

NEW SHIP CONSTRUCTION
 ALL - NAVAL ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION
 PERIOD 1st OCTOBER 1943 TO 31st DECEMBER 1943

C253576
 138. Steel Hesej Oil Tankers
 Controlled 1000 Minelayers
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10. (Cont'd.) Close liaison with Operations and O.I.C. is maintained which results in a high standard of plotting efficiency and accuracy.

With the exception of certain sailings from the Mediterranean area to the U.S. and "out of position" reports from independent ships, incoming Merchant Shipping Intelligence signals have been completed and satisfactory.

11. Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships

D.E.M.S. inspections have been carried out in ports throughout Canada and Newfoundland as follows:

Halifax.....	436
Sydney.....	104
St. John, N.B.....	64
Montreal.....	80
Quebec.....	17
Esquimalt.....	2
Vancouver.....	50
St. John's, Nfld.....	126

Armament has been provided 48 vessels of which 22 were completed at Esquimalt, 11 at Montreal, 6 at Sorel, 4 at Pictou, 3 at Quebec, 1 at Halifax and 1 at Sydney.

Mounting of 4" Mk. XIX HA/LA guns is proceeding satisfactorily, and to date a total of 66 new construction vessels both British and Canadian registry, have been fitted with these guns. In addition a total of 18 vessels, marked above thus (+), have had a 12 Pdr. HA/LA gun mounted forward.

Although, due to the limited stock of Oerlikons on hand, the majority of new construction vessels armed during the quarter, were supplied with only 2 Oerlikons, a total of 10 vessels were fitted with 4 Oerlikons each in accordance with Admiralty instructions.

All new construction vessels of 10,000 tons were equipped with one U.P. Mk. II (Pillar Box) Mtg. with the exception of tankers.

The A.N.D. Depot at Montreal was moved to Quebec during the quarter and sub-depots were opened at St. John, N.B., Sydney and St. John's, Newfoundland.

During the quarter 6 R.C.N.V.R. Officers were drafted to D.E.M.S. for duty as seagoing Gunnery Officers. These Officers have all been embarked on 10,000 ton new construction vessels of Canadian registry.

Lieutenant D. R. Macrae, R.C.N.V.R., was appointed to the R.C.N. Depot as D.E.M.S. Drafting Officer.

12. D.E.M.S. and Merchant Navy Gunnery Training

Work has commenced or is about to commence shortly on the following additions to D.E.M.S. Training facilities:

HALIFAX

The War Watching Station at Osborne Head, and a piece of adjacent land have been acquired for a firing range. Gun implacements will be built and in addition to A/A practice a 12 Pdr. will be mounted for L.A. firing. In the school a Miniature Tracer Firing Range has been installed.