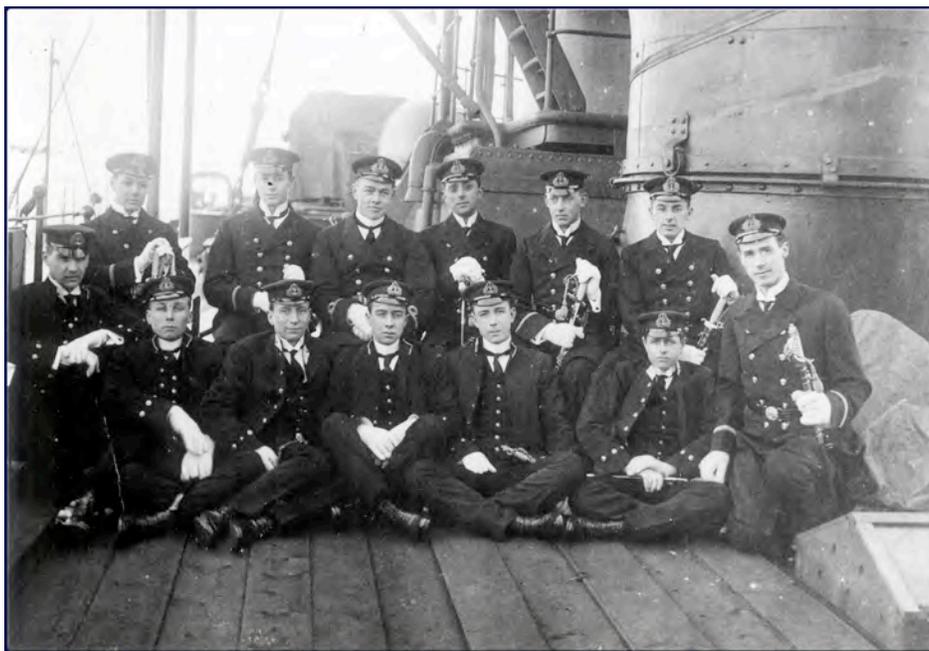


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In the period leading up to the formation of the Royal Canadian Navy in 1910, straining for naval service was conducted by the Fisheries Protection Service of Canada, part of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, whereby cadets gained their practical experience on board the patrol ship, CGS *Canada*. Graduated midshipmen did their “big ship duty” for a year or so on British ships before continuing their careers in the Royal Navy. Although the Class of 1908 had only one cadet, Percy Nelles, the next year saw a group of recruits that were destined to lead a new generation of home-grown officers, engineers and paymasters.

With no trained Canadian naval officers to assume command when the new navy was formed, most of these positions were offered to officers from the British Royal Navy who either came out of retirement to return to active duty or were otherwise ‘lent’ to the RCN.



“Big ship duty” aboard HMCS *Niobe*.

Back row standing l-r: Sub-Lieutenants Napier-Hemy, Currey, Hallewell, de Quetteville, Jefferson and Clarke.

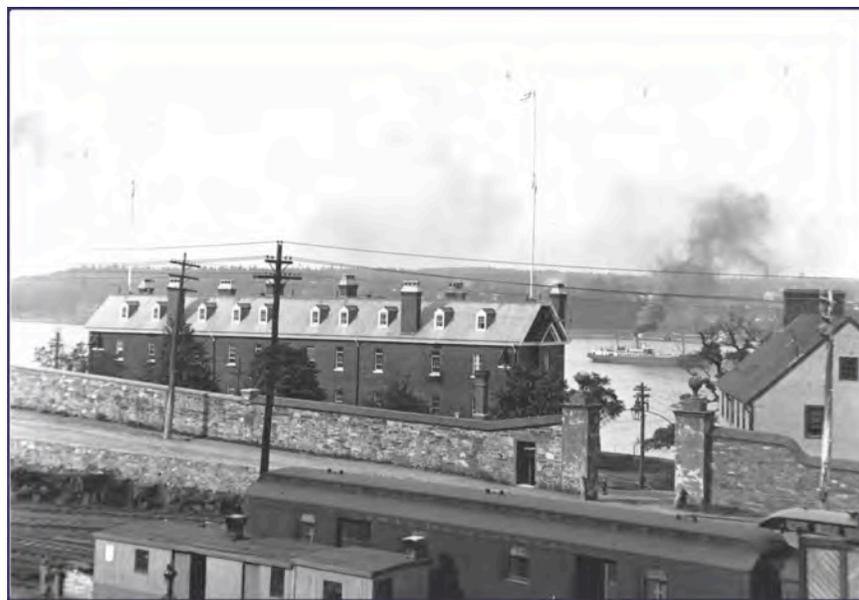
Front row seated l-r: Midshipmen Beard, Brodeur, Barron, Nelles, German, Bate and Sub-Lieutenant Hollingsworth.

