



"OF THINGS TO COME"— "Marine" Division

TEN years ago VE-Day signalled the end of the war in Europe. To a group of former RCMP personnel it meant that a job started six years earlier was finished. These were members of the former RCMP Marine Section who served with the Royal Canadian Navy from the outbreak of war.

Prior to the war the Force had an agreement with the RCN that in the event of a national emergency ships of the Marine Section and personnel who wished to volunteer, would be available for active duty. When hostilities broke out in September 1939 this agreement was fulfilled to the extent that practically all of our water craft and the majority of sea-going personnel were on Naval

service within a week. With the battle of the Atlantic over, the release of these men by the Navy for duty with the Force once more, was possible.

After six years of hostilities there were bound to be changes in the reorganized RCMP "Marine" Division. Casualties and other causes required a large replacement of personnel but perhaps the major problem was providing a fleet to replace the pre-war vessels. Considering all circumstances it was but natural for the Force to turn to the Service which acquired our facilities in a time of national emergency. Naval co-operation was excellent and speedily they had offered three classes of vessels which came close to the size desired for RCMP service: (1) Naval diesel Bangors—160 feet long; (2) Naval Fairmiles—112 feet; (3) Naval Harbour Defence Patrol Craft—48 feet.

The life expectancy of these three types of vessels for active and economical service was intended to be ten years. When the Force took delivery of them

Top of page—Reproduction of artist's painting of new 165-foot twin-screw vessel which will replace the present "Commissioner" class ships in "Marine" Division.