

THE  
*Commissioning*  
OF  
**HMCS MARGAREE**



at  
**H.M.C. DOCKYARD - ESQUIMALT, B.C.**  
**15 OCTOBER, 1965**





Rear-Admiral Stirling

The commissioning of HMCS MARGAREE on 15 October, 1965, marks the completion of an extensive twelve-month conversion programme which will increase her capacity to assist our anti-submarine forces to defend Canada at sea and to contribute to the free use of the seas.

On behalf of the Royal Canadian Navy I welcome the return of HMCS MARGAREE to the Fleet and wish her Captain, officers and men good fortune, Godspeed and a very successful commission.

(M. G. Stirling)

REAR-ADMIRAL, RCN  
Flag Officer Pacific Coast





## THE SHIP'S BADGE

THE SHIP'S BADGE of HMCS MARGAREE symbolizes her association with the Cape Breton Island river after which the ship is named.

The blazon is described in heraldic terms as:

Azure, Three cotises wavy argent,  
overall a flower of the Marguerite  
(Daisy) proper.

The field of blue on the badge, with its three silver diagonal stripes, depicts the river itself, while the Marguerite or daisy flower is superimposed in representation of the river's name, said to have been a corruption of the name "Marguerite."

The ship's colours are white and blue.





## AN HISTORIC NAME

THE NAME of the ship was derived from that of the Margaree River, a stream noted for its salmon fishing. The river is located in Cape Breton Island and its mouth is at Margaree Harbour on the west coast of the Island, 20 miles from Inverness.

Some say that the original name of the river was "Marguerite". One source explains the choice of name in a story involving the expulsion of the Acadians from the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia. According to this story, one of the French families which went to Cape Breton following the expulsion included a girl named Marguerite. Marguerite later married a settler named LeBlanc, the first Frenchman to settle at the mouth of that river, who, to honour his bride, gave the river her name.

The corruption of the name to "Margaree" is attributed to the Indians. It should be noted, however, that the Indians had their own name for the river, "Weeukuch" or "Weukuto," meaning "red ochre," the substance from which they manufactured their red dyes.

Less romantic and perhaps more probable is the explanation that the river derives its name from Sieur Jean-Marie Marguerie, who, after departing from Louisbourg, went with his family to the region. The members of this family are mentioned in the census of 1749-50.

Bishop Plessis, in his "Journal" of 1815, calls the settlement at the mouth of the river "Havre de Margre" and the name is so written in the early church register. It was also known as "Magre," which was changed to "Margaree" in the grants of land given to the settlers by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council at Sydney.



# THE HERITAGE

The first HMCS MARGAREE, the former British destroyer Diana, was commissioned in England on September 6, 1940, as a replacement for the Canadian destroyer FRASER, lost on the night of June 25-26 of the same year during evacuation operations in the Bordeaux area, Bay of Biscay.

The MARGAREE sailed for Canada from Londonderry on October 20 with 10 officers and 166 men, many of whom were survivors from the FRASER, looking forward to survivors' leave at home.

On October 22, after 46 days in commission, the destroyer was in collision with a merchant ship, one of a convoy she was escorting. The MARGAREE went down about 400 miles west of Ireland with a loss of 142 lives, including that of her commanding officer. The 34 survivors were rescued by the merchant ship with which the MARGAREE had collided.

Today, a plaque in the Church of St. Nicholas in HMCS Stadacona, Halifax, commemorates the loss.

## FORMER COMMANDING OFFICER

HMCS MARGAREE had only one commanding officer during her brief career in the Royal Canadian Navy. He was Commander J. W. R. Roy, who was lost with his ship. Cdr. Roy, born in Ottawa in April, 1901, attended the Royal Naval College of Canada at Halifax from 1916 to 1918. He attended Naval Staff College in the United Kingdom in 1936 and was promoted to the rank of commander on December 1, 1938. During the early part of the Second World War he was director of the operations division at Naval Service Headquarters, Ottawa, until June, 1940, when he went on various missions until his appointment to the MARGAREE.