The Royal Naval College of Canada began its first class in January 1911. The building chosen to house the facility was the old, vacant but newly renovated naval hospital located near Pier 4. The co-commandants were Commander Edward Harrington Martin and Lieutenant Edward Atcherley Eckersall Nixon, both retired Royal Navy officers in the service of the RCN. Although Martin was the senior officer, he was rarely present at the RNCC. The heart and soul of the

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school, from its inception until the doors closed in 1922, was E. A. E. Nixon or “Nix”, as he was fondly remembered by his former cadets. Three civilian teachers at the college were Newfoundlanders: Lorne Richardson, John Penney and Albert Hatcher, who later served as President of Memorial University in St. John’s. When the Halifax Explosion occurred in 1917, there were no cadet casualties, though some injuries were sustained. The boys were subsequently sent home for Christmas and the building demolished due to extensive damage. The college was briefly set up at the Royal Military College (RMC) in Kingston then moved to Esquimalt in September of 1918. Graduates of the RNCC during its short but colourful tenure, made up the backbone of the Royal Canadian Navy for the next thirty-five years.

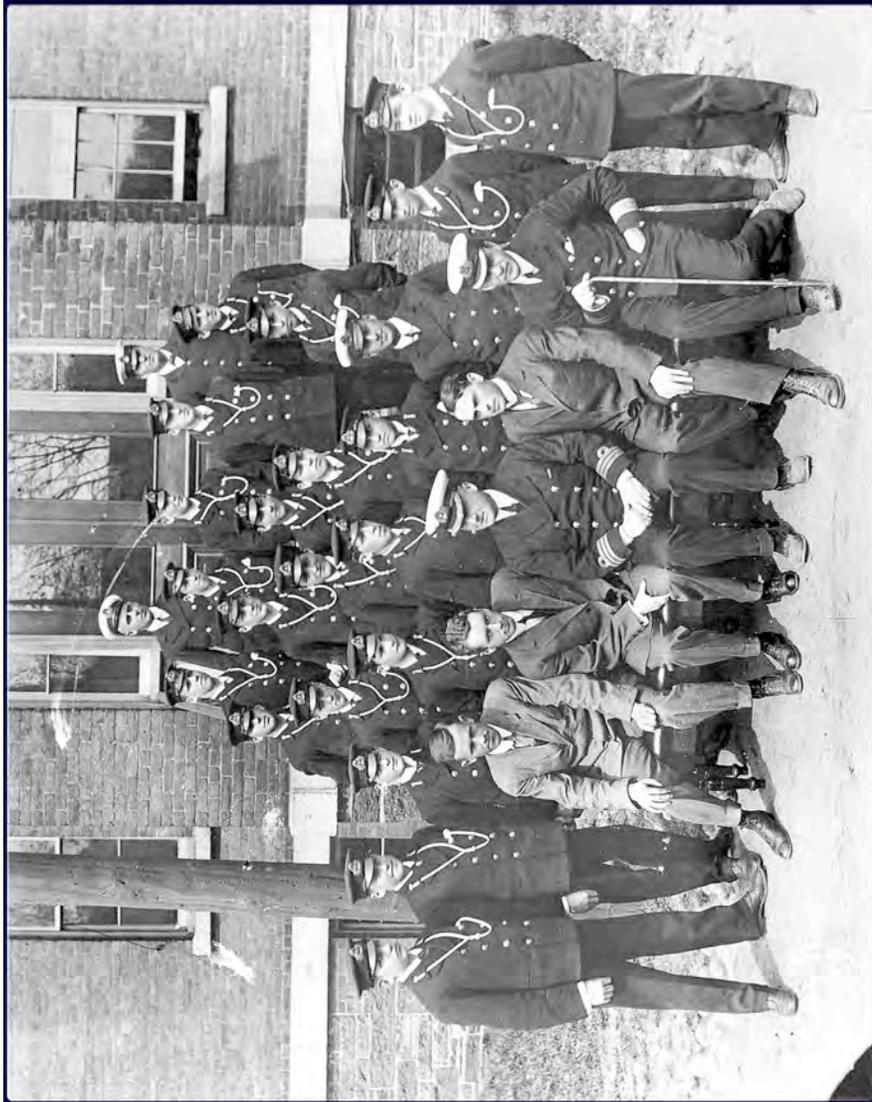


The Royal Naval College and Annex.

