

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 most efficient in escort and anti-submarine duty. There are almost as many minesweepers in the R.C.N. as corvettes. Minesweepers carry guns, depth charges and asdic listening devices and often perform much the same work as corvettes in addition to their duties of sweeping and destroying mines. Like the corvette, the minesweeper carries a crew of more than 50 men.

Fairmiles

The Fairmile motor launches are a new and effective weapon against the submarine attack. Particularly are they suitable for convoy escorting in coastal waters such as the St. Lawrence River and Gulf, the Bristol Channel, the Irish Sea and the English Channel.

More than 100 feet long, the Fairmile is a lineal descendant of the well-known sub-chaser of the last war. High powered twin-screw Hall-Scott engines of 630 h.p. give them a considerable driving power and their trim lines enable them to "turn on a dime". They are fitted with 2-1 reduction gear and at top speed can churn up 2100 revolutions. They have a great range and striking power. Their main weapon is the depth charge they carry in great number. Also among their weapons are certain secret devices which cannot be disclosed further.

The Fairmiles seen off Canada's coasts and in the St. Lawrence River are all-Canadian built. Scores of them are now at sea and in the process of building.

Wooden-hulled submarine chasers and their sisters, motor torpedo boats, built in Canadian yards are in service with the R.C.N. The motor torpedo boats being built in Canada were created by Hubert Scott Paine, famous English flying boat and motorboat designer. Their construction is a wartime secret. These boats are equipped with torpedo tubes, anti-aircraft guns, and are powered by Packard marine engines. They are very speedy.

Auxiliary Cruisers

Liners, converted as auxiliary cruisers, have done good service in the R.C.N. as convoy protectors. In their encounters with German undersea craft they have never come off second best.

Other Auxiliary Vessels

Before the war broke out the Navy made arrangements for other auxiliary ships to be used in time of crisis. The Canadian Government owned more than seventy boats which in peacetime were used by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Department of Fisheries, Transport, Public Works and Mines and Resources. These boats 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, Husky, Lynx, Moose, Raccoon, Otter, Reindeer, Renard, Vison (French for mink), Wolf and Sans Peur. This last, formerly the yacht of the Duke of Sutherland, retained its own name.

Operations of the Navy are strict secrets. Occasionally, however, secrecy is relaxed to reveal an action.

The flotilla leader Assiniboine aided a British cruiser in capturing and salvaging a big German freighter, the "Hannover", in West Indies waters early in the war.

CANADA'S
ENCOUNTERS
AND SUCCESS
WITH
SUBMARINES