength of 940 ships, including 374 combat vessels. As the majority of Canadian ships are too small and without sufficient speed and range for the vast expanses of the Pacific, Canada's contribution is necessarily confined to offensive units. Necessary convoy work will be done by the frigates.

The Canadian ships include Canada's first cruiser, H.M.C.S. UGANDA, already in action against Japan, and a sister ship, H.M.C.S. ONTARIO, the most modern cruiser serving in any of the Commonwealth navies. Canada's second cruiser was commissioned in Belfast, North Ireland, in April and will be queen of the Canadian naval fleet. The commander, Captain Harold T.W. Grant, will be senior Canadian officer in the Pacific. The ONTARIO has left on the first leg of its journey to the Pacific. Both ships carry complements of nearly 900 officers and men.

A Canadian anti-aircraft ship, H.M.C.S. PRINCE ROBERT, will also be in action against Japan. Earlier in the war this ship served in the Pacific and Mediterranean as an armed merchant cruiser.

The Canadian navy will acquire from the United Kingdom two new aircraft carriers which are nearing completion. These "light fleet" carriers will be the largest warships Canada has ever had. They will be manned by crews of more than 1,300, including air personnel. Canada has no separate fleet air arm service, but approximately 800 Canadians are serving or in training with the fleet air arm of the Royal Navy. So far as possible these Canadians will be used on the Canadian ships.

Canada will also have a formidable force of destroyers and frigates. H.M.C.S. MICMAC, a Tribal class destroyer and the first destroyer to be built in a Canadian shipyard, will shortly join seasoned Canadian naval units in the Pacific. The other three Tribal class destroyers, H.M.C.S. HAIDA, HURON and IROQUOIS, which have been on constant duty during the last year in offensive strikes off Norway and France, will also go to the Pacific. These returned to Canada early in June to be reconditioned for Pacific duty. The "V" class destroyers, H.M.C.S. SIOUX and ALGONQUIN, are also destined for Pacific service. The R.C.N. is acquiring from the British Admiralty a flotilla of fast new Fleet class destroyers to form part of the Canadian destroyer group.

Approximately 36 of the newest Canadian frigates will go to fight the Japanese. Between destroyers and corvettes in size, frigates formed a considerable part of Canadian naval strength for the Atlantic convoy.