## *Former Commanding Officers*

5 October, 1957 - 10 September, 1959

Commander J. E. Korning, CD, RCN

11 September, 1959- 16 August, 1960

Commander E. V. P. Sunderland, CD, RCN

17 August, 1960 - 21 May, 1962

Commander J. H. MacLean, CD, RCN

22 May, 1962 - 25 September, 1964

Commander J. L. Panabaker, CD, RCN



## *The Overseers*



Captain J. C. Gray  
Principal Naval Overseer



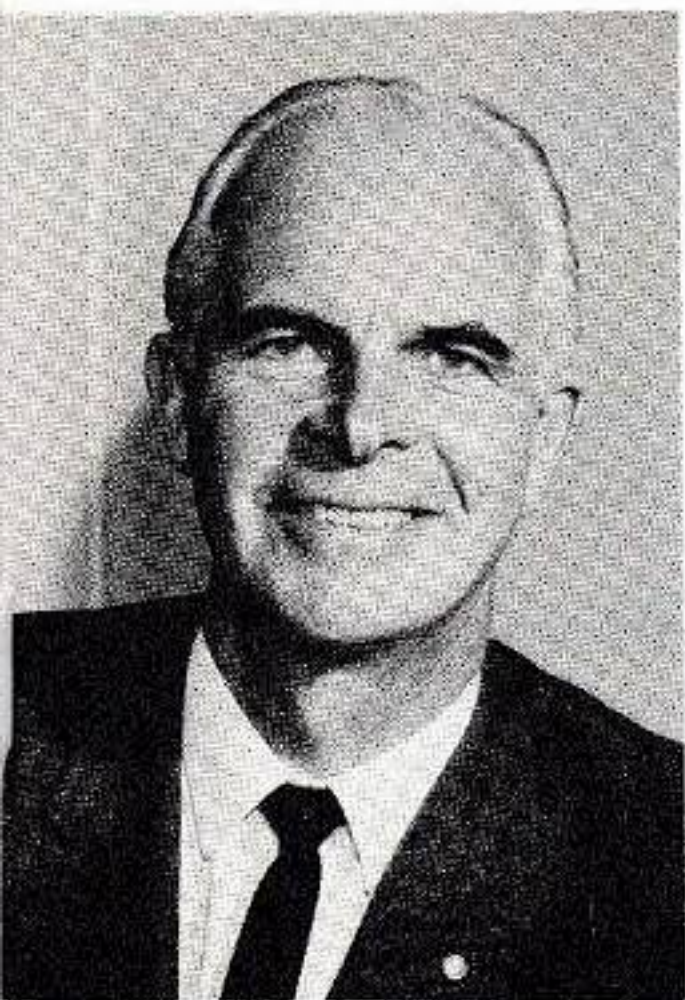
Commander E. Gosh  
Resident Naval Overseer

During the conversion/refit of HMCS MARGAREE it was the responsibility of the Naval Overseers to ensure that the ship, including all her materials and equipment, was in accordance with the requirements of the Department of National Defence. For this purpose the overseeing staff of specialist officers and senior technicians were engaged, from the de-commissioning stage until the completion, in a detailed programme of inspecting, testing, expediting, modifying and approving the work.

The Principal Naval Overseer for the West Coast is Captain J. C. Gray, whose office is in Vancouver. Reporting to him is the Resident Naval Overseer, Victoria, Commander Eugene Gosh, with an office at Victoria Machinery Depot Co. Ltd., who has been directly responsible for the overseeing of the work on HMCS MARGAREE. During the conversion/refit period, the staff of the RNO(Victoria) has included the following officers:

Engineer Overseer,—Lt.-Cdr. A. M. Chandler; Electrical Overseer—Lt.-Cdr. A. W. Boden; Supply Overseer — Cmd/O J. E. Wright; Hull Overseer—Lt.-Cdr. A. E. R. Down; and Technical Officer—Mr. R. Vyner. During this period Commander J. B. Hall held the position of Resident Naval Overseer until January 9, 1965, and Lt.-Cdr. F. H. Foster was Supply Overseer until February 22, 1965; Lt.-Cdr. G. C. D. Kearton representing Canadian Forces Headquarters as 205 Class Co-ordinator, and Lt.-Cdr. A. H. Wagner as Engineer Officer (Designate) MARGAREE.





