

**The Commissioning  
of  
H.M.C.S. ASSINIBOINE**



at  
HMC DOCKYARD  
Esquimalt, B.C.  
28 June, 1963



# THE SHIP'S BADGE

The ship's badge of HMCS Assiniboine symbolizes her association with the river after which the ship is named, and the province of Manitoba, wherein the river terminates.

The blazon is described in heraldic terms as:

"Or, a bend wavy azure charged with two cotises wavy argent,  
Over all a bison's head caboched proper."

The first Assiniboine, being a River Class destroyer, received her name from the prairie river that rises in Saskatchewan and flows eastwards to join the Red River at the City of Winnipeg. The river, in turn, took its name from the Assiniboine Indians who inhabited the lands between the Missouri and Saskatchewan Rivers.

In the unofficial wartime badge of the first Assiniboine, a buffalo and three green maple leaves in chief were displayed, but an attempt was made to find more adequate representation in designing the badge for the second Assiniboine. The bison's head was retained and wavy bands on a field of gold added.

The field of gold represents the wheat-growing region of Manitoba, and the wavy band design set at an angle in the heraldic way of depicting a river. The ship's colours are black and gold.



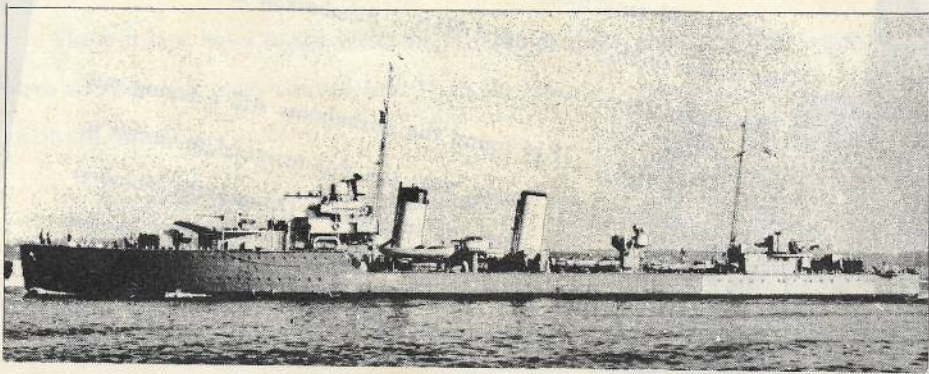
# A PROUD HERITAGE

The first HMCS *Assiniboine* served with distinction in the Second World War. Commissioned originally as HMS *Kempfenfelt*, a destroyer of 1,400 tons, she was purchased from the Royal Navy by Canada in 1939 and commissioned as HMCS *Assiniboine*.

