



EDUCATION

IN THE

ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

EDUCATION

*Nuclear Age More than Ever Demands Best Possible
Training for Personnel of RCN*

MANY A MAN entering on a naval career has all the qualities considered desirable in an officer—intelligence, character, leadership ability and so on—with a single obstacle standing in the way of rapid advancement: insufficient education.

Opportunities for the improvement of educational standing have been available in the Royal Canadian Navy for many years, but the great technological advances of recent years, incorporated in new ships, new aircraft and new weapons, have made it more desirable than ever that the general educational level of serving personnel be raised.

A streamlining of the Navy's educational system has become particularly urgent as a result of the many changes in trade grouping, methods of training and objectives of training which have arisen from the recommendations of the Committee on Personnel Structure. Officers will need a broader-based education to meet the requirements of the new General List.

What must be the salient features of the naval educational service in the RCN? The answer has two parts:

It must provide ample opportunity for all officers and men to participate on a voluntary basis in adult education over a wide front.

Secondly, it must provide facilities to encourage and assist a number of suitable young men on the lower deck to

attain commissioned rank as early as possible in their naval careers. The new educational program, which has just been announced, is designed to do exactly this.

"The selection of men from the lower deck should be improved and the Navy must be prepared to assist these men to obtain the required educational standards . . .," says a recommendation of the committee.

The new program of improved naval education has been designed to implement this recommendation. It has widened the field from which candidates may be selected by setting up three special full-time courses and one group of correspondence courses.

Take for example three young men joining the RCN as men. They are all under 24. The three young men soon show the qualities and characteristics that make the kind of leaders the RCN needs; yet their educational backgrounds are different. No longer must each fight a long uphill battle in his spare time to pass a group of Canadian Intermediate Educational Test subjects. No longer does he have to push forward largely under his own steam against the difficulties of finding the time to study—no small problem in a sea-going ship. The new system caters for each of these men in a different way.

NUMBER ONE is a man who had passed his Junior Matriculation in school less than two years previously and had made a minimum of 60 per cent in maths, physics and chemistry and a minimum of 50 per cent in two other subjects, one of which was English. He is recommended for promotion to commissioned rank by the Command Education Officer and the Command Personnel Selection Officer.

His case is then reviewed by a preliminary selection board at Naval Headquarters and, proving satisfactory, he goes before a fleet selection board. Again he is successful.

At this point an initial board of review at Naval Headquarters decides upon one of two courses for him. They may decide that he is a potential candidate for university or for the Canadian Services Colleges. Since a three- or four-year university course leads to a degree, and that of the four-year Canservcol course is soon likely to do so too, an intensive period of study at this stage is necessary to prepare the candidate for a concentrated program of higher studies.

For this reason, in mid-September of that year he proceeds to the RCN Preparatory School in *Naden* where he takes the RCN Senior Matriculation Course (SMC) which lasts until late June. This full-time academic course under RCN instructors, each of whom is a specialist in his field, prepares him to write the British Columbia grade XIII examinations which are set and marked by the B.C. Department of Education. The curriculum of the RCN Senior Matriculation Course (SMC) consists of English, mathematics, chemistry, physics and French or German. A minimum standing of 60 per cent in maths, physics and chemistry is required and a minimum of 50 per cent in the

remaining subjects, in order to be eligible for university training. All credits obtained from the B.C. grade XIII examinations are recognized throughout the country. The grade XIII examinations behind him, the candidate may now be selected by a final board of review at Naval Headquarters to go on to university or Canservcol in the fall.

The initial board of review may decide, however, that he is a candidate for the junior year at College Militaire Royal or for *Venture*. From CMR he will be fed into the Canservcol program. At *Venture* he takes his senior matric in the first year. During this time he may be selected for university training or for one year of professional instruction and training to become an officer on a seven-year short-service appointment. This can lead to a permanent commission at a later date.

THE SECOND of our three potential officers didn't go quite as far or do quite as well in school as Number One before joining the Navy. One of three things could have happened to him. He could have left school one year before junior matric, taken a partial junior matric, or taken a full junior matric and made low marks. Another reason for being in a different category might be that he took his junior matric satisfactorily enough, but had allowed more than two years to elapse before his selection as an officer candidate.