Mr. Drummond Taylor  
Comptroller and  
Contract Officer



Mr. Harold Husband  
President



Mr. Jack Gilbert  
Project Manager



## *The Contractor*

During the 103 years that the Victoria Machinery Depot Co. Ltd., shipbuilders and engineers, has served the Pacific Coast, many fine vessels have been built and converted. These have included rugged little paddle-wheelers, stately tall-masted schooners, and sleek, powerful destroyers. Amongst other accomplishments, V.M.D. is particularly proud of the part it has played in serving the Royal Canadian Navy during the past 56 years.

The commissioning of HMCS MARGAREE, now completely converted and refitted, marks the latest achievement of V.M.D. This bears witness to the enduring skill of the company's craftsmen and engineers.

As well as a completely integrated shipbuilding and ship repair organization, V.M.D. has spread to other fields of endeavour. The company's Industrial Division produces giant refinery vessels, huge pulp digesters, pipelines and many other kinds of shore-based equipment.

Ashore and afloat V.M.D. is ever seeking new ways to serve both Canada and Canada's Navy.



# The Commissioning

The National Anthem

Introduction by Commander E. Gosh, CD, RCN

Address by Mr. Husband, President, Victoria Machinery Depot

Acceptance of the ship by Representative of Chief of Naval Technical Services

Commissioning Service conducted by Chaplain A. Gordon Faraday, RCN,  
Senior Chaplain (P), HMCS NADEN.

HYMN—Tune, "Eternal Father Strong to Save"

O Father, King of Earth and Sea,  
We dedicate this ship to Thee;  
In faith we send her on her way,  
In faith to Thee we humbly pray—  
O hear from heaven our sailors' cry  
And watch and guard her from on high.

And when at length her course is run,  
Her work for home and country done;  
Of all the souls that in her sailed,  
Let not one life in Thee have failed,  
But hear from heaven our sailors' cry,  
And grant eternal life on high.

AMEN

PSALM 107 (Verses 23 to 31, 43), to be said responsively.

23. They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;
24. These see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep.
25. For He commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves.
26. They mount up to the Heavens, they go down again to the depths; their soul is melted because of trouble.
27. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end.
28. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and He bringeth them out of their distress.
29. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.
30. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so He bringeth them unto their desired haven.
31. Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and His wonderful works for the children of men.
43. Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord.



# ning Ceremony

## PRAYER—

O thou, that sittest above the water floods, and stillest the raging of the sea, accept, we beseech Thee, the supplications of Thy servants for all who in this ship, now and hereafter, shall commit their lives unto the perils of the deep. In all their ways enable them truly and godly to serve Thee, and by their Christian lives to set forth Thy glory throughout the earth. Watch over them in their going forth and their coming in, that no evil befall them, nor mischief come nigh to hurt their souls. And through the waves of this troublesome world, and through all the changes and chances of this mortal life, bring them by Thy mercy to the sure haven of Thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.

The Naval Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Blessing of the Ship by Chaplain (RC) R. Pelletier, CD, BA, RCN Command Chaplain (RC) West Coast.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

P: The Lord be with you.

All: May He also be with you.

## LET US PRAY—

Lord, be well disposed to our prayers, and by Your holy hand, bless + this ship and all who sail hereon, as You were pleased to let Your blessing hover over Noah's Ark in the Deluge. Reach out Your hand to them, Lord, as You did to blessed Peter as he walked upon the sea. Send Your holy angel from on high to watch over it and all on board, to ward off any threat of disaster, and to guide its course through calm waters to the desired port. Then after a time, when they have successfully transacted their business, may You in Your loving providence bring them back with glad hearts to their own country and home. We ask this of You who live and reign forever and ever.  
ALL—Amen.

