



## On this day in the Canadian Navy!



### MAY

In May 1914

The establishment of a Naval Volunteer Force by Order-in-Council. Three subdivisions are ordered with a total strength of 1,200 men. Annual cost estimated at \$200,000.00. From the outset it is called the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve (RNCVR).



May 03, 1937

A Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) Half Company is raised in Port Arthur, now Thunder Bay, Ontario. This unit would later become HMCS *Griffon*.

May 04, 1910

The Naval Service Bill receives Royal Assent. It creates a Department of the Naval Service under the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who will be the minister of the Naval Service, and authorizes the appointment of a Deputy Minister.

A Naval Reserve Force and a Naval Volunteer Force are authorized, with both forces liable for active service in an emergency. A naval college is provided for in order to train prospective officers in all branches of naval science, strategy and tactics. The Naval Discipline Act of 1866, and King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions are to apply to the service.

Two old cruisers, HMCS *Niobe* and HMCS *Rainbow* are purchased from the Admiralty to be used as training ships. The naval college is established in Halifax.

May 04, 1911

His Majesty's Dockyard Esquimalt, British Columbia, transfers to Canadian control.

May 04, 1945

U-boats are ordered to cease hostilities.

- May 04, 1945 The cruiser HMCS *Uganda* sails for the bombardment of Miyako Jima, Okinawa (Japan) with American task force.
- May 5, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Magog* (K673) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 20 December 1945
- May 07, 1944 The corvette HMCS *Valleyfield* (K329) is an example of the fact that the U-boat still proves to be a force to be reckoned with. At about 2330 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, she is approaching Newfoundland when there is the sudden warning of the presence of a submarine. As 'action stations' are sounded, a torpedo rips into the port side. The damage is such that the forecastle is twisted well to starboard, and within a minute is nearly at 90 degrees to the rest of the ship. The water temperature is 32 degrees. With the other ships a few miles ahead, it is some time before *Valleyfield* is missed and when her absence is finally noticed, it is the hunt for the U-boat which as always, takes precedence. It will be a further four hours before a rescue ship returns, and during that time, 125 members of the crew of 141 will perish.
- May 7, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Stettler* (K681) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 9 November 1945
- May 07, 1945 Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, architect of the U-boat campaigns in the Atlantic and now head of what is left of the German Reich, accepts the Allies terms of unconditional surrender.
- May 7, 1989 The auxiliary minesweepers HMCS *Anticosti* (110) and *Moresby* (112) commissions into the Canadian Navy for the fore coming of the Kingston class vessels. They will be paid off respectively 21 March and 10 March 2000.
- May 08, 1945 At 2201Z Victory-in-Europe-Day is declared, thus ending the sea war with Germany. For three weeks, messages are transmitted every two hours to all U-boats with orders to surface and surrender. *U-190*, which had sunk the minesweeper HMCS *Esquimalt* (J272), complied on May 12<sup>th</sup>, and *U-899* follows a day later. These are the only two U-boats to surrender to the Royal Canadian Navy.
- May 09, 1944 The destroyers HMCS *Haida* (G63) and HMCS *Huron* (G24) destroy a German Narvik Class destroyer by gunfire near Ile de Bas Brittany.



HMCS *Jonquière* (K318) (DND Photo)

- May 10, 1944      The River Class frigate HMCS *Jonquière* (K318) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 4 December 1945.
- May 10, 1997      The Kingston Class minesweeper HMCS *Nanaimo* (702) commissions into the Canadian Navy. She is still serving and stationed in Esquimalt, British Columbia.
- May 11, 1942      The first Royal Canadian Navy ship to complete an organized and coordinated 'work-ups' in Canada is the Flower Class corvette HMCS *Galt* (K163). She completes her seven-day programme in Halifax.
- May 12, 1941      The Flower Class corvette HMCS *Barrie* (K138) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 19 September 1944.
- May 12, 1941      The Flower Class corvette HMCS *Chicoutimi* (K156) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 26 Nov 1944.
- May 12, 1943      The Flower Class corvette HMCS *Chambly* (K116) participates in sinking the submarine *U-89*.
- May 12, 1995      The Halifax Class frigate HMCS *Calgary* (335) commissions into the Canadian Navy. She is still serving.
- May 13, 1943      The Flower Class corvette HMCS *Drumheller* (K167), HMS *Lagan* and an aircraft Sunderland destroy *U-456* in the North Atlantic. The new Hedgehog anti-submarine warfare mortar plays an important role in this action.
- May 16, 1922      George P. Graham, Minister of National Defence announces naval policy for Canada which includes the development of a naval reserve force of 1500 men; reduction of the permanent force as far as possible; return of all but four Royal Navy officers serving with