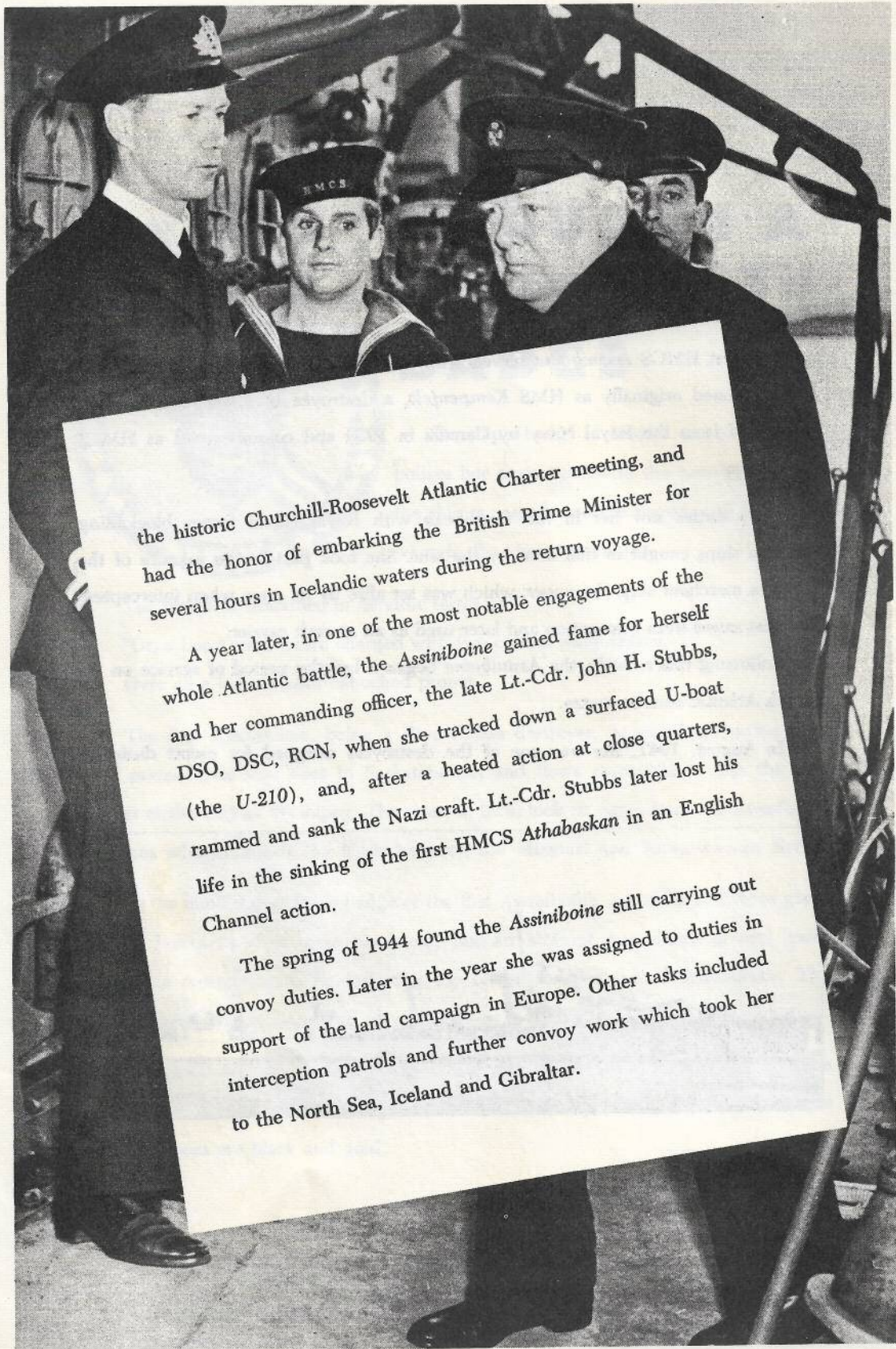
Early duties saw her in the Caribbean with Royal Naval forces blockading German ships caught in that area by the war. She took part in the capture of the German merchant ship *Hannover*, which was set afire by its crew when intercepted, but was saved from destruction and later used as an aircraft carrier.

Following this episode, the *Assiniboine* began a lengthy period of service on the North Atlantic convoy routes.

In August, 1941, she was one of the destroyers assigned for escort duties at





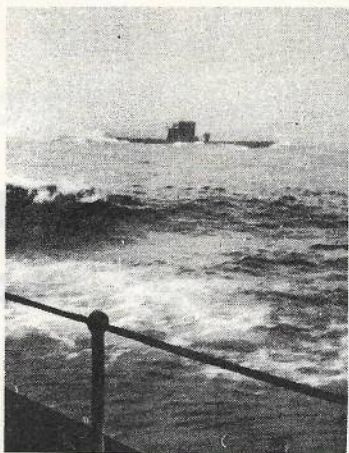


the historic Churchill-Roosevelt Atlantic Charter meeting, and had the honor of embarking the British Prime Minister for several hours in Icelandic waters during the return voyage.

A year later, in one of the most notable engagements of the whole Atlantic battle, the *Assiniboine* gained fame for herself and her commanding officer, the late Lt.-Cdr. John H. Stubbs, DSO, DSC, RCN, when she tracked down a surfaced U-boat (the *U-210*), and, after a heated action at close quarters, rammed and sank the Nazi craft. Lt.-Cdr. Stubbs later lost his life in the sinking of the first HMCS *Athabaskan* in an English Channel action.

The spring of 1944 found the *Assiniboine* still carrying out convoy duties. Later in the year she was assigned to duties in support of the land campaign in Europe. Other tasks included interception patrols and further convoy work which took her to the North Sea, Iceland and Gibraltar.





The U-210 Sighted

Following repairs and a brief patrol, she returned to Plymouth in time to sail, on August 25, as close escort to HMS Warspite (battleship), which had been ordered to bombard the enemy-held naval port of Brest. This was the same day that Paris was liberated.

At the end of the war she was at sea on patrol. On her return to Canada, she began a ferry service from Newfoundland to help relieve the pressure on commercial transportation systems.

