



BRIEF NARRATIVE OF HMCS QUINTE, SECOND OF NAME

Laid down on 14 June 1952, the "Bay" Class mine-sweeper, HMCS QUINTE, was built in the shipyards of the Port Arthur Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., at Port Arthur, Ontario. She was launched on 8 August 1953 and, during a ceremony held on the occasion, was sponsored by Mrs. J. B. Caldwell, the wife of Captain J. B. Caldwell, MBE, RCN, Assistant Chief of Naval Technical Services (Ships). At her commissioning, which took place on 15 October 1954, she was accepted on behalf of the Royal Canadian Navy by Commodore W. L. M. Brown, DSO, OBE, DSC, RN, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Air), and Commander R. J. Craig, CD, RCN, who represented the Assistant Chief of Naval Technical Services (Ships).^{1.}

Like the other minesweepers of her class, QUINTE was named after a bay. The Bay of Quinte is a long and irregularly-shaped inlet in Lake Ontario, situated between the peninsula of Prince Edward County and the mainland of Ontario in the Belleville area. It has a length of about 50 miles and a width of from 6 to 12 miles. Its shores were first settled by United Empire Loyalists in 1784. The name given it today

1.

PARTICULARS OF HMCS QUINTE, SECOND OF NAME

Displacement at full load.....	412 tons
Standard displacement.....	343 tons
Extreme length.....	152'
Extreme breadth.....	28'
Draught forward.....	6' 10"
Draught aft.....	7' 10"
Designed horse-power.....	1,200
Armament.....	1-Boffin
Minesweeping equipment.....	Oropesa, magnetic, acoustic and explosive sweeps

is a corruption of the name of an Iroquois Indian village once situated at the west end of the bay. It was variously spelled by French geographers Kentsio, Kentio, and Quento. The meaning is unknown.^{1.}

The name was first used in the Royal Canadian Navy to designate a "Bangor" Class minesweeper, built in 1941 at Burrard Dry Dock Co. at Vancouver, B.C. Commissioned on 30 August 1941, the first QUINTE sailed on 10 October of the same year to arrive at Halifax on 14 November. Until December of the following year, she operated off the Nova Scotian coast as part of the Halifax Force and the Western Local Escort Force on minesweeping and convoy escort duties. On the night of 30 November 1942, the ship grounded at the entrance to St. Peter's Canal, Cape Breton Island. She sank later but was salvaged. She did not return to service until the end of 1943. On 25 January 1944, she was allocated as a tender to HMCS CORNWALL as an anti-aircraft firing ship. Effective 1 August 1945, she was transferred to the administration of HMCS STADACONA for duty with the Naval Research Establishment. She was paid off on 25 October 1946.^{2.}

An official badge has been designed for HMCS QUINTE Second of Name. It is described heraldically as follows:
 "Vert (green), a Tudor (red and white) rose, barbed (sepalled and seeded Or (golden seeds in the centre), upon a pentagonal cross pattee (a stylized five-armed cross), the arms being formed by five letters "E" (E-shaped), each letter facing and converging towards the fesse point (centre point) Argent (silver).

1. Encyclopedia Canadiana, 1958.
 G. H. Armstrong: Place Names in Canada, quoted in NHS 8000: HMCS QUINTE.
2. NHS 8000: HMCS QUINTE.

As to the significance of the badge, it is noted that the meaning of "Quinte" is unknown. The following is added: "In the New Century Dictionary the word 'quinte' appears and is referred to the Latin word 'quintus' meaning fifth, and 'quint' - five. The French use 'quinte' as feminine of 'quint'. A quintet is a set or group of five persons or things. It would seem appropriate therefore to make a rebus on the word and display the letter "E" five times (Quint - E). This has been done in the form of a pentagon or five-sided figure which makes them look like a cross pattee with five arms instead of the usual four.

"The Tudor rose refers to the first settlers in the area of the Bay of Quinte in Prince Edward County, Ontario, who were United Empire Loyalists".

The ship's colours were white and green.^{1.}

The battle honour held by the name and earned by the first QUINTE is:

Atlantic 1941-42^{2.}

The "Bay" Class minesweepers were said to "represent the latest advances in defence against mines". The design was basically of British origin, but was developed for its own needs by the Royal Canadian Navy. The material used in construction and the equipment installed aboard were, wherever available and technically suitable, of Canadian manufacture.

With the exception of the wooden outer skin and bulkheads, the ships were built largely of aluminum, this to provide strength while doing away with excessive weight. In the living spaces

^{1.} The Official Badges of Her Majesty's Canadian Ships (NHS).

^{2.} G.O. 2.06/11.

this metal contributed much to the comfort and convenience of those using them. The messdecks were fitted with bunks, foam-rubber mattresses and roomy, practical lockers. A modified form of cafeteria messing was installed, supplied by an electrically-fitted galley.

The ships were diesel-powered, with twin shafts, and were equipped with the latest navigational radar and mine sweeping equipment.^{1.}

During the first two years of her operational career QUINTE served as training tender to HMCS SCOTIAN, the naval division at Halifax. In late October 1954, she was allocated to the division, taking over duties previously carried out by the coastal escort, HMCS GRANBY.

February 1955 was a month which illustrated in some degree the more routine aspects of the duties she carried out. At sea for eight days, she joined aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force in exercises. One day was given over to representation of the National Film Board, to enable them to photograph a demonstration of minesweeping. During the period, 182 members of the Reserve received sea training on board. This number included officers, University Naval Training Division (UNTD) cadets, men and wrens.^{2.}

March 1955 featured training of a less routine kind. On the 11th, she joined the "Bay" Class minesweepers, HMC Ships GASPE, TRINITY and UNGAVA of the First Canadian Minesweeping Division, to proceed on a training cruise in the Caribbean Sea. Calls were paid during the month to St. John's, Antigua, Montserrat and Bridgetown, Barbados.^{3.}

1. NHS 8000: HMCS QUINTE.

2. FOND 1926-170/1: Reports of Proceedings: HMCS SCOTIAN.

3. NHS 8000: Reports of Proceedings: HMCS GASPE.