the Service; closure of the Youth Training Establishment in Halifax; Halifax and Esquimalt dockyards reduced to repair and storage depots; naval barracks at the two bases to be used to train the reserves; decommissioning of all but two destroyers, one on the east coast and one on the west; and closure of the Canadian Naval College after 11 years of existence.

May 16, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Beacon Hill* (K407) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 6 February 1946.

May 17, 1941 The Flower Class corvette HMCS *Dauphin* (K157) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 24 June 1945.



HMCS *Bras D'or* (400) (DND Photo)

May 17, 1963 Approval is granted to proceed with plans and construction for Canada's first military hydrofoil HMCS *Bras D'or* (400).

May 18, 1914 The Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve (RNCVR) is established.

May 18, 1941 The Flower Class corvette HMCS *Baddeck* (K147) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 7 July 1945.

May 18, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Longueuil* (K672) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She will be paid off 31 December 1945.

May 20, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *La Hulloise* (K668) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 6 December 1945.



HMCS *Saguenay* (DND Photo)

- May 22, 1931      The destroyer HMCS *Saguenay* (H01 later D79 and later I79) commissions in the United Kingdom. She is the first warship constructed to Canadian specifications. She is paid off 30 July 1945.
- May 22, 1941      The Flower Class corvette HMCS *Arvida* (K113) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 24 June 1945.
- May 22, 1943      The destroyer HMCS *St. Laurent* (H83) arrives on the scene of the sinking of the submarine *U-569* by aircraft from the American aircraft-carrier USS *Bogue*, and rescues the crew. It is a sign of things to come. Tonnage losses in May drop to 157,000 tons against 37 U-boats sunk and 32 severely damaged.
- May 24, 1940      The destroyers HMCS *St. Laurent* (H83), HMCS *Restigouche* (H00) and HMCS *Skeena* (D59 and later I59) sail from Halifax for the United Kingdom to reinforce the seaward defence.
- May 24, 1944      The River Class frigate HMCS *Thetford Mines* (K459) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 18 November 1945.
- May 25, 1941      Seven Royal Canadian Navy's corvettes under the command of Commander J. D. 'Chummy' Prentice, RCN, arrive in St. John's Newfoundland as the first units of the Newfoundland Escort Force (NEF).
- May 25, 1952      The destroyer HMCS *Crusader* (228) sails for her first tour of duty in United Nations Korean operations.
- May 25, 1963      The destroyer HMCS *Yukon* (263) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 1<sup>st</sup> January 1994.
- May 26, 1920      Vessels to be transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy by Admiralty are the cruiser HMS *Glasgow* (the only survivor of the battle of Coronel, and who, at the battle of the Falkland Islands of 1914 helped to sink German cruiser SMS *Leipzig* [so long sought by the cruiser HMCS *Rainbow*] and not long afterwards, with the

help of HMS *Kent*, dispatched German cruiser SMS *Dresden*) and the destroyers *Patriot* and *Patrician*. It was later noted that *Glasgow*, launched in 1910 was a coal-burner, and the Canadians would prefer oil-burners. The cruiser HMS *Aurora* was finally chosen. All these units had seen action in First World War.

May 30, 1939

HM King George VI presents King's Colours to the Royal Canadian Navy in Beacon Hill Park, Victoria, British Columbia.



HMCS *Nipigon* (266) (DND Photo)

May 30, 1964

HMCS *Nipigon* (266) is the first of the Annapolis Class destroyers commissioned. These are the first ships completed in the helicopter carrying configuration of DDH without undergoing conversion. She is paid off 1<sup>st</sup> July 1998.

May 31, 1920

The cruiser HMCS *Niobe* is paid off.