Finally sold as surplus, she was taken in tow from Sorel, P.Q., for Baltimore for breaking up. By a trick of fate she was not to leave Canada.

On November 7, 1945, strong winds parted her from the towing vessel and she went aground.

She still lies, bows to the west, directly south of the eastern end of South Lake, two and one-half miles west of East Point, Prince Edward Island.

To her successor, the first Assiniboine left a heritage of renown and the battle honors:

“Atlantic, 1939-45”

“Biscay, 1944”

“English Channel, 1944-45”.



U-210 Survivors

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF HMCS ASSINIBOINE (DDE 234)

HMCS Assiniboine was built on the St. Lawrence River at Sorel, Quebec, and commissioned on August 16, 1956 with Commander E. P. Earnshaw in command. From commissioning until February 20, 1959, Assiniboine served as an operational unit of the Atlantic Command, helping to fulfil Canada's commitments to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

On February 20, 1959, Assiniboine transferred to the Pacific Command and replaced HMCS Crescent as senior ship of the Second Destroyer Escort Squadron. The Commanding Officer of the Squadron at that time was Captain J. C. Pratt, RCN.

Since joining the Royal Canadian Navy's Pacific Command, Assiniboine has taken part in many major exercises with ships of the Second Destroyer Escort Squadron and with units of the United States Navy.

HMCS Assiniboine also served as a training ship for ROTP cadets during summer months and ranged from Southern California to Alaska and as far west as Hawaii in carrying out these duties.

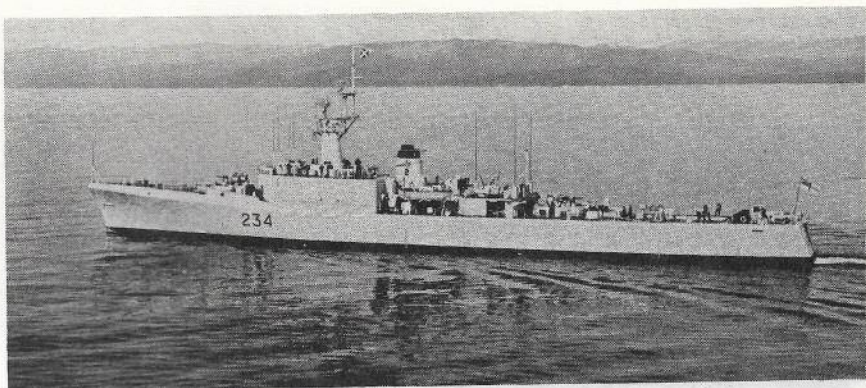
On July 15, 1959, HMCS Assiniboine, was honoured by being selected to embark Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second and the Duke of Edinburgh for a voyage from Vancouver to the city of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island.

One of the highlights of the ship's career in the Pacific Command was her participation, together with HMC Ships Margaree and Ottawa in Jetex'62 which took place in the month of February 1962 in the Indian Ocean. Assiniboine, Margaree and Ottawa operated with ships of the Royal Navy, Royal Australian Navy and the Indian Navy during this exercise. The ships left for the Far East on January 5 and returned to Esquimalt on April 19, 1962. During this extended cruise the ship visited Hawaii, Midway Island, Japan, Subic Bay in the Philippines, Singapore, Columbo Ceylon, Trincomalee Ceylon, Bangkok Thailand, Hong Kong and Adak Alaska.

After returning from the Far East HMCS Assiniboine was taken in hand for conversion in June 1962. This conversion was carried out by Victoria Machinery Depot.

After post-conversion trials, HMCS Assiniboine will return to the Atlantic Command, leaving Esquimalt in mid-September.





## THE CONVERSION PROGRAM

THERE IS more—much more—to the St. Laurent class conversion program than merely installing a helicopter landing platform on the quarterdeck and hooking variable depth sonar gear on the stern.

It is a job of major proportions.

Except for the main machinery spaces and some of the forward sections, the two ships now being converted, the *Assiniboine* and *St. Laurent*, have required almost total re-design and reconstruction inside and out.

It is estimated the conversion entails some 2,400 man-months per ship, devoted mainly to strengthening the hull and providing hangar and fuelling facilities for heavy anti-submarine helicopters, altering the stern to accommodate variable depth sonar and its associated equipment, rearranging office and accommodation facilities, extensive re-wiring and adding activated fin stabilizers to the hull to reduce roll in rough weather as an aid to helicopter operations.

