

WELCOME ABOARD



**PAYING OFF
CRUISE
HMCS SASKATCHEWAN
1963 - 1994**



CDR N.R. SORSDAHL, CD

CDR Sorsdahl, a native of Saskatchewan, enrolled in the Naval Reserve at HMCS Unicorn in 1964 as a University Naval Training Division (UNTD) Cadet while attending University of Saskatchewan. He subsequently joined the Regular Force through the Regular Officer Training Program and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1970.

As a Maritime Surface Officer, CDR Sorsdahl served on the West Coast from 1970 to 1976; in HMCS Quappelle and Kootenay as a Bridge Watchkeeper and Assistant Weapon's Officer, in HMCS Mackenzie as Deck Officer and as #1 Squadron Commander at Royal Roads Military College. CDR Sorsdahl held appointments in HMCS Saguenay as Operations Officer and HMCS Algonquin as Weapon's Officer.

Commander Sorsdahl returned to the West Coast in 1982 to command HMCS Chaleur and assumed the duties of Commander First Canadian Training Division as Commanding Officer HMCS Miramichi in 1983. On completion of duty as Executive Officer in HMCS Kootenay in 1987, he joined the staff of Commander Training Group Pacific as the Senior Staff Officer Training Operations and Plans.

Upon graduation from the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College in 1989, Commander Sorsdahl was appointed to NDHQ where he assumed the duties of Staff Officer and Section Head for Personnel, Training, and Reserves. On promotion to his present rank in 1990, he took up the appointment of Integrated Logistics Support Manager for Personnel and Training in the Canadian Patrol Frigate Project. In July 1992, CDR Sorsdahl assumed Command of HMCS Saskatchewan.

CDR Sorsdahl, is married to the former Leslie Hands of Victoria, BC. They reside in Victoria with their son Michael and daughter Katherine.

HMCS SASKATCHEWAN

HMCS SASKATCHEWAN was launched on 1 February, 1963 at Victoria Machinery Depot and was Commissioned on 16 February, 1963.

The ship's peacetime complement is 160 sailors, 10 ship's officers, and as many as 40 officers under training. Her dimensions are 111.6M (366', slightly longer than a football field), 12.8M beam and 6.7M mean draught. She displaces 2540MT. Maximum speed is in excess of 27 kts, with a high degree of manoeuvrability provided by twin rudders and screws. SASKATCHEWAN was designed as an anti-submarine destroyer escort. today, her primary role centres around Naval Officer Training in ship handling, navigation, and marine and combat systems engineering. As a member of the Fourth Canadian Destroyer Squadron, SASKATCHEWAN operates with HMCS YUKON, another Mackenzie class ship.

REFITS

HMCS SASKATCHEWAN completed a major refit in 1985 which entailed the upgrading of her sonars, communication, and electronic sensor fit. In addition, she was fitted with a Naval Tactical Display System (computer) to assist with the collection and display of combat information. In 1990, SASKATCHEWAN completed a minor condition-based refit in which an environmentally safe blackwater system was added designed to reduce ship generated pollution.

HERITAGE

HMCS SASKATCHEWAN, DDE 262, is the second ship of the same name commissioned into the Canadian Navy. The first SASKATCHEWAN began her career as HMS FORTUNE, a "Fearless" class destroyer of the Royal Navy. On April 7, 1943, His Majesty King George VI gave approval to change her name to SASKATCHEWAN and to transfer to the RCN. She was commissioned into the Second world War on May 31, 1943. On January 28, 1946, SASKATCHEWAN was paid off for disposal at Sydney, NS, Canada.

To her successor she left these Battle Honours:

Atlantic	- 1943-44
Normandy	- 1944
Biscay	- 1944

SHIP'S MOTTO

"Ready and Confident" is the motto of Her Majesty's Canadian Ship SASKATCHEWAN. This proudly reflects the dedication of the officers and men as well as their willingness to serve. This may explain why the unofficial motto is "The Best in the West".

SHIP'S BADGE

The design of the ship's crest reflects the origin of the ship's name. The wavy lines represent the river and the sheaf of wheat the provinces through which the river flows.

WEAPONS

HMCS SASKATCHEWAN has three major weapon systems. She is fitted with two triple tube torpedo launchers. The torpedoes are equipped with their own sonar and need only be fired in the general direction of a submarine. To counter air and surface threats, SASKATCHEWAN is equipped with two three inch guns. The forward gun, of British design, is fully automatic. The after gun, of American design, is less automated and has a somewhat shorter range.

PROPULSION MACHINERY

The motive power of the ship is provided by two main steam-turbines geared down to twin shafts. Each turbine has a potential of 15,000 shaft horsepower.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRONICS

SASKATCHEWAN has electronic and electrical systems of extreme complexity. Nearly every function of the ship, cooking, ventilation, air conditioning, and communications is dependent on electrical power. To supply these needs SASKATCHEWAN is capable of generating 1700 kilowatts of electricity. This amount of power would more than supply the average daily needs of 1000 homes.

HABITABILITY

The 160 men of SASKATCHEWAN occupy eleven separate mess decks. Each bunk has a foam rubber mattress and an individual reading lamp. Aluminum clothes lockers and additional drawer space for personal belongings are provided but are quite limited.

The officer cabins, which also serve as offices, are arranged for single and double occupancy except for two which accommodate four junior officers each. The officers wardroom is a combined pantry, dining room and lounge. The Commanding Officer's quarters consist of a bedroom, bath, dining room, and day cabin.

There is provision for cafeteria style messing from a centrally located galley. The galley contains a bakery, sections for handling pastry, meat, and vegetables. The main dining hall can double as a cinema in the evening. The chief and petty officers have a separate dining space nearby.

The ship has storage for ninety days frozen provisions, as compared to about two weeks for naval vessels during World War II.