

REFERENCE PAPERS

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WARTIME INFORMATION BOARD, OTTAWA

No. 19

February 16, 1944.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

Strength at January 18, 1944.....	more than 80,000
Pre-war strength of R.C.N.....	about 1,774
Ships at January 18, 1944.....	more than 700
Pre-war strength in ships.....	16

Decorations as at January 7, 1944:

Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath....	3
Commander of the Order of the British Empire.....	7
Officer of the Order of the British Empire.....	28
Member of the Order of the British Empire.....	28
British Empire Medal.....	46
George Medal.....	6
Albert Medal.....	1
Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.....	1
Companion of the Distinguished Service Order.....	8
Distinguished Service Order.....	49
Distinguished Service Medal.....	28
Associate of the Royal Red Cross.....	3
Royal Humane Society.....	3
Mentioned in Despatches.....	270
Commendations.....	7
Polish Cross.....	4
Norwegian War Medal.....	2
Czechoslovak Military Cross 1937.....	3
Greek Medal of Military Merit 3rd class.....	1
Legion of Merit Naval General Service Medal (U.S. award).....	7

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".

Six days after war began, the first Canadian convoy, numbering 18 ships, was escorted into the open Atlantic. It reached its destination safely. Canadian ships have been on constant duty as convoy escorts ever since.

OFFENSIVE ACTION

Most of the ships of the R.C.N. are designed for convoy work. However, ever, a flotilla of eight Tribal class destroyers is being built for the R.C.N. and five have already been commissioned. These ships are designed for offense, and will add strength to the Canadian service, as well as augmenting the power of the Royal Navy.