

It was in 1920 also that the fleet which had been built up during the war was disposed of. The Navy was in for some lean years.

In 1920 Canada received as gifts from England:

- The Aurora, six-year old cruiser
- The Patrician, four-year old destroyer
- The Patriot, four-year old destroyer
- CH. 14, submarine
- CH. 15, submarine

These comprised Canada's fleet. In 1922 the Aurora and the two submarines were sold, although four minesweepers built during the war were recommissioned. They were the Festubert and the Ypres, stationed on the East Coast, and the Armentieres and Thiepval on the West. During 1922, R.C.N. personnel totaled 366 officers and men.

In that year the Royal Canadian Naval College was closed. 150 officers had graduated from the Naval College. The classes had been small, but the standards were of the highest.

The fact that the Royal Canadian Navy had no pension system for enlisted men did not stimulate interest in the Navy as a career. This most unfair situation was remedied in 1926.

In this year also the Patrician and the Patriot were decommissioned. The British Admiralty lent the R.C.N. two nine-year old destroyers, the Champlain and the Vancouver, pending the construction of two new destroyers.

In 1928 the title of the highest ranking Naval officer in the Canadian Naval Service was changed from Director of Naval Service to Chief of the Naval Staff.

The minesweeper Thiepval was lost during 1930 when it struck an uncharted rock in Barkley Sound, B.C. The minesweeper Ypres was placed on reserve in 1932 and her sister ship, the Festubert, three years later.

In 1931 two new destroyers, H.M.C.S. Saguenay and H.M.C.S. Skeena were commissioned. Contrary to the original plan to return them to England, the Vancouver and the Champlain were also retained.

Appointment of Commodore Nelles

Rear-Admiral Hose retired in 1934 and was succeeded by the present Chief of Naval Staff, Commodore (now Vice-Admiral) Nelles. The 1930's brought with them a renewal of interest in naval defence. With each year of the decade the possibility of another great war grew stronger. When the seventeen-year old cruisers Vancouver and Champlain were judged no longer capable of economical operation, and taken out of service in 1936, the Canadian Government at the urging of the Naval Staff approved the purchase of two new destroyers. For \$1,000,000 apiece the Cygnet and the Crescent, renamed respectively the St. Laurent and the Fraser, were purchased from the Admiralty. These ships had been commissioned in 1932 and were of a class akin to the Skeena and Saguenay. On arrival in Canadian waters the Fraser was based in the West, the St. Laurent in the East. This was 1937.

That same year saw the dominion shipyards busy with four new minesweepers: the Gaspé, Fundy, Nootka and Comox, and (to be used as a training ship) the 143-foot schooner Venture.

The following year two destroyers similar to the others in the Canadian Service were purchased from England at a cost of \$817,500 each. These ships were given the names Ottawa and Restigouche. As had been seen, a policy had been adopted of calling Canadian destroyers after Canadian rivers; the minesweepers were after Canadian bays.