

WELCOME ABOARD



HER MAJESTY'S CANADIAN SHIP

ALGONQUIN



As Commanding Officer of HMCS ALGONQUIN I am pleased to welcome you aboard.

This Warship – the fourth of her class – is among the most modern afloat, and is capable of many roles in support of our National policies of Sovereignty and Collective Defense Agreements.

Built at Davie Shipbuilding Limited, Lauzon, P.Q., ALGONQUIN was launched on 23 April, 1971 and commissioned into service in the Maritime Command in the autumn of 1973.

Incorporated in her design are a gas turbine propulsion plant, computerized command and control systems, and improved communications, weapons, and detection equipments.

Notwithstanding the excellence of these systems, it is still upon the officers and men who sail her that this ship's effectiveness depends. Modern equipments and tactical development have increased, rather than diminished their role.

Several members of the present crew were directly involved in "fitting-out" the ship during the past two years, while others were under-going equally lengthy training to master the many automated and computerized systems.

As you move through the ship you will find these young men, ready to offer assistance and explain the various equipments you will see.

I hope your visit will be an interesting and enjoyable one.

R.L. McCLEAN
Commander

HMCS ALGONQUIN

THE NAME

The name "ALGONQUIN" means "At the place of spearing fish and eels". This name was connected to a tribe of Indians who ranged throughout a vast territory from Georgian Bay in the west, to the St. Maurice River in the East, and who made their living by hunting and fishing. As early as the time of Champlain, the Algonquins allied themselves with the French against their enemies, the Five Nation Iroquois confederacy.

The Algonquins remained fierce enemies of the Iroquois for years. Often driven north during these Indian wars, the Algonquins always returned south to their homes in eastern Ontario and western Quebec, where their descendants can be found to this day.

The Algonquin people provided an honourable heritage for the ships which were to bear the name of their tribe.



SHIP'S BADGE

BLAZON: Sable, a base barry wavy Argent and Azure of four, from which issues an Indian's arm embowed proper, wearing arm and wrist bands Argent and holding a fish-spear in bend Argent transfixing an eel Or.

SIGNIFICANCE: The badge depicts the arm of an Indian holding up an eel that has been caught on the end of a fish spear. This interprets the meaning of the word "ALGONQUIN" at the place of spearing fish and eels. In a war-time letter requesting approval of the ship's badge, the Commanding Officer of the first HMCS ALGONQUIN commented on the design as follows:

"The strong arm rising from the sea represents offensive power upon the great waters, the impaled eel, the vanquished foe. The design is also symbolic of success against the underwater evil, the U-Boat".

