

(Reference N.S.H.Q's Memo.  
N.S.S-1057-1-12, F.D.838  
of 6th January, 1943)

FROM: Captain (D) Halifax.

DATE: 26th January, 1943.

FILE: D. O-7-11

TO : The Commanding Officer, Atlantic Coast,  
H.M.C. Dockyard, Halifax, N.S.

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WORKING-UP PROGRAMMES - NEW CONSTRUCTION  
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Submitted:

The enclosed working up programmes together with an explanatory letter from the Training Commander show the method at present employed for training new construction ships after their arrival at Halifax.

2. I entirely approve of the present routine and consider that, with minor variations it can be applied to any type of escort vessel from a destroyer to a trawler, and including Frigates and Algerine Minesweepers.

3. It is however, intended to effect certain improvements in the near future now that a training ship is available.

4. It is hoped that all Commanding Officers, First Lieutenants, and key ratings of new construction ships will be appointed and drafted to H.M.C.S. "STADACONA" for training at least ten days before joining their ships. They will then be embarked in the training ship and taught by practical example - (a) How a ship should be commissioned. (b) How she should be run. Thus it is hoped to start all ships, from the day of commissioning, working along the right lines and so to simplify the later training.

5. At the end of the training period, ships will be sent to sea as an organized group for a period of several days under the command of the Commanding Officer of the training ship. During this period they will receive more intensive group training spread over a longer period than it has been possible to give them in the past.

6. At the same time it will be possible to improve very considerably, that portion of the training which is given in harbour when the new Battle Room and the tactical table are built.

7. I am satisfied that, if the training period is not curtailed in any way, these new ships will be sent to join their groups in the Battle of the Atlantic in a state where war experience along will be required to make them thoroughly efficient.

J. D. PRENTICE

(J.D. Prentice)  
A/CAPTAIN, R.C.N. (TEMP).,  
CAPTAIN (D) HALIFAX.



TO : The Training Commander,  
H.M.C. Dockyard,  
Halifax, N.S.

CAPTAIN "D"  
HALIFAX  
(6)  
JAN 25 1943  
27-AM-0  
27-7C-0

DATE : 22nd January, 1943

FILE : T.C. 9-1

TO : Captain (D) Halifax,  
H.M.C. Dockyard,  
Halifax, N.S.

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WORKING UP PROGRAMME FOR FRIGATES AND ALGERINE MINESWEEPERS  
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Submitted with reference to Naval Service Headquarter's N.S.S. 1057-1-12, F.D.838, D.O.D. of 4th January 1943 and 6th January, 1943, complete copy of a typical Working-up Programme as carried out by H.M.C.S. "WESTMOUNT" 10th October to 19th November, 1942.

2. It is proposed to carry out a similar programme for working up Frigates and Algerine minesweepers.

3. Harbour training is carried out from the date of arrival of a ship at Halifax until she is fit for sea. Programmes are arranged using training facilities available in Halifax which sub-divide into:-

- (1) Armament training which includes Gun Drill, Gunnery Control, Spotting Table, Night Lookout Table, and A/A Training (Dome Teacher, A/A Instructional films, stripping and maintenance).
- (2) Anti-submarine training which includes A/S instructional records and instruction on the Mass Procedure Teacher and Attack Teacher Table in the A/S School.
- (3) R.D.F. training which includes a 3 day refresher course in operation and maintenance at the R.D.F. School. This course, in nearly all cases, is repeated at least once.
- (4) Communication training which includes daily instruction to Signalmen, Telegraphists and Coders in Convoy Communication procedure. R/T, W/T, and V/S exercises are also carried out daily with the ships.
- (5) Minesweeping training which includes sending officers and ratings to sea for instruction in minesweeping under N.O.I.C. Halifax. (Captain (D) does not instruct in Minesweeping.) Minesweepers stream sweeps at least twice during sea working up.
- (6) Lectures which include:-
  - (a) Lectures to officers:-
    - (1) Escort Tactics - 3 lectures.
    - (2) Discipline and Administration - 2 lectures.
    - (3) C.B's. and S.P's. - 1 lecture.
    - (4) Security - 1 lecture.
    - (5) Entry into defended Ports - 1 lecture.
  - (b) Lecture to Petty Officers and Leading Seamen on morale.
  - (c) Lecture to Coxswains on regulating duties.
  - (d) Lecture by Medical Officer.
  - (e) Lecture by Chaplains to respective denominations.



(continued on page 2)

In addition to above new construction ships are given at least 2 days (4 half days) in the Battle Room (Night Escort Teacher).

- (a) In the first two periods special emphasis is placed on co-ordination in the ship, internal organization, procedure, communication (internal and external) plot, coding, anti-submarine, R.D.F., etc.
- (b) In the second two periods special emphasis is placed on Escort tactics, exercising attacks on Convoy, R.D.F. contacts, A/S contacts, Enemy sightings, Co-ordination within the group, cohesive plans, hunts and escort problems generally.

5. Officers and Communication ratings are exercised two half-days on the Tactical Table, where tactical exercises are carried out illustrating recent developments in A/S warfare.

6. As soon as ships are available for sea they are sailed (as far as possible in groups) to training areas, i.e. St. Margaret Bay or Pictou, where they proceed to sea daily, except Saturday afternoons and Sundays, when organized recreational parties and Sunday routines are carried out.

7. Sea Working-up Programme is as follows:-

- (1) ASP's including 4 ASP 6's, 3 ASP 7's, 3 ASP 9's, exercises with submarine on the surface, R.D.F. exercises, boarding parties, etc. .... 5 days
  - (2) Exercises and evolutions, including station-keeping exercises, manoeuvres, towing, firings, sleeve target etc.,,,,,,, 7 days
  - (3) Group exercises including night sea exercises with submarine attacking..... 3 days
  - (4) Escort experience with convoy..... 2 days
  - (5) Sunday routine..... 4 days
  - (6) Harbour inspection by Training Commander..... 1 day
  - (7) Efficiency test at sea by Training Commander..... 1 day
- 23 days

NOTE: (1) and (2) are carried out in conjunction with one another.

8. The above programme is altered slightly from time to time according to the progress in the ship concerned. If the ship is efficiently organized and co-ordination in the ship is good, less time is spent on evolutions and more time devoted to tactical problems at sea.

9. Training Officers live onboard during period the ship is working up at sea.

*J. C. Hibbard*

(J. C. Hibbard)  
COMMANDER, R.C.N.,

THE TRAINING COMMANDER.

Encl.



COPY/GR

File: N.S. S1057-1-12  
F.D. 838  
D.O.D.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

NAVAL SERVICE

OTTAWA, Canada.

SECRET

6th January, 1943.

MEMORANDUM:

Subject: Working Up of Algerine Class Minesweepers

It is anticipated that some eighteen Algerine Class Minesweepers will be completed on the Great Lakes between May and December 1943. In view of the acute shortage of Anti-submarine Escort Vessels, it is intended that, unless there is a heavy mining attack on the Atlantic Coast, these vessels shall be exclusively employed as Anti-submarine Escort Vessels.

2. Arrangements, therefore, are to be made for Captain (D) Halifax to draw up a proposed working up programme for this class of vessel, a copy of which is to be forwarded to Naval Service Headquarters for consideration.

BY ORDER,

(Signed)

SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

The Commanding Officer Atlantic Coast,  
H.M.C. Dockyard,  
HALIFAX, N.S.

Copy to:

Captain (D) Halifax,  
H.M.C. Dockyard,  
HALIFAX, N.S.