

(C O P Y)

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Cabinet War Committee
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ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

The Prime Minister of United Kingdom has requested that assistance be given by Canada in the form of Naval personnel to man certain Cruisers, Destroyers, Landing Craft.

The Chief of Combined Operations stated that the Combined Operations organization would be some 20,000 short of requirements by Spring 1944.

The proposal is that Canada assist in overcoming this shortage by providing some 3,200 officers and men. It is proposed:

That some of these (893) go to Commandos

- (a) to form Canadian Beach Commando and Signal Unit (100);
- (b) to man 3 Canadian Flotillas of [large] Landing Craft (Tanks) (36 craft) (793)

That 120 be lent to Royal Navy as Officer candidates at rate of 10 per month.

The remainder of Canadians would help in overcoming Royal Navy shortage by manning ships which would be Canadian units.

The ships to be gradually manned by Canadian personnel would be:

2 Cruisers	Canadian Flotillas
2 Fleet Destroyers	M.G.B., and M.T.B.
1 Training Cruiser	

It is estimated that the infiltration of Canadian crews into Royal Navy ships will be completed in the calendar year 1944.

The Canadian personnel for this new commitment can be made available out of the presently approved complement of the Canadian Navy (82,000 by 31st March 1944) - because of delay in commissioning of new construction escort vessels this year. The present strength of Canadian Navy is 72,000.

The movement of Royal Canadian Navy personnel to the United Kingdom would commence in October 1943 and would proceed approximately as follows:

Between now and end of the year -	approximately -	1800
1st quarter, 1944	-	500
2nd quarter 1944	-	500

In addition it is desirable that 2 Aircraft Carriers and necessary shore facilities be provided:

Aircraft Carriers between now and end of the year -	650 men
1st and 2nd quarters, 1944	- 1800 men
3rd and 4th quarters, 1944	- 1900 men