

Other Auxiliary Vessels

Before the war broke out the Navy made arrangements for other auxiliary ships to be used in time of crisis. The Canadian Government owned some in a variety of capacities in general were used by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Department of Fisheries, Transport, Public Works and Plans and Resources. These boats were usually and easily converted for use as minesweepers, examination and patrol boats, and anti-submarine guards.

Armed Vessels

Fifteen armed yachts were put into Canadian naval service early in the war. These vessels were named after Canadian animals: Beaver, Gosport, Gull, Hawk, Kingfisher, Loon, Otter, Porpoise, Raven, Seal, Skunk, Sturgeon, and Trout. This last, formerly the yacht of the Duke of Sutherland, retained its own name.

Operations of the Navy are strictly secret. Occasionally, however, secret is relaxed to reveal a successful action. The flotilla leader, Rear Admiral, the "Hannover", capturing and salvaging a big German freighter, the "Hannover", in West Indian waters early in the war.

H.M.C.S. Brambling, a converted minesweeper, captured the German cargo ship, the "Hannover", on June 27, 1940. The "Hannover" was damaged as it tried to escape from the "Hannover" flotilla. This was the first Canadian war vessel against the Germans. The ship was damaged in the capture.

The "Hannover" flotilla and its command aided in the evacuation of the East Division of the British Army at Valparaiso, Chile, June 11, 1940.