During the summer months, Canada's peacetime Navy toured Canadian ports. They took aboard reservists for short, intensive training courses, covering discipline, seamanship, engine-room duty, gunnery, torpedo, wireless, signals, searchlight naval routine, and tactical exercises under assorting conditions.

During the winter, Canadian destroyers took part with ships of the Royal Navy in intensive exercises and manoeuvres in West Indian waters.

In 1934, reserve strength consisted of:

	Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve	Royal Canadian Naval Reserve
Officers	73	10
Ratings	899	129

Canada's Marine Position

As the 1930's drew to a close, and the possibility of another World War began to emerge from a confused world scene, Canadian interest in marine power quickened. All over the world, the experts debated the position of the Navy in modern war. But there were reasons other than the threat of war which made it clear that Canada must have a competent naval force of her own.

Canada's economy is based upon the exchange of the commodities of which she has great surpluses for commodities of other countries which Canada lacks. To prosper, Canada had to become a great trading nation. In 1939 Canada was the fifth trading nation in the world. During the year ending March 31, 1939, 116,907 vessels of 90,161,572 tonnage entered and left Canadian ports. Of these ships 27,300 vessels of 31,393,871 tons were sailing, and 73,586 vessels of 43,366,457 tons were coastwise. Besides this shipping, the deep sea fishing industry averaged around $40 millions per year.

Canada, as a maritime power, needed a navy to protect her shipping. But it is difficult to obtain parliamentary appropriations for defence projects in peacetime. Naval appropriations for the six years before the war were:

1934-35	$4,224,000
35-36	4,[illegible],000
36-37	4,395,000
37-38	4,853,000
38-39	4,[illegible],000
39-40	6,639,000

It will be seen from these figures that, although they increased year by year, the scope of the R.C.N. at the beginning of the war was most limited.

The entire coast of the Navy in 1939, just before the outbreak of war, was lines than half the coast of the Mediterranean. Still, the Naval staff made such preparations as [illegible] for the battle [illegible] more plain before them [illegible].