## PRAYER FOR SAILORS (to St. Brendan)—

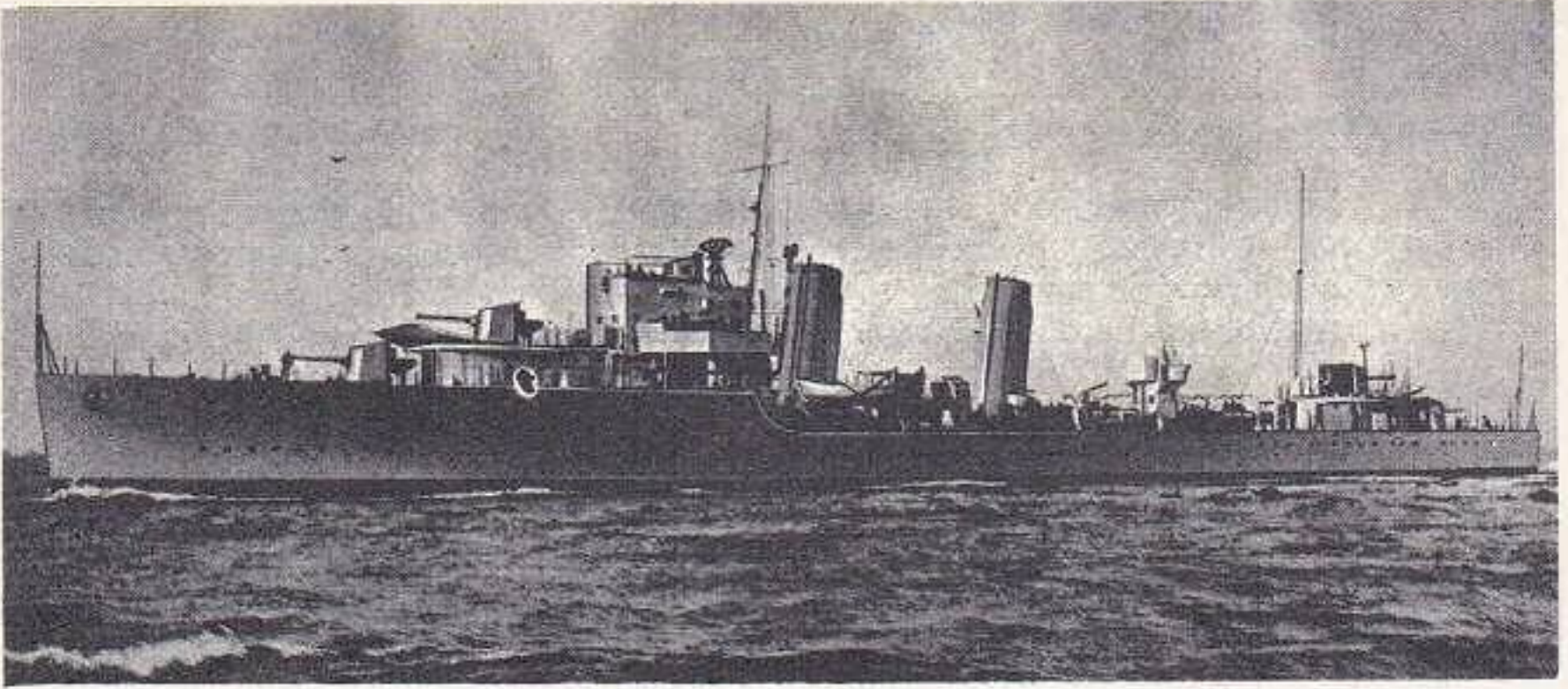
St. Brendan, named 'Patron of Seafarers,' help those who fight our battles on the waters. You were fittingly called "God's Voyager," because you spread His Gospel by long and dangerous voyages and gave that Gospel of salvation to many. As our fathers were brought through the Red Sea and carried in safety through the overflowing waters, so grant that through your intercession our sailors, marines and those who guard our nation's coasts may be preserved from all dangers of the sea, may be protected on their course and come safely into port. Amen.

HER MAJESTY'S CANADIAN SHIP MARGAREE COMMISSIONS.

COMMANDING OFFICER, COMMANDER R. C. MacLEAN, CD, RCN,  
ADDRESSES SHIP'S COMPANY.

COMMANDING OFFICER IS PIPED ON BOARD and stands by to receive the Guest of Honour, Official Party and Invited Guests.





