

The R.C.N. is the permanent core of the organization. The R.C.N.R. is composed of persons who have followed the sea as a profession. The R.C.N.V.R. is made up of civilians who are employed in occupations not connected with the sea but who are given training for sea service in an emergency.

The Royal Canadian Naval Reserve and the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve were re-organized in 1923 after the inactive years following World War I.

For some years before this war emphasis had been placed on the work of R.C.N.V.R. Training Divisions. Actually, these training centres would have to supply the greatest part of naval personnel in a war. R.C.N.V.R. training bases were set up across the country. Now (1944) R.C.N.V.R. Training Divisions are established in Calgary, Charlottetown, Edmonton, Esquimalt, Halifax, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Montreal (2), Ottawa, Port Arthur, Prince Rupert, Quebec, Regina, Saskatoon, Saint John, Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Windsor. Approximately 80% of the present Canadian Navy are members of the R.C.N.V.R.

The Royal Canadian Naval College, for the training of officers, H.M.C.S. Royal Roads near Esquimalt, B.C., was re-opened on October 21st, 1942, the 137th anniversary of Trafalgar Day, after being closed for 20 years. The first class of the Naval College graduated and proceeded overseas during September, 1943. Fifty candidates entered the 10 month's course; 43 graduated as midshipment. Sixteen of the graduates elected to join the Royal Canadian Volunteer Reserve for the duration of the war only. Two midshipmen entered the paymaster branch of the R.C.N. and were sent to Halifax for training. The 25 remaining proceeded to England to receive training in battleships and cruisers of the Royal Navy. These midshipment who averaged 19 years of age must serve afloat before taking the courses necessary to qualify for the rank of sub-lieutenant.

All executive officers now being given commissions in the Royal Canadian Navy have come up from the ranks. Under the system now in effect every prospective executive officer must enter the navy as an ordinary seaman. A civilian, wishing to become an officer, must pass an examining board at an R.C.N.V.R. division. He will be enrolled as an ordinary seaman, not distinguishable from others by dress or mark, and under close observation follow a routine of training and practical experience for approximately one year before he may attain the rank of Sub-Lieutenant.

It is the belief of the R.C.N. that the extensive schooling given these officer candidates will provide the new officer with greater knowledge and experience and give the service a better opportunity to observe and select good men for commissions. Standards are high and candidates who do not make the grade may take their discharge from the service or remain as ordinary seamen. Officers being trained through this system of advancement are now being graduated weekly in groups numbering up to 25.

An R.C.N. school to teach the English language to French-speaking sailors who do not know English was recently opened at H.M.C.S. Prevost, the London, Ontario division of the R.C.N.V.R. The course will accommodate between 50 and 75 French-speaking ratings.

Branch of service to which Naval officer belongs is shown by the colour inserted between the gold stripes on his sleeve as follows:

- Engineer..... purple
- Medical..... scarlet
- Special branch..... green
- Electrical..... dark green
- Paymaster..... white
- Dental..... orange
- Instructor..... light blue
- Ordnance..... dark blue
- Wardmaster..... maroon
- Shipwright..... silver grey

NAVAL STAFF