The first class of 1911 consisted of boys from the age of 14 to 17 years, the youngest of whom was future admiral, Leonard W. Murray. Others who achieved flag officer status were George Clarence Jones and Ronald Ian Agnew. John Moreau Grant became the first commandant of Royal Roads Naval College when it opened at Esquimalt in 1940. Nova Scotia boys, Malcolm Cann, Arthur Silver and John Hatheway, along with William Palmer from Ottawa and the full ship’s compliment, died when HMS *Good Hope* was torpedoed and sunk by the German Fleet at the Battle of Coronel off the coast of Chile on 1 November 1914.

Lt. Willie Maitland-Dougall was the youngest captain of a navy submarine and the first and only Canadian naval submarine commander to die in World War One. On 12 March 1918, on his 23rd birthday, his submarine was bombed and sunk off Le Havre, France by friendly fire from a French airship that had mistaken his *D3* for an enemy vessel.

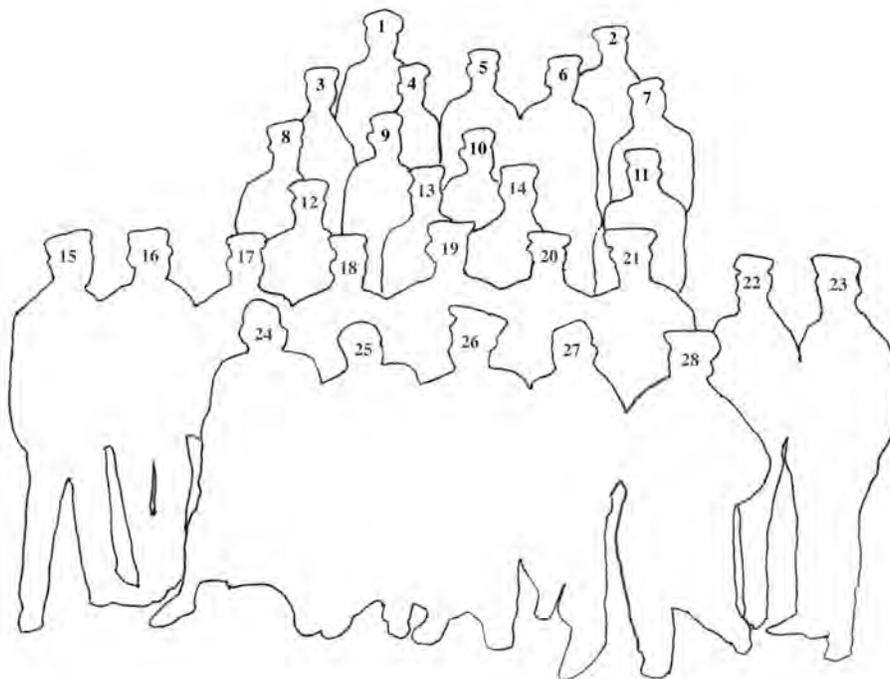
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The cadets and staff, RNCC First Term (January) 1911-1913.

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[Lack of corroborative and/or adequate comparative visual documentation rendered definitive face to name matches for all personnel in the above photograph impossible. Therefore, some errors may be present.]

Standing: 1 - Edward Atcherley Eckersall Nixon (King's County Ireland), 2 - unknown, 3 - James Denoon Laurie, 4 - William Archibald Palmer (Ottawa, Ont.), 5 - William McKinstry Heriot-Maitland-Dougall, 6 - John Eric Wodehouse Oland (Dartmouth, N.S.), 7 - unknown, 8 - John Victor W. Hatheway (Springhill, N.S.), 9 - Ronald Ian Agnew (Toronto, Ont.), 10 - unknown, 11 - unknown, 12 - Malcolm Cann (Yarmouth, N.S.), 13 - George Clarence Jones, 14 - Leon Joseph Maurice Gauvreau, 15 - Ronald Cameron Watson, 16 - Leonard Warren Murray (Granton, N.S.), 17 - Alexander Harvey Dand (Newfoundland) Class Captain, 1912, 18 - John Moreau Grant (Halifax, N.S.), 19 - George Arthur "Sam" Worth, 20 - Arthur Wiltshire Silver (Halifax), 21 - Basil Shakespear Hartley, 22 - unknown, 23 - Hubert James FitzMaurice Hibbard.

Seated: 24 - John J. Penny (Newfoundland), 25 - Albert G. Hatcher (Moreton's Harbour, NL), 26 - Edward Harrington Martin, 27 - Lorne N. Richardson, 28 - Reginald Anstey Yonge.