1931



1957



1965

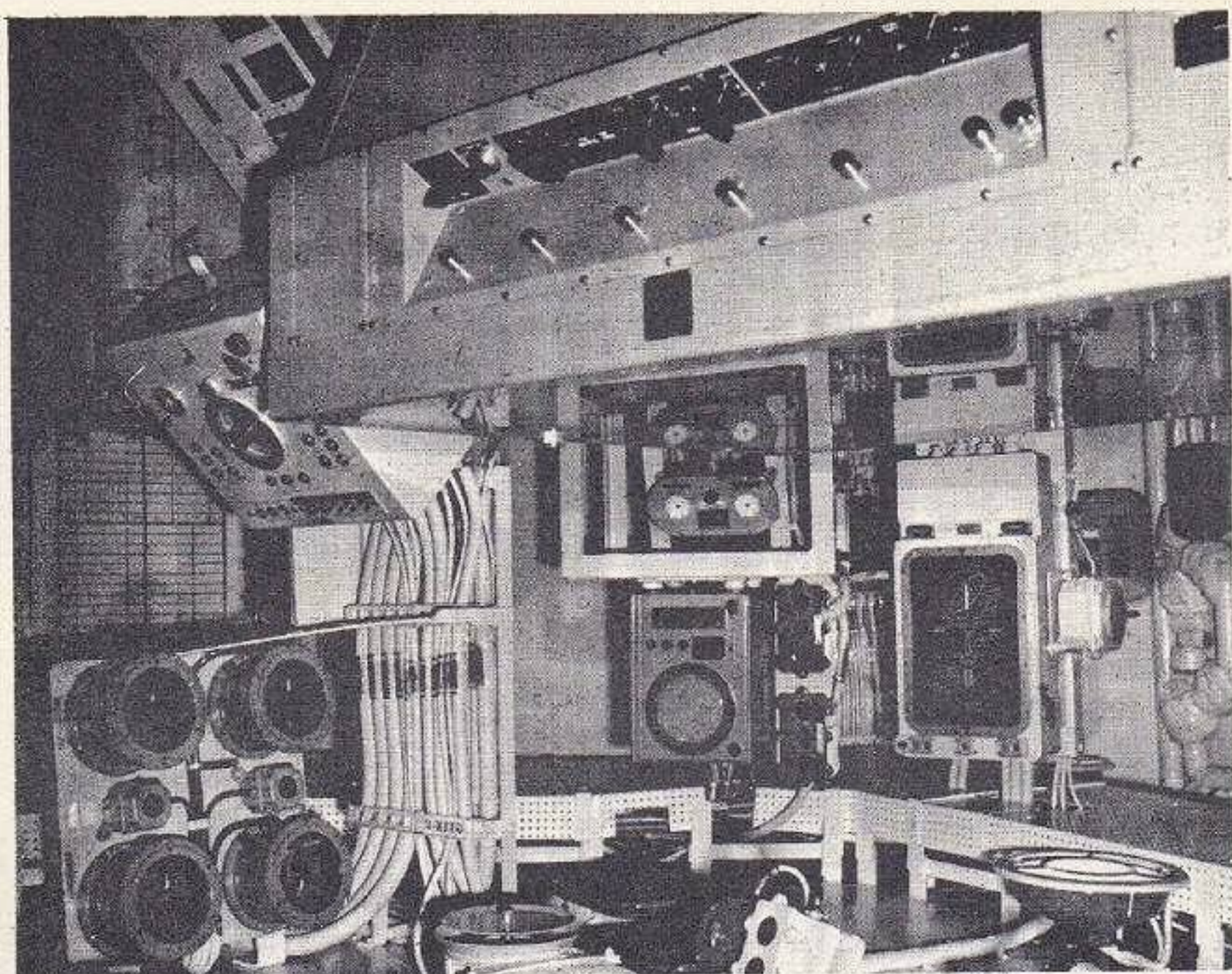


The first MARGAREE (ex-HMS Diana) was seven and one-half years old when she was chosen for transfer to the Royal Canadian Navy. Her keel had been laid down on 12 June, 1931. She displaced 1375 tons and carried four 4.7-inch guns in addition to anti-aircraft weapons and eight 21-inch torpedo tubes. Her complement consisted of 7 officers and 146 men.