Recommended by the Command Education Officer, the Command Personnel Selection Officer and the preliminary selection board at Naval Headquarters, this candidate has a chance too. He is sent to HMCS *Naden* by mid-January. There he attends the RCN Junior Matriculation Course (JMC).

The purpose of this course, an entirely new one in the RCN, is to give him a sound academic preparation in readiness for either the RCN Senior Matriculation Course, *Venture* or CMR and the more advanced studies which can follow it. The curriculum of this RCN Junior Matriculation Course includes mathematics, physics, chemistry, English, social studies and French as laid down by the Department of Education of the Province of British Columbia.

During this seven months' course, the officer candidate appears before a fleet selection board and then writes B.C. grade XII supplemental examinations in August. They are set and marked by the B.C. Department of Education and all credits granted are recognized by all provincial departments of education and universities.

Having obtained 60 per cent or better in physics, maths and chemistry and 50 per cent or better in the other subjects, the case of the student is now reviewed by a board in Headquarters and he is directed either to *Venture*, CMR or *Naden* for the senior matric course, all of which start in the fall.

THE THIRD and last of the trio is a young man with only a grade VIII or IX education. Even he can go right up through the system to the very top if he is prepared to make the effort. Here again the Navy is prepared to assist.

To this end the new education program includes a series of five correspondence courses known as the Naval Junior Matriculation Correspondence Courses and Examinations (NJME).

These courses and examinations are free and open to all. Their purpose is to give an officer candidate the oppor-

tunity to qualify for admission to the Junior Matriculation Course, the Senior Matriculation Course and for older men, to the Branch Officers' Course.

How does a man handle them? Whether he is afloat or ashore, an instructor officer will be assigned to supervise his correspondence work. This officer will see that he receives the appropriate papers, assignments, materials, etc. He will also keep adequate records of his work. Provision is also made to take care of student's work when he is drafted, so that his new instructor is fully in the picture as far as his progress, weaknesses and efforts are concerned.

Taking advantage of the Naval Junior Matriculation Correspondence Courses and Examinations, this third young man set to work to gain credits in junior matric maths and junior matric physics. He needs only these two subjects to qualify him academically for admission to the Junior Matriculation Course. This is all that any candidate with an eight or ninth grade educational background needs. His interviews and boards will be exactly the same as those taken by candidate Number Two, and so will his opportunities to advance to the more advanced courses—to university itself.

The exceptional candidate has not been overlooked. Any officer candidate, who entered the Navy without a complete and satisfactory junior matriculation from high school, can bypass the seven-month RCN junior matriculation course if he passes all five correspondence courses. It is anticipated that some will do this, but it is likely that most candidates will go to the JMC.

In deciding the course which these officer candidates will pursue the various selection boards and the board of review will consider, among other factors, the age of the candidate. In all cases he must be under 24 on the first of January of the year on which his course (JMC or SMC) commences. To qualify for *Venture* he must be under the age of 19 on the same date. To go to CMR he must be under 20 on January 1, while at Royal Roads or at Royal Military College he must be under 21.

THE ADVANTAGES of the new system stand out very clearly. The old method of qualifying was difficult. No matter how promising a candidate was potentially, he had to struggle through his Canadian Intermediate Educational Tests (CIETs) largely unaided. Time to study, or rather the lack of it, particularly at sea, often defeated even the stoutest hearts. Many a man who would have been of great value to the service as an officer, was passed over. By the time he did pass his CIETs he was too old. The new approach is designed to give maximum assistance and to give it to many more candidates than hitherto. Thus it will unquestionably produce more fully qualified officer candidates in less time and with greater efficiency than before.

Giving the branch officer candidates a course tailored to their own particular needs, means that a well-integrated common program of academic subjects can be given to all, a course that will improve their general educational background. The present wide variety of professional courses that are covered in Prep School will be given in the various branch schools.

The new course Branch Officer Candidates' Educational Course will be of seven months' duration commencing in mid-January 1959 — its aim to give branch officer candidates the basic body of knowledge and academic skills enjoyed by senior matriculation course graduates. This includes a sound working knowledge of the arts of reading, writing, speaking, history, political science and literature.