When completed, the St. Laurents will virtually be new ships, with a new look and new capabilities. The photo at the top shows the *Assiniboine* before being taken in hand for conversion, and below is an artist's conception of what she will look like when she returns to sea.





COMMANDER  
W. S. BLANDY,  
CD, RCN,  
*Commanding Officer*

## THE SHIP'S COMPANY

### OFFICERS

Lieut.-Commander H. Rusk, CD, RCN.....	<i>Executive Officer</i>
Lieut. G. A. Dawes, CD, RCN.....	<i>Engineer Officer</i>
Lieut. A. J. Nicol, CD, RCN.....	<i>Supply Officer</i>
Lieut. E. C. Brady, RCN.....	<i>Weapons Officer</i>
Cmd. O. R. K. Nicholson, CD, RCN.....	<i>Deck Officer</i>
Sub-Lieut. E. R. Panchishin, RCN.....	<i>Navigation Officer</i>
Sub-Lieut. H. R. Spaven, RCN.....	<i>Under Training</i>



## MEN

Chief Petty Officer: R. D. Makara — Coxswain

### BOATSWAIN SECTION

Petty Officers: R. B. Barnes, L. M. Osland, J. Ashworth, R. Kisby; Leading Seamen: J. Thompson, W. Green; Able Seamen: L. Hansen, M. Butcher, W. Jensen, B. Booth; Ordinary Seamen: G. Smith, P. Purden, R. Benson, J. Daniels, W. Russell.

### RADAR PLOT

Chief Petty Officer: R. Bridges; Petty Officer: G. Volker; Leading Seaman: H. A. Stohl; Able Seamen: F. J. Anderson, F. Belton, H. F. Crowe, J. R. Sexsmith, W. Upton; Ordinary Seamen: B. H. Schimpf, J. Ruark, D. W. MacDonald, R. W. Chester, J. Lizee, D. Fancourt, D. W. McPherson, G. L. Nelson, J. K. Howell, C. Lauriente, P. Gratton.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Petty Officer: G. Smith; Petty Officers: W. A. Goronuk, E. A. Wareman, J. A. O'Callahan, R. Storie, R. Jordan; Leading Seamen: G. W. Thomson, H. D. Dyck, E. M. Thomas, J. Bullas, C. C. Corrigan, L. Hassard; Able Seamen: J. White, R. Berbeck, L. A. Peterson, D. Patterson, N. Herbert, D. H. Johnson, A. E. Williams; Ordinary Seamen: J. Linaker, D. Franks, R. Barre, J. E. Lawrence, D. J. Lorenz, M. Turner.

### FIRECONTROL

Chief Petty Officer: S. McCleave; Leading Seaman: D. Mylie; Able Seamen: D. Rix, A. Barclay, E. Tolonen, R. Waterson; Ordinary Seamen: C. M. Bowen, B. G. Maddigan.

### WEAPONS SURFACE

Chief Petty Officer: E. Tuttle; Petty Officer: H. Ross; Leading Seamen: V. M. Young, V. J. Herasimenko; Ordinary Seamen: D. McMillan, R. Haddrell, A. Picard, M. B. Dobson.

### WEAPONS UNDERWATER

Petty Officers: J. McCallum, J. A. Munro; Leading Seamen: J. Rockwell, E. Amos, M. A. Carter; Ordinary Seamen: L. F. Fraser, M. Portier, B. F. Goddard.

### SONAR

Chief Petty Officer: W. Henderson; Petty Officers: G. Smith, W. Robinson, L. Prokowpow; Leading Seaman: S. Martin; Able Seamen: L. Fraser, W. J. Mitchell, K. A. Murrey; Ordinary Seamen: P. E. Harper, K. Coleman, D. Andrews, R. J. Tobin, A. Gelinis, M. Boileau, P. Vermeire.

### ELECTRICAL

Chief Petty Officers: K. Nemeth, J. Fox; Petty Officers: H. Richardson, S. Wythe, B. Stokes, T. Lownie, D. N. Gudbrand, R. J. Rabb; Leading Seaman: J. Rennie; Able Seaman: G. F. Wilson; Ordinary Seamen: A. D. McAllister, W. S. Paterson, C. Coleman, T. Haughn, D. Gomgriep.

