

~ WELCOME ~



**HMCS
CORMORANT**

HMCS CORMORANT is the second Canadian ship, and tenth overall to bear the name since 1757. She distinguished herself in support of battles such as the Plains of Abraham, American War of Independence, the French Revolution and the China War where the expression "Blood is thicker than water" grew from her efforts which were in vain.

The name CORMORANT ideally suits this vessel in her role as a Canadian Naval Diving Vessel. Cormorants are excellent divers, at home in both salt and fresh water, and are known for their wariness and alertness to danger.

The vessel originally named 'ASPA QUARTO' was purchased from Italy and brought to Halifax in mid 1975. Then late in 1977 she was turned over to the Davie Shipbuilding Co., Lauzon Quebec, refitted and converted as a submersible support and diving vessel and commissioned in November 1978 as 'HMCS CORMORANT'.

Displacement	2350 Tons
Length	245 Ft (74.7 meters)
Beam	39.4 Ft (12 meters)
Draught	18 Ft (5.5 meters)
Complement	10 Officers, 53 Men

Diving Systems

SDL-1 (Submersible Diver Lockout) - Has the capability of operating at depths of up to 2000 Ft (610 meters) for periods of up to 6 hours. It is designed to accommodate and lock out 2 divers to a maximum depth of 1000 Ft (305 meters).

Open Diving Bell - Operates up to 300 Ft (91.5 meters), is a surface supported diving system, where the divers life support, while in the bell, is provided directly from the ship.

Recompression Chamber - A standard recompression chamber for decompression treatment. It will support a maximum of 6 people.

The submersibles endurance is governed by its battery capacity and in no way approaches that of its larger sister, the submarine. Whereas the latter travels from place to place under its own power, the submersible is transported by CORMORANT and only enters the water when its services are required.

The handling system fitted is a hydraulically powered, overstern launch and recovery system. It was designed by Vickers Oceanics Ltd., specifically for launching and recovering of submersibles. Its efficiency has been proved operationally over almost a decade before being chosen by the Canadian Department of National Defence.

A very accurate underwater sound tracking system is used to track the submersible, so its precise location is always known.

Operations with the submersible can be carried out in conditions of up to sea state 5 with winds of up to 30 knots.

The 'CORMORANT' carries modern surface navigation radars, direction finders and precision echo sounders.

The communication facilities are telephony and telegraphy on HF/VHF/UHF frequencies (either Military or Commercial). A Facsimile is borne as an aid to the navigator for weather maps and charts.

Ship to submersible communications is conducted by VHF telephony while on the surface, or by underwater telephone when submerged.

Propulsion is accomplished by 3 Diesel Generators connected electrically to 2 main electric motors, which in turn drive a single, variable pitch, constant speed propeller. Shaft horsepower is 1900 maximum.

The ship has a cruising speed of 12 knots, a range of 10,000 miles (nautical), and an endurance factor of 90 days.

