

Welcome Aboard



HMCS OKANAGAN

THE SUBMARINE

INTRODUCTION

HMCS OKANAGAN the third of three Oberon Class submarines built for the Canadian Navy, embodies all the improvements suggested by experience with previous ships of the class and by continuing research into the techniques of anti-submarine warfare.

She is capable of cruising for long periods at depths and of bursts of high underwater speed. She has a wide range of equipment to increase her detection capability and can present a significant threat to both surface and submarine enemies.

CONSTRUCTION

OKANAGAN's pressure hull has been designed to withstand pressure of great depths. A streamlined external casing allows the submarine to travel at high speeds without generating noise which would betray her to a vigilant enemy, and provides a platform for surfaced conning.

The 295 feet of OKANAGAN's length are packed with modern, complex equipment carefully positioned so as to make maximum use of the limited internal area.

WEAPONS

OKANAGAN has six torpedo tubes forward capable of delivering high speed, long range torpedoes. Spare torpedoes are stowed in the Fore Ends.

PROPULSION

OKANAGAN is propelled by two electric motors, each producing 3000 shaft horsepower. Power for the motors is drawn from two storage batteries of 224 cells each, manufactured by the Chloride Company. The batteries are charged by two 1280 kw generators driven by two V-16 mechanically supercharged diesel engines. While at periscope depth, the submarine can raise masts above the surface to draw fresh air to run the diesels and to expel exhaust.

AUXILIARY MACHINERY

As available space for fresh water storage is limited, a distilling plant is fitted capable of producing 25 gallons of potable water per hour.

WELCOME ABOARD

Dear Visitor,

Welcome aboard Her Majesty's Canadian Submarine OKANAGAN. During your visit with us you will have an unique opportunity to gather some insight into the character and nature of submarines and submariners.

Our ship's company consists of 65 highly trained and dedicated officers and men who proudly stand ready to serve in the defence of Canada or her allies. HMCS OKANAGAN has just completed an extensive modernization program which has brought her up to date with her sister submarines OJIBWA and ONONDAGA.

Please feel free to ask questions and I hope you enjoy your visit with OKANAGAN today.

Two high pressure air compressors are used to charge bottle groups located throughout the submarine. The air is used to blow the submarine to the surface and to operate pneumatic machinery.

As Canadian submarines operate in the harshest of environments, high capacity air conditioning plants are fitted to maintain reasonable conditions for men and machines.

Control surfaces, periscopes, masts and valves are operated by hydraulic pressure supplied by pressure accumulators which are in turn charged by two hydraulic pumps.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

OKANAGAN has radio equipment for transmitting and receiving over a wide range of frequencies. She has several different sonar sets capable of active and passive detection of other ships and submarines. Underwater telephones are provided for communications with other vessels and a radar is fitted for navigational safety.

HABITABILITY

A great and sustained effort has been made to provide the best living and working conditions possible commensurate with the unavoidable constraints imposed by the size of the submarine. Particular effort has gone into the improvement of air conditioning, sanitation, and waste disposal as well as in training the crew in the higher standards of personal hygiene required when living in close proximity to others.

Accommodation consists of the Captain's cabin, a Wardroom for eight officers, a Chief and Petty Officer's mess and a cafeteria.

An all electric galley, staffed by three cooks, provides meals which compare favourably with those in surface ships.

Arrangements for recreation include a library, movies, tape recorders, physical training equipment and traditional games.

SAFETY

The ship's company of HMCS OKANAGAN have been trained in compartment and single escape tower techniques, to be used should the submarine be trapped on the bottom of the sea. Buoys are located at both ends of the submarine to alert rescue vessels and a third buoy can be used to guide a rescue bell from the surface to the submarine escape tower.

THE OKANAGAN STORY

The Okanagans are a branch of the Interior Salish nation of British Columbia in Canada and the State of Washington in the U.S.A. They were not a long-house people, but built individual family dwellings - pits roofed with wood and turf for winter and light frame lodges covered with rush mats for summer.

They lived by hunting and fishing and their principal foods were salmon, venison, bear meat and other game. Their only crop was tobacco.

The most remarkable handicraft of the Okanagan people was basketry, for their ware was watertight. In fact, they used baskets as cooking pots, dropping in heated stones until the contents boiled.

Both dug-out and bark canoes were used by the Okanagans, but they did most of their travelling on foot because of the violent rapids on the rivers of the mountain region where they lived. The bark canoes were of an unusual design, being longest at the keel and shortest at the gunwale, giving the craft a ram-like stem and stern.

The Indian's first contact with the white man was in 1811 with the traders of John Jacob Astor's fur brigades exploring the interior from their base at the mouth of the Columbia. The Okanagan valley gave access to the whole of the interior of New Caledonia - now called British Columbia.

In 1826 the Hudson's Bay Company started using the same route and continued to do so until the international boundary was established and the United States began collecting customs duties for furs. This forced the company to transfer its west coast base to Fort Camosun (now Victoria, B.C.) in 1847. Some gold was discovered in the valley in 1860, but it was not until the late 1880's that Europeans moved into the region to settle after the Canadian Pacific Railway line had been built, bringing them close to the north end of the valley.

OKANAGAN'S AFFILIATED TOWN

The city of Penticton, located in the Okanagan Valley, is situated 40 miles north of the U.S.A. border and 250 miles east of Vancouver, British Columbia.

Penticton, British Columbia, has a population of 25,000 people year round. The City is bordered by two lakes, Okanagan Lake and Skaha Lake. Okanagan Lake is reported to be inhabited by a lake creature called "Ogopogo" who is also the central figure on the submarine's crest.