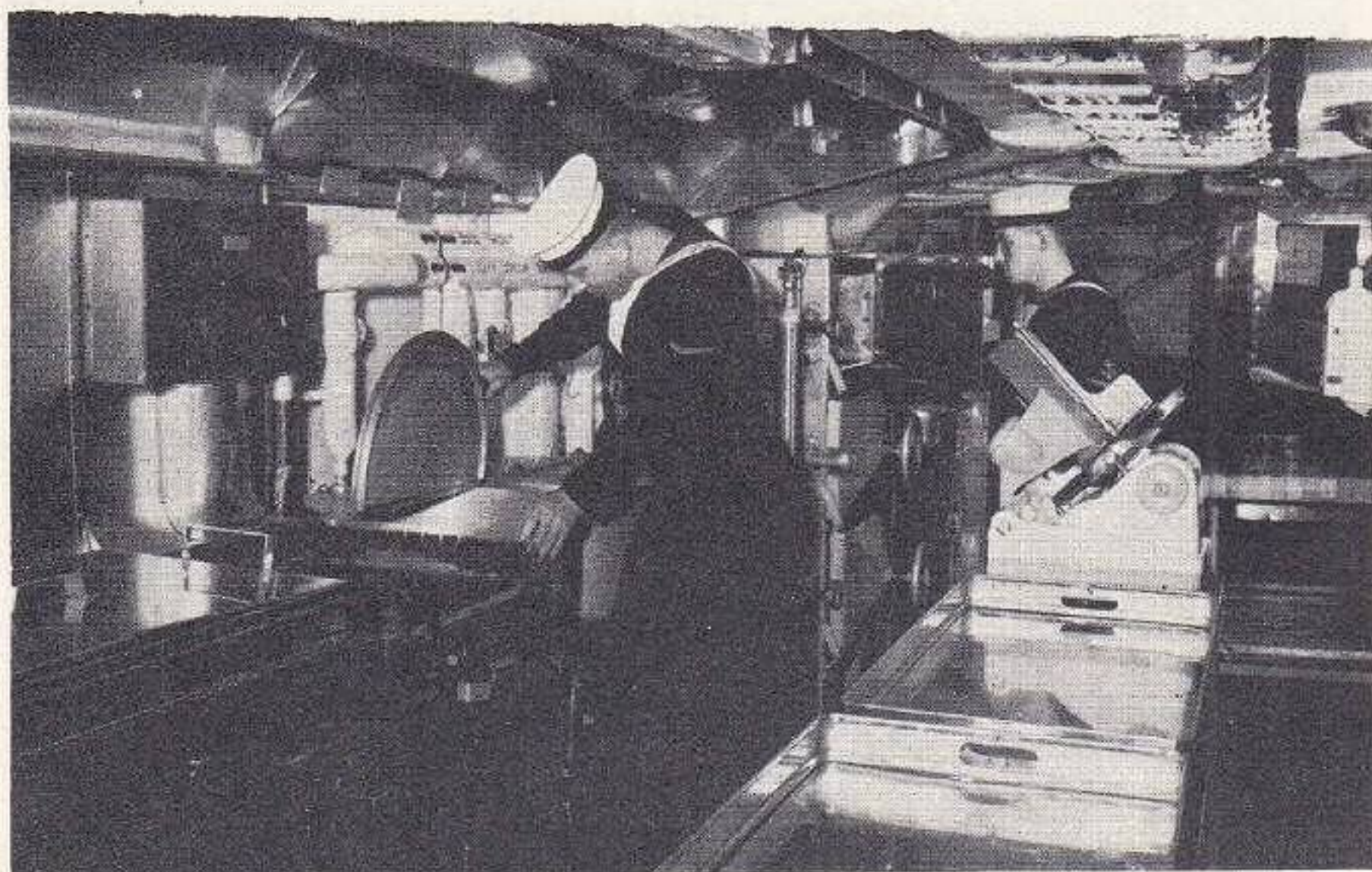
The second MARGAREE was the seventh of the new Canadian destroyer escorts to join the fleet and the last of the seven St. Laurent class ordered by the Royal Canadian Navy. The Ship's peacetime complement was 12 officers and 198 men. Her displacement was 2800 tons. Her weapons included two twin 3-inch 50-calibre guns, each capable of an extremely high rate of fire, and two mortar mountings capable of firing three projectiles simultaneously with great accuracy.