If any man is over 30, or if he has a minimum of 10 years' service he can become eligible for admission to the BOCEC by meeting two main requirements. First he must meet the personal and professional qualifications, then he must have passed three Naval Junior Matriculation Examinations (NJME), mathematics, physics and English within a period of not more than two years before the date of selection. This will be done by the correspondence courses and by private study aided by guidance and assistance from the instructor officers.

He will then need favourable recommendations from the Command Education Officer, the Command Personnel Officer and the preliminary selection board at Headquarters, before appearing in front of a fleet selection board for selection to attend the Branch Officers' Candidates Education Course. The fleet selection board's favourable decision being confirmed by the Headquarters' board of review, he will then go to HMCS *Naden* and start the seven-month course of studies embracing English literature and composition, mathematics, science, history and government and political geography. In the following August he will be required to pass with an average standing of 55 per cent and a minimum

standing of not less than 50 per cent in every subject, examinations set and marked by the Command Education Officer. The level will be approximately that of senior matriculation or first year university.

Some changes with regard to age, service rank and other qualifications needed by branch officer candidates may result from the final recommendations of the Personnel Structure Committee. These changes will not, however, affect the overall educational plan for this course.

THE OLD Canadian Intermediate and Higher Educational Tests as such will be done away with shortly. CIETs will be replaced by a series of subjects, similar in content, to be named Naval Junior Matriculation Examinations. In place of CHETs a wide selection of correspondence courses drawn from provincial departments of education, universities and technical schools across Canada, as well as evening classes, will be available for all officers and men. Thus, everyone in his attempt to improve his educational background will have the widest facilities at his disposal. Better general education spells promotion, admission to trade group courses, jobs done efficiently. Interrupted studies that could lead to high school graduation and in some cases to university work and degree can be taken up again. Courses can be taken not only for definite vocational goals but also for pleasure and interest, courses that make leisure time more profitable, and life generally fuller and richer.

To this end naval educational authorities will work in close co-operation with the provincial departments of education (particularly Nova Scotia and

British Columbia), universities and other agencies in the academic, vocational and technical fields. RCN instructor officers will help officers and men select suitable courses from the Naval Catalogue of Adult Educational Courses which will be readily available for all to study. The instructor officers will also give assistance, coaching and guidance once a choice has been made and studies have been commenced.

Unlike the old naval correspondence courses, these new ones are fully recognized by everyone in Canada, industry, business and education. The fees involved are small. Provincial department of education correspondence courses and evening classes usually cost between \$4 and \$15, and similar university courses are equally reasonable. Some of these courses — those which come under the provision of NGO 54.00/2 — can be paid for by the service.

All in all the Naval Adult Education Program will make it possible for officers and men of the RCN to raise the level of their education across a wide front, and to do it inexpensively with guidance and coaching and direction from professional advisers.

In each case the new program of naval education means that chances of being selected and educated for Commissioned Rank are greatly improved. The CHETs and CIETs which carried dubious weight ashore are on the way out.

The passing of these CIET and CHET courses, which had a definite practical value as far as a particular trade was concerned, need not be mourned. The new structure of trade group courses and examinations will take care of this section of necessary knowledge.

THIS THEN is the outline of the new naval education. Part of it is already underway. CANGEN 173 and CANGEN 182 have announced that:

The first RCN Junior Matriculation Course (JMC) is scheduled to begin in HMCS Naden on January 19, 1959;

The first RCN Senior Matriculation Course (SMC) began in HMCS Naden on September 15, 1958.

The first RCN Branch Officer Candidates Educational Course (BOCEC) is scheduled to begin in HMCS Naden on January 19, 1959.

(BOCEC) is scheduled to begin in HMCS Naden on January 15, 1959, and

The final date for branch officers qualifying educationally for promotion by gaining CHET credits November 1, 1959.

In addition: CIET correspondence courses will gradually be replaced by new NJME correspondence courses in junior matriculation subjects and new Naval Adult Educational Program is being implemented now in Educational Training Schools and Centres.