

R.C.N. AIR BRANCH

Two British aircraft carriers, H.M.S. NABOB AND PUNCHER were taken over by the Canadian navy and manned by Canadian officers and seamen, but as there is no Canadian fleet air arm the aircraft and their operational crews remained British. Scores of Canadians have, however, trained for flying duties with the British Fleet Air Arm and are serving in all parts of the world.

Number 14 Service Flying Training School at Collins Bay, Ontario, graduates naval fliers. Canadian officers have been trained with a view to service in Canadian aircraft carriers. After further advanced training in the United Kingdom the Canadian naval fliers serve with the Royal Navy, subject to recall by the R.C.N. for service in Canadian aircraft carriers or shore stations.

In the House of Commons in April, 1945, Navy Minister Macdonald reported that the Royal Canadian Navy had, at that time, 725 aircrew, air engineers and mechanics trained or in training for service in the fleet air arm.

W.R.C.N.S.

The Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service was organized in June, 1942. Shortly after the organization was launched 3,000 applications were received and a naval class of 70 completed training within a few months. To March 31, 1945, more than 6,600 women have enlisted in the "Wrens". Graduates are chiefly officers, petty officers, clerical and domestic personnel. Canadian Wrens are serving throughout Canada, in Washington and New York, in Newfoundland and in the United Kingdom.

"Wrens" must be British subjects, 18-45 years of age, without young children or other dependents, and willing to serve for the duration. Officers are commissioned from the ranks and must be 21 years of age or more, while executive officers must be 25 years of age.

ADMINISTRATION

On July 12, 1940, Hon. Angus L. Macdonald became the first Canadian Minister of National Defence for Naval Services. He resigned on April 18, 1945, and was succeeded by Hon. Douglas C. Abbott, parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Defence.

Previously naval services had been looked after by the Minister of National Defence. One deputy minister occupied himself with both navy and air force until March, 1940. With the organization of the new Department of National Defence for Naval Services, a deputy minister was appointed to deal exclusively with naval matters. This position is held by Mr. W.G. Miller.

Naval Board

A Naval Board was set up on January 22, 1942. Until this time the Chief of Naval Staff was responsible for details of training, operation and equipment. The Board acts in an advisory capacity to the navy minister, and is responsible for general naval policy.

The structure of the Canadian Naval Board roughly corresponds to the British Board of Admiralty, and its members to the British Sea Lords. Members of the Board:

Minister

Honourable Douglas Abbott, K.C.