MARGAREE was paid off September 25, 1964, to commence conversion and refit at Victoria Machinery Depot, Victoria, B.C. The conversion was extensive, devoted principally to strengthening the hull for more powerful sonar equipment, providing landing, hangar and fueling facilities for anti-submarine helicopters, altering the stern to accommodate variable depth sonar, adding activated fin stabilizers to reduce roll and modernizing office and accommodation facilities. On re-commissioning, she virtually becomes the third HMCS MARGAREE. The present MARGAREE, since conversion, displaces 3031 tons, has an overall length of 366 feet and a beam of 42 feet. She carries a peacetime complement of 15 officers and approximately 210 men.





Operations Room



The Galley





Commander R. C. MacLean  
Commanding Officer

## *The Ship's Company*

### OFFICERS

Commander R. C. MacLean	Commanding Officer
Lieutenant-Commander M. D. Wilson	Executive Officer
Lieutenant-Commander A. Wagner	Technical Officer
Lieutenant F. Hope	Weapons Officer
Lieutenant G. Eldridge	Operations Officer
Lieutenant Y. Brace	Supply Officer
Sub-Lieutenant D. G. Prior	Navigator
Commissioned Officer K. J. Joyce	Weapons Department



## MEN

Chief Petty Officer R. O. Williams, Coxswain

### WEAPONS DEPARTMENT

Chief Petty Officer J. R. Vincent  
Chief Petty Officer J. R. Childerhose  
Chief Petty Officer T. Brush

Petty Officer D. R. Moreton  
Petty Officer P. A. Hanlon  
Petty Officer D. Bartlett  
Petty Officer V. O. Sinyerd  
Petty Officer W. McBride

Leading Seaman G. Hashey  
Leading Seaman B. Power  
Leading Seaman P. Fogarty  
Leading Seaman J. C. Vanburen  
Leading Seaman D. Schuman  
Leading Seaman N. Sakins  
Leading Seaman J. W. Jennereaux  
Leading Seaman W. H. Yallop  
Leading Seaman J. Watson

Able Seaman W. Murphy  
Able Seaman B. Ramsay  
Able Seaman K. C. Byrne  
Able Seaman W. G. Langridge  
Able Seaman K. Booker  
Able Seaman F. Walker  
Able Seaman J. Blue  
Able Seaman D. MacInnis  
Able Seaman G. B. Cooper  
Able Seaman G. D. Sullivan  
Able Seaman R. MacLean  
  
Ordinary Seaman A. Morton  
Ordinary Seaman J. Fletcher  
Ordinary Seaman B. L. Schmidt  
Ordinary Seaman T. J. Inkster  
Ordinary Seaman W. G. Hetherington  
Ordinary Seaman C. L. Henderson  
Ordinary Seaman R. B. Hicks  
Ordinary Seaman G. L. Leblanc

### TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT

Chief Petty Officer K. McDonald  
Chief Petty Officer W. Roscoe  
Chief Petty Officer A. Wright  
Chief Petty Officer R. Belanger  
Chief Petty Officer F. Kennett  
Chief Petty Officer L. Miklos

Petty Officer J. Guest  
Petty Officer J. Winstanley  
Petty Officer G. Strum ✓  
Petty Officer D. Smith  
Petty Officer E. Heap  
Petty Officer E. Ryan  
Petty Officer J. Johnson

Petty Officer D. Dark  
Petty Officer D. Murray  
Petty Officer N. Legault  
Petty Officer A. Lyon  
Petty Officer B. Webb  
Petty Officer R. Knoll  
Petty Officer D. Wing  
Petty Officer C. Bedard  
Petty Officer L. Thurber

Leading Seaman S. McKinnon  
Leading Seaman D. C. Hart  
Leading Seaman D. Idle  
Leading Seaman R. St. Louis



Leading Seaman K. Sutcliffe  
Leading Seaman M. Barber  
Leading Seaman W. Driol  
Leading Seaman F. Robertson  
Leading Seaman R. Munro  
Leading Seaman H. Munden

