



HMCS CHAUDIERE is a Restigouche class destroyer-escort and the second ship in the Canadian Armed Forces to bear that name.

The first was commissioned as HMS HERO. She served in the Royal Navy until 1943 when she was recommissioned into the R.C.N.

The first "CHAUDIERE" saw service in the North Atlantic on convoy duty and anti-submarine patrols, the Normandy landings and the sea blockade in the Bay of Biscay. By August, 1944, "CHAUDIERE" had sunk or contributed to the sinking of three German U-boats.

The present "CHAUDIERE" came into service in the R.C.N. on 14 November, 1959.

HMCS CHAUDIERE was designed and built as one of the most modern and effective antisubmarine warships in the world. Her main armament an anti-submarine mortar, which is controlled by the ship's sonars and computers, and a battery of homing torpedoes. Her surface and air armament consists of 3" mountings forward and aft.

The ship's advanced sonar, radar, and electronic warfare equipment, used in conjunction with this armament makes the "CHAUDIERE" a formidable A/S weapon.

The ship's complement is 14 officers and 215 men. She has an overall length of 366 ft., a beam of 42 ft., a mean draught of 13.5 ft., and a full load displacement



of 2900 tons. Twin screws give her a speed in excess of 25 knots.



SHIP'S CREST

Significance:

This ship derives its name from the Chaudiere River which rises in Lake Megantic and discharges into the St. Lawrence River almost opposite Quebec city.

The word Chaudiere means. "a large metallic vessel used for warming, cooking, boiling, etc". It is generally agreed that the river received its name because of the effect produced by the spectacular falls near its mouth, which, tumbling into a great bowl-shaped basin, resembled "a pot full of boiling water".

In the badge design, the golden diagonal wavy stripes represent the river; the white circular wavy device in the centre, with the scalloped effect on the inner rim, symbolizes the appearance of the basin with its foaming waters where the river tumbles into it.

Ship's Colours: Gold and Green.

Commander J. Guy Comeau, CD

Commanding Officer, HMCS CHAUDIERE



Commander Comeau was born in Truro, Nova Scotia, on 16 June, 1935. He received public schooling in Montreal and graduated from the College Sainte Marie in Montreal with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1954. Having already served two years, first as a Reserve then as a Regular Force Officer cadet, he was to commence full time service in the RCN on graduation.

He was then appointed for further training as a Midshipman in the HMC destroyer MICMAC and the aircraft carrier MAGNIFICENT. On completion of his training he attended Lieutenants' Canada 18 months later in July, 1957.

He served for three years in the minesweeper THUNDER and the destroyer ST CROIX operating out of Halifax N.S. Cdr. Comeau was then appointed to the College Militaire Royal de Saint Jean P.Q. in August, 1960, and served for two years as Assistant Naval Staff Officer prior to joining HMCS STADACONA in August, 1962, for qualification as an Operations Specialist Officer. On successful completion of this course in August, 1963, he served as Operations in the destroyer HMCS CHAUDIERE and held this position until September, 1965.

On completion of a Staff Communication Officer's Course, Cdr. Comeau assumed the duties of Navigation Instructor in the Halifax Fleet School. During the summer of 1966, he commissioned a squadron of three Bird Class Patrol Vessels and served as Squadron Commander, Commanding Officer HMCS MALLARD and Cadet Midshipmen Training Officer.

A Recruiting Officer at the Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre, Quebec City, from January 1967 until May 1968, he was withdrawn from these duties for six months to command of the minesweeper HMCS CHIGNECTO during the Centennial Officer Cadet summer training period.

Having served 27 months as Executive Officer in the helicopter destroyer HMCS OTTAWA, from May 1968 to August 1970, he proceeded to Toronto for the one year Canadian Forces Staff College course. Cdr. Comeau then served two years in the National Defence Headquarters prior to assuming command of HMCS CHAUDIERE on 24 May, 1973.

Commander Comeau is married and has four children.