

REFERENCE PAPERS

WARTIME INFORMATION BOARD, OTTAWA April 27, 1943.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

Strength at March 29.....more than 55,556

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Ratings</u>	<u>Total</u>
R.C.N.....	628	3,395	4,023
R.C.N.R.....	942	5,011	5,953
R.C.N.V.R.....	4,550	42,438	46,988
TOTAL.....	6,120	50,844	56,964

Less Divisional Strength (reserve, on call for active service).....	535	2,656	3,191
TOTAL.....	5,585	48,188	53,773
W.R.C.N.S.....	77	1,706	1,783
TOTAL active service.....	5,662	49,894	55,556

R.C.N. men serving with Royal Navy (at March 29)..... more than 1,440

Pre-war strength of R.C.N..... 1,774

Ships at March 29..... more than 500

Pre-war strength in ships..... 16

Casualties as at March 29:

Killed on active service.....	781
Other deaths.....	102
Wounded or injured.....	159
Prisoners of war.....	6
Losses of ships.....	12

Decorations as at March 31:

Companion of the Order of the Bath.....	1
Distinguished Service Order.....	3
Order of the British Empire.....	11
Companion of the Order of the British Empire.....	1
Member of the Order of the British Empire.....	8
Distinguished Service Cross.....	33
Distinguished Service Cross and Bar.....	1
Distinguished Service Medal.....	21
British Empire Medal.....	9
Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.....	1
George Medal.....	1
George Medal and Bar.....	2
Medal of the Order of the British Empire.....	6
Cross of Valour (Polish).....	4
Norwegian War Medal.....	1
Albert Medal.....	1
Mentioned in despatches.....	151
Commendations.....	13
Testimonial.....	1
King's Dirk.....	1

Functions of the Service

The Canadian Navy has four different parts to play in the sea warfare of the United Nations:

- 1) Protection of Merchant Shipping
- 2) Protection of Canadian shores
- 3) Destruction or capture of enemy Merchant and Fighting ships
- 4) Blockade

Convoy

In this war, it was obvious that Canada must play the role of convoy protector, and when, upon the declaration of war, the British Admiralty asked by wireless when the Canadian convoy system could go into operation, the answer flashed back: "Immediately."