



On this day in the Canadian Navy!



AUGUST

- In August 1882 The steam corvette HMS *Charybdis* is found unsuitable for training because of costs and crew size, and is returned to the Royal Navy after being towed to Halifax, Nova Scotia. *Charybdis* is old in 1884.
- August 01, 1914 All Royal Canadian Navy Midshipmen are recalled from leave, and naval authorities in Halifax and Esquimalt are empowered to enroll volunteers. The cruiser HMCS *Niobe* and light cruiser HMCS *Rainbow* are ordered to prepare for operational duty.
- August 01, 1954 The destroyer HMCS *Huron* (216) sails for her third and final tour of duty in United Nations Korean operations.



- August 01, 1959 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II presents her Colour to the Royal Canadian Navy in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- August 02, 1914 The Naval Service assumes control of all Canadian wireless stations. The Volunteer Reserve Company at Victoria, British Columbia, is ordered to report to the Esquimalt dockyard.
- August 02, 1951 The destroyer HMCS *Athabaskan* (219) sails for her second tour of duty in United Nations Korean operations.
- August 04, 1910 The light cruiser HMCS *Rainbow*, Canada's first warship commissions in the Canadian Naval Service at Portsmouth, England. She is paid off 1 June 1920.
- August 04, 1914 The First World War begins with the British declaration of war against Germany. This declaration, the response to the German invasion of Belgium, includes Canada. The cruiser HMCS *Rainbow* puts to sea on her first operational cruise.

Ammunition is distributed to shore defences, equipment is made ready and personnel are rounded up. The Victoria Times reports: "*Esquimalt presented an animated appearance . . . Its busy streets remind one of the days, not far back, when the British fleet made Esquimalt its home port. Throughout the afternoon and well on into the evening, many Victorians and a number of the people visiting this city took the street cars to the naval town to look over what may be the scene of an engagement.*"

- August 04, 1914 At 2055, a telegram is received from Westminster announcing that war has been declared against Germany. That same evening, the cruisers HMCS *Niobe* and *Rainbow* are "***placed at the disposal of His Majesty for general service in the Royal Navy.***" The patrol vessels CGS *Canada* and CGS *Margaret* are transferred from the Department of Customs to the Naval Service and are ordered to hoist the White Ensign, and all the naval and naval volunteer forces are placed on active service. Arrangements are made by Naval Service Headquarters to secure daily information concerning German cruisers near the Pacific Coast. HMCS *Rainbow* is already at sea, and therefore the first ship of the Royal Canadian Navy to be at sea as a belligerent.
- August 05, 1914 The province of British Columbia purchases submarines *CC-1* and *CC-2* from a Seattle shipyard for Western defence. The Canadian Government provisionally grants 10 days grace for German merchantmen to leave Canadian ports. This is later extended to include Austro-Hungarian ships as well. That same day, the Navy League of Canada informs Naval Service Headquarters that it has rounded up 50 ex-ratings who are willing and able to crew HMCS *Niobe*. The Admiralty indicates that Canada will have first pick of the services of retired Royal Navy officers living in Canada.
- August 05, 1941 The corvette HMCS *Amherst* (K148) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 11 July 1945.
- August 06, 1914 The Canadian government terminates the exporting, to Europe, of certain commodities useful in war in case they might fall into enemy hands.
- August 06, 1942 Within five days of the successful action by the destroyer HMCS *Skeena* (D59 later I59) and the corvette *Wetaskiwin* (K175), the destroyer HMCS *Assiniboine* (I18) sinks the submarine *U-210*.
- August 06, 1944 The destroyer HMCS *Haida* (G63 later 215) sinks German minesweeper *M-486* in the Bay of Biscay.
- August 07, 1914 The grace days for German and Austro-Hungarian ships terminates and all ships must sail that day. Also, two submarines purchased by the British Columbia Government became the property of the Canadian

Government and are placed at the disposal of the Admiralty. These are designated *CC-1* (ex *Iquique* of Chile) and *CC-2* (ex-*Antofagasta* of Chile).

- August 07, 1931 The destroyer HMCS *Skeena* (D59 later I59) arrives in Esquimalt, British Columbia.
- August 07, 1946 The destroyer HMCS *Nootka* (R96 and later 213) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off on 6 February 1964.
- August 08, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Hallowell* (K666) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She pays off on 7 November 1945.
- August 08, 1944 The corvette HMCS *Regina* (K234) is torpedoed and sunk off coast of Cornwall by the submarine *U-667* with a loss of 30 of the crew.
- August 09, 1945 Lieutenant Robert Hampton-Gray, VC, DSC, RCNVR, flying from the aircraft carrier HMS *Formidable* attacks and sinks a Japanese destroyer in Onagawa Bay, Honshu, Japan. His aircraft crashes during the attack and he is posthumously awarded Canada's only 'naval' Victoria Cross of the Second World War for his skill and devotion to duty.
- August 10, 1944 The Loch Class frigate HMCS *Loch Alvie* (K428) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She will be paid off 11 July 1945.
- August 11, 1938 A Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) Half Company is raised in London, Ontario. This unit later becomes HMCS *Prevost*. The unit will be paid off on November 30, 1964.
- August 12, 1917 The submarines *CC-1* and *CC-2* and the sloop HMCS *Shearwater* are the first Canadian warships to use the Panama Canal.
- August 14, 1945 Japan surrenders unconditionally to the Allied Powers.
- August 15, 1944 The infantry landing ship HMCS *Prince David* and *Prince Henry* land troops in the South of France in Operation Dragon.
- August 15, 1945 Victory over Japan (VJ) Day declared.
- August 15, 1964 The Minister of National Defence announces the replacement of the 'Chiefs' of the three services by the position of Chief of the Defence Staff.
- August 15, 1986 The Naval Reserve Division HMCS *Champlain* is commissioned at Chicoutimi, now Ville de Saguenay, Québec. She is still in commission.
- August 16, 1956 The destroyer HMCS *Assiniboine* (234) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She pays off on 14 December 1988.

