

It ranked next below a frigate, was fast sailing and easy to manoeuvre -- in these two respects it was like the corvettes of the Royal Canadian Navy.

Corvettes are small, specially designed for escort and anti-submarine duties.

Canadian shipyards are turning these vessels out in large numbers. Complicated in design and packed with equipment, it required approximately 375,000 man-hours of labour to build and outfit one of these ships. Designing and building a corvette calls for great skill, because of the large quantity of equipment to be fitted into the small space of the ship. The number of corvettes obviously for secret reasons cannot be revealed. However, in November of 1942, they were listed as well over 75 strong.

Specifications of the latest and fastest of this type of ship are secret. Corvettes which were built during the earlier part of the war were 190 feet in length and included armament of a 4-inch gun, machine gun, and depth charges. The total cost was \$700,000.

These ships have a "terrific roll" but they are extremely seaworthy and easy to manoeuvre. They will not break under the strain of wind and weather.

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 are designed for more duties than their name would imply. They have proved most efficient in escort and anti-submarine duty.