

In 1944 Canada's naval escort forces were strengthened by the addition of 16 British - built corvettes while Canadian shipyards built 16 Algerine class Fleet minesweepers for the Royal Navy. Twelve of the corvettes for the R.C.N. are of the Castle class, a type new to the R.C.N. and much improved over the Flower class corvette. They are larger and more powerfully armed than the standard type of corvette. The remaining four corvettes are of the revised Flower class design and have been in operation since early in 1944.

Minesweepers

Coastal patrol and protection in Canada's defence zones on both Atlantic and Pacific shores is an important part of the Canadian navy's work. Minesweeping must be carried on continually. But Canadian minesweepers have also proved efficient in escort and anti-submarine duty, and played an important role on D-day. There are almost as many minesweepers in the R.C.N. as corvettes. Minesweepers carry guns, depth charges and listening devices and often perform much the same work as corvettes in addition to their duties of sweeping and destroying mines.

Fairmiles

Fairmile motor launches are particularly suited for convoy escort in coastal waters such as the St. Lawrence River and Gulf. The Fairmiles seen off Canada's coasts and in the St. Lawrence River are all-Canadian built. Scores of them are now at sea.

Landing Ships Infantry

Landing Ships Infantry, converted auxiliary cruisers, are large craft of about 10,000 tons. The Canadians LSI's, Prince Henry and Prince David, have been used in three European invasions. The Prince Henry has now been turned over to the Royal Navy and is being reconditioned for service in the Pacific.

Auxiliary Vessels

Before the war broke out the navy made arrangements for auxiliary ships to be used in time of crisis. The Canadian government owned more than 70 boats which in peacetime were used by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Department of Fisheries, Transport, Public Works and Mines and Resources. They were quickly and easily converted for use as minesweepers, examination and patrol boats and anti-submarine guard.

Armed Yachts

Fifteen armed yachts were put into Canadian naval service early in the war. These vessels were named after Canadian animals: Beaver, Cougar, Caribou, Elk, Grizzly, Lynx, Moose, Raccoon, Otter, Reindeer, Renard, Vison, Wolf and Sans Peur. The last, formerly the yacht of the Duke of Sutherland, retained its own name.

R.C.N. LOSSES

Losses of the Royal Canadian Navy in ships are as follows:

Destroyers

Fraser	Bay of Biscay
Margaree	Mid-Atlantic
Ottawa	Mid-Atlantic
St. Croix	Mid-Atlantic
Athabaskan	English Channel