

A flotilla of eight Tribal class destroyers being built for the Royal Canadian Navy. Four, the Iroquois, Huron, Athabaskan and Haida, built in British yards have been in action for some time. The Athabaskan was sunk in pre-D-day actions but the other three are operating with ships of the allied nations. The other four are being built in Canada. Two, H.M.C.S. Micmac and Nootka, have already been launched.

Tribal class destroyers are among the best and fastest afloat. They are heavily armed; carrying as part of their armament 4.7-inch guns. They carry a crew of 190 and have four 21-inch torpedoes.

The Royal Navy has placed six of its escort destroyers at the disposal of the R.C.N. These destroyers, which are of the River class, have been renamed Ottawa, Gatineau, Kootenay, Saskatchewan, Qu'Appelle and Chaudiere.

Early in 1944, two Fleet class destroyers, Algonquin and Sioux, were commissioned with all-Canadian crews.

During 1940 in exchange for strategic land bases, the British Commonwealth of Nations received from the U.S. 50 over-age destroyers. Canada's allotment of these was seven, a most valuable addition to Canada's naval strength.

In October 1939 the R.C.N. took over the destroyer Kempenfeldt (for which the Canadian Government had been negotiating before the war started) from the R.N. as flotilla leader for the Canadian fleet. The ship was rechristened the Assiniboine.

Frigates

The frigate, a new type of warship between the corvette and the destroyer in size, has more speed and a greater range than the corvette, and has more accommodation for the crew. It carries a crew of about 140.

Corvettes

The first corvette launched in Canada was not built to harry German submarines. It was a 500-ton ship contracted for by Neree Levasseur, a builder of ships for Louis XV of France, and launched at Quebec in 1739. A corvette was a sloop of war.

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

Corvettes are small, built somewhat on the lines of the sailing ship, especially designed for escort and anti-submarine duties.

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

Canadian shipyards have turned these vessels out in large numbers. Three corvettes can be built in the time it takes to build a destroyer, and they can be built on the Great Lakes and taken down to the sea over the Great Lakes canal and river system. 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. There are more than 100 corvettes in the Royal Canadian Navy, and many others have been built for the Royal Navy.

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.