

NEW RCMP PATROL BOATS

By Sgt. R. O. Newman

THE July 1955 *Quarterly* contained an account of a construction campaign planned for the RCMP "Marine" Division, designed to provide the Force with modern vessels as replacements for craft acquired from the Royal Canadian Navy after World War II. Smaller boats were first on the priority list, with a prototype patrol boat, the *Chilcoot II*, being launched in the autumn of 1954. Three new craft were accepted by the Force in 1955 and this short article provides a few details about each of them.

Cutknife II is the name of a new RCMP patrol boat launched July 6 at the boatyards of J. J. Taylor and Sons, Toronto, Ont. Christened by Mrs. G. B. McClellan, wife of the Officer Commanding "O" Division, the *Cutknife II* is the second patrol boat of this class launched within a year. She includes various modifications adopted after trials of the prototype patrol boat *Chilcoot II* launched last fall. Construction of a third craft of the same design will commence in the near future.

The *Cutknife II* is approximately 50 feet long, has a 14-foot beam and draws approximately three feet of water. She travels well over 30 miles per hour and

is powered by two 350 h.p. V-12 Scripps engines. In a sunken well in the stern, a 13-foot skiff is stored, for patrol use in extremely shallow water. Her base for work trials has been Kingston, Ont., from where she has patrolled the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario waters from Cornwall to Presqu'île.

Accommodation on the *Cutknife II* includes a combined lounge and office, dinette which converts into a berth, toilet and sleeping facilities for five. She carries a gas fumes indicator for safety purposes, suitable armament, life saving and First-Aid equipment and her engine room is protected with a Lux C.O.² system. Her navigational equipment is modern and of a high standard, including a speedometer registering in land and nautical miles, a depth recorder and communication equipment of the latest and most suitable pattern for operations on the lakes.

Decks of the *Cutknife II* are of teak and her fittings are chrome. She is fitted with a small galley, refrigerator, propane stove, stainless steel sink, gas-fired water heater and other modern accessories. Under command of Sgt. N. C. C. Roberts, she carries a crew of four.

The *Cutknife II* after launching at the shipyards of J. J. Taylor and Sons, Toronto, Ont.