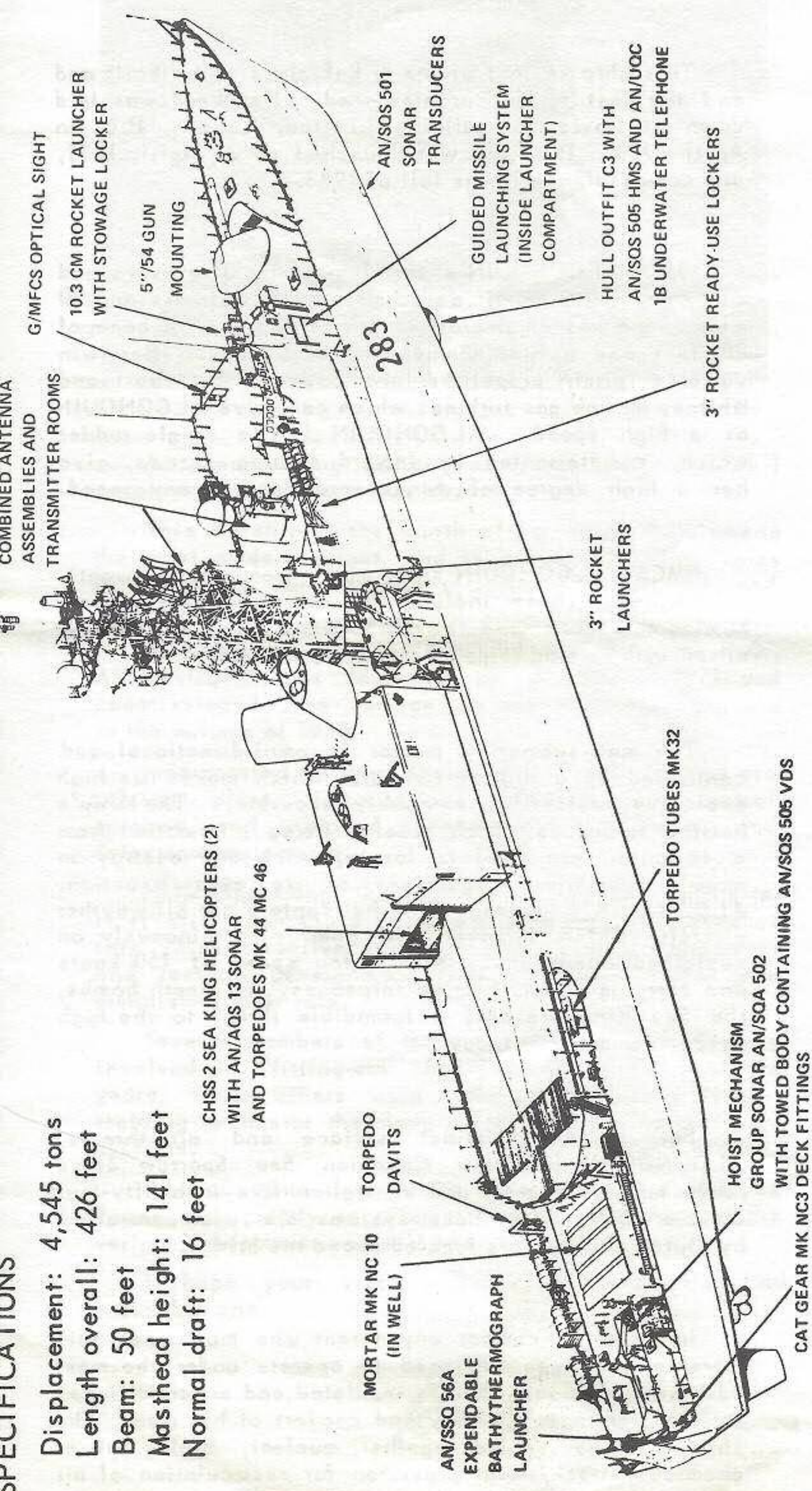
SHIP'S COLOURS: Gold and Azure Blue

MOTTO: A Coup Sûr (with sure stroke)

SPECIFICATIONS

Displacement: 4,545 tons
 Length overall: 426 feet
 Beam: 50 feet
 Masthead height: 141 feet
 Normal draft: 16 feet

THE SHIP



Today, a warship at sea must be prepared to meet any threat, be it in the air, on the surface or underwater. It is the task of the SEA ELEMENT of the CANADIAN ARMED FORCES to meet this threat; and for this purpose the DDH 280 class warship has been developed. You are now visiting the latest of this class of ship, HMCS ALGONQUIN.

This ship is last of the tribal class to be built and and the last to be commissioned. Her keel was laid down at Davie Shipbuilding Limited, Lauzon, P.Q. in April 1970. The ship was launched on 23 April, 1971, and commissioned in the fall of 1973.

HMCS ALGONQUIN's complement is 20 officers and 225 men (with an air detachment of 12 officers and 30 men). She has an overall length of 425 feet, a beam of 50 feet and a displacement of 4500 tons. Her twin variable pitch propellers are powered by Pratt and Whitney Marine gas turbines which can drive ALGONQUIN at a high speed. ALGONQUIN has a single rudder which, complemented by inward turning screws, give her a high degree of manoeuvrability at any speed.

HMCS ALGONQUIN's primary weapons are anti-submarine. These include the anti-submarine mortar, homing torpedoes, and two CHSS-2 Sea King Helicopters armed with homing torpedoes and depth bombs.

The anti-submarine mortar is omni-directional and controlled by a digital computer which makes its high explosive projectiles extremely accurate. The Ship's homing torpedoes which receive firing information from a computer, are fired to locate, track and destroy an enemy submarine, regardless of its evasive action. ALGONQUIN's twin Sea King helicopters are all-weather aircraft, which together can operate continuously on sustained operations. With a top speed of 150 knots and carrying sonar, homing torpedoes, and depth bombs, the Sea King presents a formidable threat to the high speed submarine of today.

For defence against surface and air threats, ALGONQUIN has the Canadian Sea Sparrow close range missile system and an Italian five inch fifty-four calibre gun. Both these systems are radar controlled by Dutch 22 directors located above the bridge.

In order to combat any threat she may meet, this warship has been designed to operate under the most adverse conditions. She is insulated and air conditioned for the fighting efficiency and comfort of her men. The ship can be sealed against nuclear, biological or chemical attack, with provision for recirculation of air within the ship through the air conditioning plants.

Most functions of the ship, including armament, navigation, cooking, air conditioning and ventilation, and operations and communications depend upon electrical power. The electronic and electrical systems in HMCS ALGONQUIN are among the most modern in the world today. A computer driven command and control system gathers data from the ships radar and sonar and automatically displays this information in the Operations Room.

Internally this "electronic brain" carries out the orderly dissemination of data and co-ordinates reactions with the sensors and weapons in the ship.

The electrical system needed to drive these and other complex electronics is more extensive than ever seen before. ALGONQUIN's generators alone can produce enough power to maintain a community of 27,000 people.