- August 18, 1944 The destroyers HMCS *Kootenay* (H75), *Chaudiere* (H99) and *Ottawa* (H31) take part in sinking the submarine *U-621* off the coast of France.
- August 20, 1942 The armed merchant cruisers HMCS *Prince Robert*, *Prince Henry* and *Prince David* and the corvettes HMCS *Dawson* (K104) and *Vancouver* (K240) are attached to American forces for a two month Bering Sea patrol based from Kokiak, Alaska.
- August 20, 1944 The destroyers HMCS *Kootenay* (H75), *Chaudiere* (H99) and *Ottawa* (H31) take part in sinking submarine *U-984* off the coast of France.
- August 21, 1944 The corvette HMCS *Alberni* (K103) is torpedoed and sunk by the submarine *U-480* near the Isle of Wight with a loss of 58 crewmembers.
- August 21, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Kirkland Lake* (K337) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She will be paid off 14 December 1945.
- August 22, 1944 The Canadian-manned escort carrier HMS *Nabob* was torpedoed while taking part in an air strike against the German battleship *Bismarck's* sister ship *Tirpitz*, hiding in Norwegian fjords. The destroyer HMCS *Algonquin* (R17), one of the screening destroyers, takes off 203 of *Nabob's* crew as a precaution, but despite a 32-foot (9.75 meter) hole in her aft starboard side, she is able to return to Scapa Flow under her own power.
- August 21, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *St.Pierre* (K680) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She pays off on 22 November 1945.
- August 22, 1953 After being converted into Prestonian Class escort, the frigate HMCS *Prestonian* (307) re-commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She pays off on 24 April 1956 and loan to the Norwegian Navy.
- August 22, 1957 The first CS2F Tracker anti-submarine warfare aircraft joins the fleet.
- August 23, 1953 HMCS *Caribou* commissions as a Naval Reserve Division in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland and Labrador. The unit is paid off on 31 March 1958.
- August 23, 1954 After being converted into Prestonian Class escort, the frigate HMCS *Inch Arran* (308) re-commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She pays off on 23 June 1965.
- August 23, 1993 The Halifax Class frigate HMCS *Vancouver* (331) commissions in Vancouver, British Columbia. She still is service and is stationed in Esquimalt, British Columbia.
- August 24, 1990 The destroyers HMCS *Athabaskan* (282) and *Terra Nova* (259) and the replenishment ship HMCS *Protecteur* (509) sail from Halifax, Nova

Scotia to participate in 'Operation Friction', the Canadian contribution to the United Nations action in the First Gulf War.

- August 25, 1944 The River Class frigates HMCS *Capilano* (K409) and *Royalmount* (K677) commission into the Royal Canadian Navy. They pay off 24 and 17 November 1945 respectively.
- August 26, 1939 Admiralty signals 'FUNNEL' to the various Commonwealth and British Empire navies. All British merchant ships are placed under naval control.
- August 27, 1942 The Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, authorized on 31 July 1942, is formally established.
- August 28, 1924 A Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) Half Company is raised in Prince Rupert, British Columbia. This unit later becomes HMCS *Chatham*. The unit is paid off in 1926, re-commissions in 1929, pays off in June 1940, re-commissions in 21 October 1946 and finally pays off on 31 March 1964.
- August 28, 1942 The corvette HMCS *Oakville* (K178), while escorting one of the fast tanker convoys off Haiti, finishes off the submarine *U-94*, which had been initially attacked and damaged by patrol aircraft from United States Navy Squadron 82.
- August 28, 1942 The first course of probationary 'Wrens' for the newly created Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service begins at Kingsmill House in Ottawa.
- August 29, 1952 The Porte Class gate vessel HMCS *Porte Saint Louis* (183) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She will be well known to generations of Naval Reservists. She will be paid off 31 March 1996.
- August 29, 1964 The first Royal Canadian Navy's CHSS-2 Sea King anti-submarine warfare helicopter is accepted from United Aircraft of Canada.
- August 30, 1943 The River Class frigate HMCS *Prince Rupert* (K324) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She pays off on 15 January 1946.
- August 30, 1943 The destroyer HMCS *Haida* (G63 and later 215) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 11 October 1963, but becomes a floating memorial berthed, first in Toronto, and now in Hamilton, Ontario.
- August 30, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Lasalle* (K519) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She pays off 7 November 1945.
- August 31, 1939 Two hours and forty-five minutes after receiving their orders, and thanks in part to the preparations made by their first lieutenants, the destroyers HMCS *Fraser* (H48) and *St. Laurent* (H83) sail from Esquimalt, British Columbia, for Halifax, Nova Scotia, 'with dispatch'. They arrive in

Halifax in time for *St. Laurent* to form part of the escort for convoy HX-1 which sails 16 September 1939.

August 31, 1946

The Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service ceases to exist, all its members having been demobilized. At its peak, there are 5,893 personnel, over 1,000 of whom served outside Canada.