### ENGINE ROOM

Chief Petty Officers: A. Longbottom, J. McCall, K. Stewart, D. Tompkins, C. Butterworth; Petty Officers: E. E. Miller, L. Jorgenson, R. J. West, T. Nicholchuk, J. R. Silverson, A. Dachuk, H. G. Cossey, R. B. Sutherland, W. B. Sweeney, J. Davoren; Leading Seamen: V. Dool, R. Buchanan, R. K. Grainger, G. Crichton; Able Seamen: R. K. Coulson, M. E. Mathews, F. Toth, R. Davies, T. E. Wilson, R. Heide, J. Huizinga, S. C. Skinner; Ordinary Seamen: R. W. Ashley, R. Pelletier, W. E. Case, C. W. Cook, J. McLeod, A. D. Sykes, K. R. Gosse, D. G. Lowe, R. Sullivan, F. Parby, J. Mathieson, W. N. Kesler, R. E. Purer, J. Keizer, J. Widgill, R. Hamilton, R. Wilson, D. Allan, R. Schwartz.

### SUPPLY

Chief Petty Officers: G. Gould, J. McGowan; Petty Officers: J. Hodacsek, F. Neill, M. Calder, R. Cooper, R. Haines, C. Whillans; Leading Seamen: D. Wilkinson, J. S. Montgomery, J. W. Dahl, R. Wells, G. V. Mee; Able Seamen: F. Mahan, J. W. Fearn, W. M. Stevenson, J. G. Walmsley, L. W. Sneddon, G. V. Morin, J. Cervo, A. G. Plewa; Ordinary Seamen: C. Burgess, A. deVries, D. F. Taylor, T. Wright, G. Hewitt, D. Hughes, D. A. Watters.



ROGER DUHAMEL, F.R.S.C.  
QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY  
OTTAWA, 1963



# PROGRAMME

1100—Guests arrive.  
1115—Commissioning Ceremony.  
1200—Luncheon for Guests.

## THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY ORDER OF SERVICE

Commissioning Service conducted by the Rev. A. J. Mowatt, CD, Chaplain, (P), RCN.

HYMN: Tune "Eternal Father Strong to Save"

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 to 31, 43) to be said responsively.

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.
26. They mount up to the Heavens, 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 his wonderful works for 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 by Thy mercy to the sure haven of Thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.

The Naval Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Commissioning Service conducted by the Rev. Hugh McGettigan, Chaplain (RC), RCN.

BENEDICTIO NAVIS

V. Adjutorium nostrum in nomine Domini.  
R. Qui fecit caelum et terram.  
V. Dominus vobiscum.  
R. Et cum spiritu tuo.

Oremus.

Propitiare, Domine, supplicationibus nostris, et bene + dic navem istam dextera tua sancta et omnes qui in ea vehentur, sicut dignatus es benedicere arcam Noe ambulantem in diluvio: porridge eis, Domine; dexteram tuam, sicut porrexisti beato Petro ambulanti supra mare; et mitte sanctum Angelum tuum de caelis, qui liberet, et custodiat eam semper a periculis universis, cum omnibus quae in ea erunt: et famulos tuos, repulsis adversitatibus, portu semper optabili, cursuque tranquillo tuearis, transactisque, ac recte perfectis negotiis omnibus, iterato tempore ad propria cum omni gaudio revocare digneris: Qui vivis et regnas in saecula saeculorum.  
R. Amen.

BLESSING OF A SHIP

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.  
R. Who made heaven and earth.  
V. The Lord be with you.  
R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Be attentive, O Lord, to our supplications, and bless + this ship and all who sail hereon, as thou wast wont to bless Noah's Ark in the Deluge. Stretch forth thy hand to them, O Lord, as thou didst reach out to Peter when he walked upon the sea. Send thy holy angel from heaven to watch over it and those on board, and keep it safe at all times from every disaster. And when threatened perils have been removed, comfort thy servants with a calm voyage and the desired harbour. And having successfully transacted their business, recall them again when the time comes to the happiness of country and home. Thou Who livest and reignest forevermore. R. Amen.

PRAYER FOR SAILORS

(to St. Brendan)

St. Brendan, named "Patron of Seafarers," help those who fight our battles on the waters. You were fittingly called "God's Voyager," because you spread His Gospel by long and dangerous voyages and gave that Gospel of salvation to many. As our fathers were brought through the Red Sea and carried in safety through the overflowing waters, so grant that through your intercession our sailors, marines and those who guard our nation's coasts may be preserved from all dangers of the sea, may be protected on their course and come safely into port. Amen.

Her Majesty's Canadian Ship "Assiniboine" commissions.

Commanding Officer, Commander W. S. Blandy, CD, RCN, speak to the ship's company.