Personnel as yet unidentified:

Harold Reed Tingley, Robert Frederick Lawson, Douglas Burnell Moffatt, C. W. Reid and the gentleman standing on top stair to the right.

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The length of the terms was extended from two to three years, to match the British curriculum, beginning with the Fifth Term in 1914. Following are lists of all the names and several photographs of cadets and midshipmen during the eight terms that took place in Halifax until damage from the explosion forced the college's closure. Although I was unable to put all names together with faces, the term lists obtained from photographs of bronze plaques on the walls of the Royal Roads Military College and should be accurate regarding the names of graduated cadets.

A few of the personnel in the pictures were likely class captains and may not have been listed on the roster. As well, a few cadets were not present when the photographs were taken.



RNCC Staff (l-r): Lieutenant E. A. E. Nixon, Commander E. H. Martin,
Lieutenant R. A. Yonge & Lieutenant B. S. Hartley.

[The rank of lieutenant-commander was introduced in 1912.
Up to then, the added thin stripe indicated an eight-year lieutenant.
Engineers did not adopt the executive curl (Eliot's Eye) until 1915.]

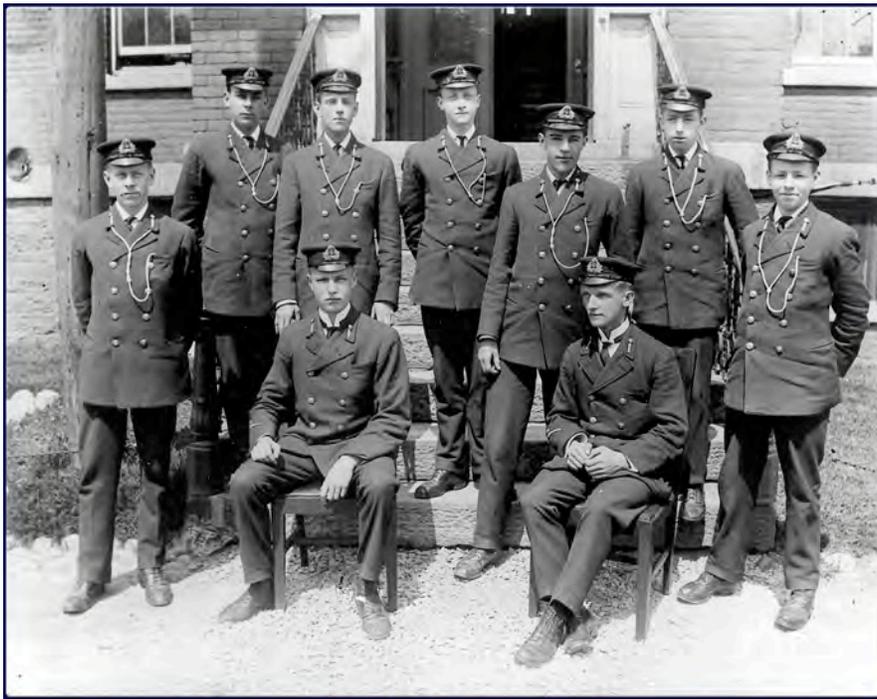
(following page, top)

Second Term 1912-1913, beginning in January. Mostly unidentified:

Henry Wickens Stephens Soulsby (third from left), William James Robert Beech (fourth from left), Thomas Sandford Critchley, John Crispo "Dutchie" Ingles Edwards, Donald St. George Lindsay, P. D. Macarow, B. DeW. Moore, Howard Emerson Reid, Cuthbert Robert Holland Taylor, Robert Wainman Wood.

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Third Term 1913-1915 beginning in January:

Standing l-r: O. F. W. Critchley, Arthur Roddy Pressey, Valentine Stuart Godfrey,
Commander Nixon, Richard Hibbard Oland.

Seated: Roy Max Puddycombe, Frank Llewellyn Houghton,

Not present: E. C. Dodwell, Edson Crawford Sherwood, Godfrey Musgrave
Hibbard.

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Fourth Term 1913-1915 beginning in August (mostly unidentified):

G. Hart (far left), A. C. Wurtele (far right), Commander Nixon (standing second from left), W. S. E. Morrison, M. A. Wood, fifth man unknown.