Able Seaman N. Desautels  
Able Seaman N. Booi  
Able Seaman H. Logan  
Able Seaman D. Bronson  
Able Seaman K. A. Estabrooks  
Able Seaman E. Munden  
Able Seaman W. Buckingham  
Able Seaman R. H. Schultz  
Able Seaman B. A. Gilbert  
Able Seaman J. R. F. Valiquette  
Able Seaman H. L. Smith  
Able Seaman J. Natte  
Able Seaman E. F. Healy  
Able Seaman P. M. Ripper

Able Seaman C. R. Cirtwell  
Able Seaman J. Wragge  
Able Seaman G. Trenholm  
Able Seaman W. S. Weltz  
Able Seaman S. Croucher  
Able Seaman J. E. Boucher  
Able Seaman GF. P. Holmes

Ordinary Seaman R. Shmanka  
Ordinary Seaman P. Ritchie  
Ordinary Seaman P. Hackett  
Ordinary Seaman W. M. Duggan  
Ordinary Seaman W. R. Stacey  
Ordinary Seaman H. N. Richard  
Ordinary Seaman G. N. Cooper  
Ordinary Seaman H. J. R. Hill  
Ordinary Seaman R. J. Mitchell  
Ordinary Seaman R. B. McKearney  
Ordinary Seaman H. W. Tucker  
Ordinary Seaman R. C. Davidson  
Ordinary Seaman D. A. Furlotte

## MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Petty Officer R. Flood

## DECK DEPARTMENT

Petty Officer R. Leggett

Leading Seaman F. Murphy  
Leading Seaman K. Johnston  
Leading Seaman G. D. Best

Leading Seaman K. Garant

Ordinary Seaman S. Mosher  
Ordinary Seaman A. E. McNally  
Ordinary Seaman C. W. Harris



## OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Chief Petty Officer B. Hutchinson  
Chief Petty Officer J. Dyson  
Chief Petty Officer J. Anderson

Petty Officer F. Gowanlock  
Petty Officer L. Mansfield  
Petty Officer L. Richard  
Petty Officer L. Carter  
Petty Officer J. Gallant

Leading Seaman J. Pittendrigh  
Leading Seaman L. Jessome  
Leading Seaman J. Parker

Able Seaman E. Rye  
Able Seaman J. Kelly

Able Seaman G. Cassidy  
Able Seaman P. Meadows  
Able Seaman G. Arnott  
Able Seaman G. Gagne  
Able Seaman H. Billard  
Able Seaman J. Leroux  
Able Seaman K. McLaren

Ordinary Seaman C. Chislett  
Ordinary Seaman D. Carty  
Ordinary Seaman J. Johnson  
Ordinary Seaman W. Thivierge  
Ordinary Seaman M. Donovan  
Ordinary Seaman J. Thurston  
Ordinary Seaman R. Wilmot  
Ordinary Seaman B. Watson  
Ordinary Seaman J. McPherson

## SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

Chief Petty Officer A. Ames  
Chief Petty Officer R. Knapman

Petty Officer R. Lynch  
Petty Officer L. Ashby  
Petty Officer P. McClure  
Petty Officer E. Cox  
Petty Officer J. D'Anjou  
Petty Officer R. Chandler

Leading Seaman W. Archer  
Leading Seaman F. Saunders  
Leading Seaman R. Ryne  
Leading Seaman T. Morgan  
Leading Seaman R. Landry

Able Seaman J. Levesque

Able Seaman J. A. Weston  
Able Seaman D. Hazell  
Able Seaman R. D. Smith  
Able Seaman G. Clifford  
Able Seaman E. Harward  
Able Seaman J. Valencourt  
Able Seaman R. Leger  
Able Seaman O. Nault  
Able Seaman W. Griffin

Ordinary Seaman C. Cottingham  
Ordinary Seaman J. Loates  
Ordinary Seaman L. Harrison  
Ordinary Seaman R. Damczyk  
Ordinary Seaman R. Kirchmayer  
Ordinary Seaman G. Phelan  
Ordinary Seaman G. Kuhn