

## H.M. YACHT BRITANNIA AND HER CANADIAN ESCORTS

The royal yacht *Britannia* was designed to fit the dual rôle of Royal Yacht in peace time and naval hospital ship in time of war. She was launched at the Clydeside yard of John Brown and Co. on April 16, 1953, and was commissioned on January 11, 1954.

The ship is 412 feet, 3 inches long overall, has a beam of 55 feet, draws a maximum of 17 feet and has a gross tonnage of 5,769 tons. Twin turbines give her a cruising speed of 18 knots with a maximum rate of speed of almost 23 knots. She has a normal cruising range of more than 3,000 miles and has facilities for refuelling at sea. She carries a 40-foot Royal Barge. Her normal crew complement is 255 men, including 21 officers, 53 petty officers and 9 Royal Marines.

The Royal Canadian Navy escort vessels for the *Britannia* during the present visit are the destroyer escorts *Assiniboine*, *Nipigon*, *St. Laurent*, and *Yukon*.

H.M.C.S. *Assiniboine* (DDE-234) was first commissioned at Sorel, P.Q., in 1956, and after a 14-month conversion was recommissioned in mid-1963. She has a helicopter flight deck and hangar and anti-roll fins, and carries the twin-jet Sea King all-weather helicopter, fitted with submarine detection and homing torpedoes. *Assiniboine* is 366 feet long, displaces 2,800 tons and carries a crew of 236.

H.M.C.S. *Nipigon* (DDE-226) is of the new "Annapolis" class and was commissioned in May 1964. Her construction incorporates facilities for the Sea King helicopter. The use of the helicopter multiplies several times the radius of effective anti-submarine action of the vessel. The ship is also equipped with the Canadian-designed and built variable depth sonar.

H.M.C.S. *St. Laurent* is the first ship constructed under the destroyer-building program and was commissioned in 1955. She has recently been converted to handle the Sea King helicopter. Her rounded hull lines counter ice-formation in winter