



On this day in the Canadian Navy!



FEBRUARY



- February 01, 1911 The first recruiting posters for the Royal Canadian Naval Service issued to Post Offices across Canada.
- February 01, 1968 The Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force unify into the Canadian Armed Forces, later the Canadian Forces. The Royal Canadian Navy becomes 'Maritime Command' and Vice-Admiral J. C. 'Scruffy' O'Brien is its first commander.
- February 03, 1943 The Tribal Class destroyer HMCS *Athabaskan* (G07) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is lost in action 29 April 1944.
- February 04, 1941 The Flower Class corvette HMCS *Alberni* (K103) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is lost in action 21 August 1944.
- February 05, 1944 The escort aircraft-carrier HMS *Puncher* (D79) commissions into the Royal Navy with a Canadian ship's company.



HMCS *Louisburg* (K143) (DND Photo)

- February 06, 1943 The Flower Class corvette HMCS *Louisburg* (K143) is sunk by an Italian aircraft torpedo in the Mediterranean between Gibraltar and Algeria during Operation Torch with a loss of 38 men.
- February 07, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Meon* (K269) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 23 April 1945.

- February 08, 1943 The Flower Class corvette HMCS *Regina* (K234) sinks the Italian submarine *Avorio* in the Mediterranean off the coast of Algeria.
- February 08, 1944 The “F” Class destroyer HMCS *Qu’Appelle* (H69) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 11 Oct 1945.
- February 10, 1942 The Flower Class corvette HMCS *Spikenard* (K198), senior ship of the escort for convoy SC.67, is torpedoed and sunk by the submarine *U-136* south of Iceland, with a loss of 77 of her crew.
- February 11, 1957 The aircraft-carrier HMCS *Magnificent* (21) arrives in Port Said, Egypt carrying Canadian personnel, vehicles and stores to aid United Nations in controlling the Israeli and Egyptian border conflict.
- February 14, 1945 Most vessels of the 29th Motor Torpedo Boat Flotilla, based at Ostend, Belgium, and commanded by Lieutenant-Commander Tony Law, RCNVR, are destroyed by an accidental fire and explosion. Only three boats are saved, twelve boats are lost and over sixty members of the crews are killed.



- February 15, 1965 At noon the White and Blue Ensigns are lowered for the last time in Her Majesty’s Canadian Ships and shore establishments and officially retired. They are replaced by the new Canadian Flag which is used both as Ensign and Jack. The new Maritime Command Jack is introduced in 1968.
- February 16, 1945 The River Class frigate HMCS *Saint John* (K456) sinks the submarine *U-309* northeast of Scotland.
- February 16, 1963 The Mackenzie Class destroyer HMCS *Saskatchewan* (262) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 28 March 1994.
- February 17, 1937 The “C” Class destroyers HMCS *Fraser* (H48) and *St. Laurent* (H83) commission into Royal Canadian Navy. HMCS *Fraser* is lost in collision 25 June 1940 and HMCS *St. Laurent* is paid off 10 October 1945.

- February 17, 1944 The “V” Class destroyer HMCS *Algonquin* (R17 and later 224) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 1 April 1970.
- February 17, 1959 The Restigouche Class destroyer HMCS *Gatineau* (236) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 1 July 1998.
- February 21, 1944 The “V” Class destroyer HMCS *Sioux* (R64 and later 225) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 30 October 1963.
- February 22, 1943 The Flower Class corvette HMCS *Weyburn* (K173) is sunk by mine off Gibraltar while taking part in Operation Torch, the allied landings in North Africa. Her commanding officer and six other officers and ratings are lost.
- February 22, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Cheboque* (K317) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 25 September 1945.



HMCS *Trentonian* (K368) (DND Photo)

- February 22, 1945 The Flower Class corvette HMCS *Trentonian* (K368) is torpedoed and sunk by the submarine *U-1004* in English Channel with a loss of 6 of the crew.
- February 24, 1944 After a five-hour hunt, the corvette HMCS *Waskesiu* (K330) succeeded in forcing the submarine *U-257* to the surface. The U-boat is then dispatched with gun-fire.
- February 25, 1942 The Royal Mail Ship (RMS) *Queen Elizabeth* refits in Esquimalt, British Columbia, so as to carry 15,000 troops per trip.
- February 25, 1955 The Honorable Ralph Campney, Minister of National Defence, announces that women will become a part of the permanent force in the Royal Canadian Navy. It had been the policy since 1951 that women would be enrolled in the Royal Canadian Navy (Reserve) only.
- February 27, 1940 Building of corvettes and minesweepers is well underway. So far the battle in the approaches to Britain is going well. British domination over the other seas, for the moment, is unbroken; merchant ship

casualties, though serious, are replaced with new construction; the magnetic mine is mastered and ASDIC (named for the Allied Submarine Detecting Investigation Committee), the forerunner of SONAR (which started as an acronym for SOund Navigation And Ranging) is now on the scene to detect submerged submarines.

- February 27, 1954 After being converted into Prestonian Class escort, the frigate HMCS *Stettler* (311) re-commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 31 August 1966.
- February 28, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Tene* (K458) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 4 May 1945.