

For Posterity's Sake

A Royal Canadian Navy Historical Project

HMCS COWICHAN 162

Commissioning Ceremony

12 Dec 1957

Courtesy of Cyril Hughes



COMMISSIONING CEREMONY
H M C S "COWICHAN"
AT
YARROWS LTD.

12 DECEMBER 1957

SERVICE

Prayers by Chaplain (P) C.H. MacLEAN

Hymn

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 23-31, 43)

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 thereof.
26. They mount up to the heaven, 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 distresses.
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 for his wonderful works to the children of men!
43. Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord.

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 so through the waves of this troublesome world, and through all the changes and chances of this mortal life, bring them of thy mercy to the sure haven of thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROGRAMME

2:45 PM: Official Party and Invited Guests arrive.

3:00 PM: Guest of Honour arrives:

Commodore (E) J.B. CALDWELL, MBE, CD, RCN

Commissioning Ceremony Begins

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Introduction: Captain (E) E. REVFEM, CD, RCN

Principal Naval Overseer, West Coast

Address: Mr. H.A. WALLACE, Vice-President and

Managing Director, Yarrows Ltd

Address: Guest of Honour

Acceptance of ship on behalf of

Chief of Naval Technical Services by

Commodore (E) CALDWELL, MBE, CD, RCN

Signing of acceptance forms:

Mr. H.A. WALLACE

Commodore (E) J.B. CALDWELL, MBE, CD, RCN

Lieutenant Commander G.W.S. BROOKS, CD, RCN

Commissioning Service:

Chaplain (P) C.H. MacLEAN

Chaplain (RC) H.M. McGETTIGAN.

Ship Commissions

National Anthem

Address to Ship's Company:

Lieutenant Commander G.W.S. BROOKS, CD, RCN

OH! CANADA

Ship's Company March Aboard

Commanding Officer Piped Aboard

Ship Open To Inspection

4:00 - 5:30 PM: Reception in the Canteen Building
Yarrows Ltd.



A Prayer For The Ship

O ETERNAL LORD GOD, who hast united us as shipmates in the bond of fellowship; enable us to be worthy of those who have served before us; and grant us with a willing spirit to fulfil whatever duty may be laid upon us, that when our work on earth is over we may find our rest in thine eternal service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; In earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Prayers by Chaplain (RC) H.M. McGETTIGAN

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made Heaven and earth.

Let us pray:

O Almighty and Everlasting God, Thou who does bless all men, who gives strength to those who believe in Thee, hope in Thee and love Thee, in Thy kindness hear our jumble prayers and deign to bless with Thy heavenly blessing this ship meant for use in battle, so that it may be a source of strength against unjust aggression and evil people.

Armed with Thy protective power, may it strike terror in the enemies of Christian peoples and inspire confidence in those who trust in Thee as a sure promise of victory, for Thou art God, who dost conquer war itself and dost grant the help of Heaven to protect those who hope in Thee.

Through Thy only Son, Christ, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, World without End.

Amen.

COMMISSIONING SHIP'S COMPANY

CO LCDR G.W.S. BROOKS
XO LT J.M. BOND
LT F. ALLWOOD
LT C.W. ~~MAGHEEN~~

SEAMAN BRANCH

P1QM3 R. REEVES
P1AA3 P. MOSKVEN
P2QM2 ~~A. HARRIS~~
LSAA1 G. ~~BECHTEL~~
LSTD2 J. HILL
LSRP2 R. CHEESE
LSQM1 J. ~~FLYNN~~
ABQR1 W. ADAMSON
ABTD1 D. ~~FOSTER~~
ABQM1 D. REEVES
OSRP1 P. DUTTON
OSRP1 A. MOORE
OSQM1 H. ROLSTON

ENGINEER ROOM BRANCH

C2ER4 S. WADDINGTON
P1ER4 F. HARDING
P1ER4 W. PEARSON
P1EM4 R. CATO
LSEM2 J. JACKSON
LSEM2 T. CHALMERS
LSEM2 E. McLAUGHLIN
ABEM1 P. ~~MATER~~
ABEM1 E. MONKSMAN
ABEM1 R. HOLMES
ABEM1 H. VAN ECK

COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

P2CV2 C. FITCH
ABCV1 S. ~~GANTON~~
LSCR2 G. McKENZIE
ABCRI A. ~~CRAWFORD~~

ELECTRICAL BRANCH

P1ET4 H. OFFER
P2RT4 J. ~~WOOD~~
LSEF3 M. ~~HAYES~~
LSLM2 F. MATHIAS

SUPPLY BRANCH

P2CK3 E. GUISE
ABCK2 W. ~~HOWELL~~
ABCK1 G. GAUDETTE

LSSW2 A. ~~WURBAN~~
LSNS2 S. SALAGA
LSAW2 R. KATTLER

THE SHIP'S NAME

The name "Cowichan" is that of a proud tribe of Indians who lived on the lower east coast of Vancouver Island. The area they inhabited now bears their name as have two previous ships of the Royal Canadian Navy.

The first "Cowichan" was a bangor class sweeper commissioned on 4 July, 1941. She served in the North Atlantic and in the English Channel. As a member of the only Canadian minesweeping flotilla to take part in sweeping the approaches to Normandy for D-Day, she did yeoman work. She was decommissioned at the end of the war.

During the postwar construction programme a Bay Class sweeper was given the name "Cowichan". Under the Mutual Aid Agreement of the North Atlantic Treaty she was turned over to France and renamed La Malouine.

Today we are commissioning a new "Cowichan". Launched at Yarrows Ltd. on 26 February, 1957, she bears a noble name well proven in the work for which she has been built.