

## SIX RCN SHIPS FOR CORONATION REVIEW

**3,000 COMPLEMENT:** Six ships of the Royal Canadian Navy and two squadrons of RCN aircraft will take part in the Coronation naval review at Spithead on June 15.

The ships, with a total complement of more than 3,000 officers and men, will be HMCS Magnificent, the cruisers HMCS Ontario and HMCS Quebec, HMCS Sioux (fleet class destroyer) and the frigates HMCS La Hullose and HMCS Swansea.

This will be the second occasion on which Canada's navy has been represented at a Spithead review. In 1937, the destroyers HMCS Skeena and HMCS Saguenay took part in the naval review which followed the coronation of His Majesty King George VI.

Plans for the attendance of Canadian warships at the review have been fitted into the Navy's sea training programme. Sailing of the Swansea and La Hullose will be delayed until after the close of the university year to permit more than 100 UNID cadets to make the journey.

On board the carrier, cruisers and destroyer will be officers and men of the regular force and reserve who will take part in the Coronation procession in London on June 2. Representatives of the women's services will make the Atlantic crossing in commercial passenger ships.

Marching in the procession will be 78 officers, men and women of the RCN and RCN (Reserve). Other officers and men of the RCN and RCN (Reserve) will join with members of the Canadian forces in lining the procession route

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**ARMED SERVICES STRENGTH:** Canada's three armed services increased by a total of 12,152 officers and men during 1952, it was announced on January 27 at National Defence Headquarters. The combined strength of the services on December 31 stood at 101,409 officers and men, compared with 88,257 at the end of 1951.

A total of 29,141 officers and men were recruited by the three services during 1952. Of this number, the Royal Canadian Navy enrolled 3,719, the Canadian Army 12,962 and the RCAF 12,460.

Last month, a total of 1,979 personnel was enrolled in the three services. The Royal Canadian Navy recruited 217 officers and men, the Canadian Army 926 and the RCAF 836.

The Canadian Army's intake for December, normally a poor recruiting month, was an increase over November. Army releases for December were down from the previous month. The new figures brought the total strength of the army to 47,959 at December 31, 1952, compared with 47,702 a month earlier.

The strength of the RCN passed the 15,000 mark during December, and at the end of 1952 stood at 15,059 officers and men, compared

in the vicinity of Canada House, Trafalgar Square.

The Ontario and Sioux will sail from their Esquimalt, B.C. base to arrive in Halifax on April 27. They will leave Halifax for the United Kingdom with the Magnificent and Quebec on May 7, disembarking the RCN Coronation contingent at Spithead on May 15.

During the latter part of May, the Magnificent, with the Sioux as plane guard, will conduct flying operations off Northern Ireland. The Ontario and Quebec will exercise off the south coast of England.

The La Hullose and Swansea will sail from Halifax on May 18 and will rendezvous with the other four ships in the Solent, off Portsmouth, on May 30, at which time the Magnificent will disembark her Carrier Air Group to Lee-on-Solent. (The Solent and Spithead to the east together make up the channel separating the Isle of Wight from the English mainland).

The following days will be a bustle of painting ship and rigging dressing lines and lighting circuits in preparation for the day when the warships will be reviewed by Her Majesty and Queen. The ceremony will be in two parts. During daylight hours the ships will be decked from stem to stern with flags. At night the ships will be outlined in electric lights and they will be bathed in the glare of rockets and searchlights.

A flypast of naval aircraft, in which the two RCN squadrons will participate, will take place during daylight.

with 12,719 personnel on December 31, 1951--a 12-month increase of 2,340 personnel. As at November 30, 1952, the Navy total was 14,928.

In accordance with planned requirements the RCAF showed a net gain of nearly 9,000 personnel during 1952. Air Force strength at the close of 1952 was 38,391 compared to 29,552 on December 31, 1951, and 37,962 on November 30, 1952.

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**WHEAT SUPPLIES:** Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on January 15 amounted to 258,561,000 bushels as compared with 228,792,000 on the corresponding date last year. Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week amounted to 3,511,000 bushels against 3,591,000, and in the cumulative period, 134,402,000 bushels compared with 105,978,000.

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**BUDGETARY SURPLUS:** The announcement of the nine-month budgetary surplus of \$264.1 million on page four of the January 30 issue of this bulletin was made by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Douglas C. Abbott, on January 24.