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TWENTY-NINE WAR SHIPS VISIT HALIFAX
FOLLOWING OPERATION MAPLE ROYAL I

FIRST VISIT OF BRITISH HOME FLEET SINCE 1758

Halifax, N.S. March 1958,

The largest contingent of war ships to visit the east coast in peace time arrived today to make a full house at the jetties at the port of Halifax in Nova Scotia. Ten thousand sailors are visitors to the port. Fourteen ships of the British Home Fleet under the command of Admiral Sir William Davis KCB, DSO, combined with fifteen ships of the Royal Canadian Navy under the command of Rear Admiral H.F. Pullen off Bermuda in the biggest commonwealth naval exercises ever carried out in the Atlantic between Bermuda and Canada. The massive anti-submarine exercises were the first phase of operation Maple Royal I. With the Home Fleet is the first Lord of the Admiralty, the Earl of Selkirk.

The exercises Maple Royal I covered a wide range of situations including submarine attacks and day and night surface action and cross-operating of each Navy's aircraft. Following the first phase of action the ships arrived at Halifax for a four day visit. It is the first time since 1758 that the British Home Fleet has entered Canadian waters and it is expected this visit will be the forerunner of periodic exercises between the Royal Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy.

At day break the first of the 29 ships began steaming through the harbour entrance. Heading the combined fleet was HMS Maidstone flagship of the British Home Fleet. By 8 a.m. the cruiser HMS Ceylon had berthed, followed at five minute intervals by 27 ships. It took hours to sandwich the large fleet along the Halifax jetties.

By mid-morning the Royal Navy helicopter had landed the first Lord of the Admiralty, the Earl of Selkirk, who was greeted by Rear Admiral Pullen. A seventeen gun salute to the flag of Admiral Sir William Davis, commander-in-chief of the Home Fleet was fired from the parade square directly in front of jetty 5 berthing the Maidstone. The salute was fired on behalf of Rear Admiral Pullen, Flag Officer Atlantic Coast, and was returned by the Maidstone.

Following the salute, Admiral Pullen made an official welcoming call upon Admiral Sir William Davis and the Earl of Selkirk aboard the Maidstone.

Units of the Home Fleet include the submarine depot ship HMS Maidstone, the cruiser HMS Ceylon, the air-craft carrier Bulwark, the daring class ships Daring, Delight, Dainty and Defender, the battle class destroyers Camperdown and Barfleur, the submarines Turpin and Tiptoe, and the fleet auxiliaries Tidereach and Olna.

Participating with the Home Fleet are the Royal Canadian Navy third and seventh Escort Squadrons, the First Mine Sweeping Squadron, two Halifax based Royal Navy submarines and the Canadian aircraft carrier Bonaventure - a total of fifteen ships.

At the moment this huge flotilla is carrying out phase II of Maple Royal somewhere in the north Atlantic - a formidable force ready for any emergency which is likely to be presented.
