

HOME FLEET IN CANADA:

The biggest contingent of warships ever to visit Canada's east coast in peacetime steams into the harbour of Halifax, Nova Scotia; fourteen ships of Britain's Home Fleet under Admiral Sir William Davis, and fifteen from the Royal Canadian Navy under Rear Admiral F.H. Pullen. It's the first time since 1758 that the Home Fleet has entered Canadian waters, and it's part of the biggest Commonwealth naval exercise ever carried out in the Atlantic. Canada's Rear Admiral Pullen visits the Home Fleet flagship H.M.S. Maidstone, where he is piped aboard in the traditional manner, before inspecting the ship's company.

Biggest vessel of the Canadian contingent - indeed, of the Canadian Navy - is the aircraft carrier Bonaventure, 16,000 tons, Belfast-built with the new angled deck to handle jet aircraft. Exercise Maple Leaf is expected to be the forerunner of regular exercises between the Royal Navy and their Canadian colleagues.