Fifth Term 1914-1917 beginning in August:

Standing l-r: Adrian Mitchell Hope, Harold Taylor Wood Grant, Colin Degge Donald, Alured Philip Musgrave, Wallace Bouchier Creery,
Seated l-r: Edwin Alexander Thompson, George Berkeley Fraser Barns, Francis Robert Williams Roberts (Peter) Gow.
Not present: A. W. F. Powell,

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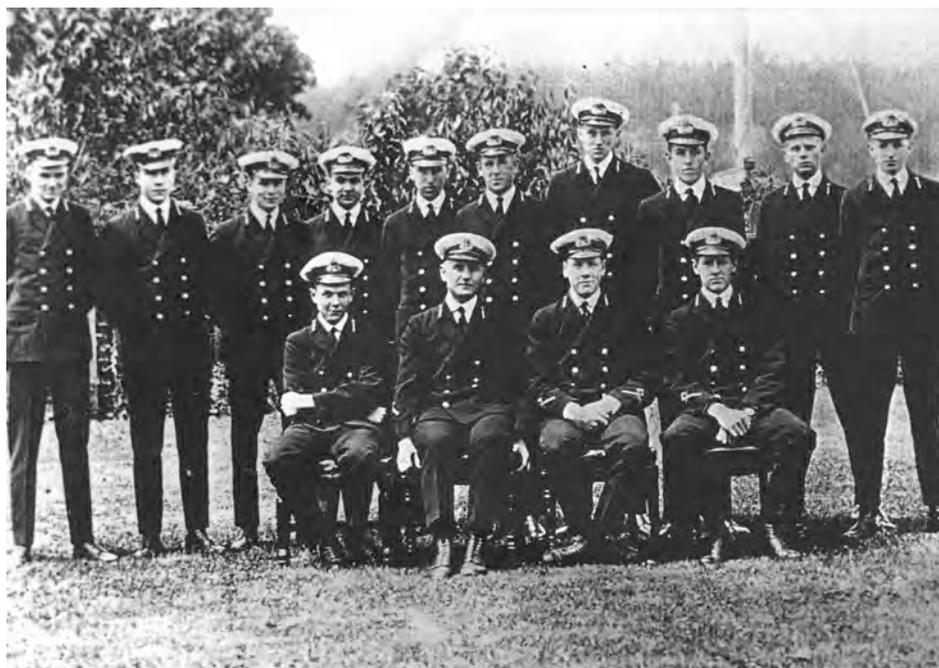
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Sixth Term 1915-1918 beginning in August:

Roger Edward Shelford Bidwell, Robert Benney Brett (injured in the explosion), K. A. MacKenzie, Edmund Rollo "Boomer" Mainguy, H. L. Slipp.

Seventh Term 1916-1919 beginning in August:

G. H. Desbarats, J. K. Gordon, F. H. Hilliard, W. B. I. Holms, H. Kingsley, Walter Juchereau Kingsmill, A. C. Lee, G. R. Miles, E. T. C. Orde, H. M. S. Pentelow, W. R. Richadrson, J. W. R. Roy, R. A. West, G. D. Wilson.



Eighth Term 1917-1920 beginning in August:

Standing l-r: F. T. Adams, A. R. C. Adamson, Patrick Willet Brock, A. N. Budden, Seymour C. Crowell, Arthur Cecil Montague Davy, P. J. Glasgow, E. C. Hague, J. A. C. Kingstone, E. T. Lee, R. C. S. H. MacIntosh, G. C. Marler, G. M. Mitchell, G. C. Myers, F. L. S. Pickard.

Seated l-r: H. L. Reynolds, A. B. Smith, L. G. Winans, E. M. Woolcombe.

The following is from the official Department of Naval Service Report 1910/1911:

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE.

As it was necessary to utilize some building as a temporary college until the proposed new building was ready, it was decided to convert the old Naval hospital in Halifax dockyard to the purpose. Certain alterations were found necessary but these were completed by January 19, 1911, on which day the college opened. The building has accommodation for 45 cadets, and is divided into dormitories,

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studies, recreation and mess rooms, and there are also rooms for three Officers who are in charge of the cadets. In the dockyard attached to the college are workshops for the instruction of cadets in machine work. A store house, originally intended for storing oil drums, has been converted into and makes a suitable gymnasium. Boats have been provided, both for the instruction of the cadets in handling and sailing them, and also for use during recreation hours. A small schooner has been purchased and will be attached to the college to enable short sailing trips to be made, for the instruction of the cadets in sailing. There are also a recreation ground and tennis courts in the Admiralty House grounds. A house in the dockyard has been fitted up as a sick quarters, where any cadet suffering from temporary indisposition can be accommodated.

The Commander in Charge of the dockyard has been appointed in Command of the college, and Mr. B. S. Hartley, E.N., Naval Instructor, has been appointed Director of Studies on the recommendation of the Admiralty. The instructional staff consists of two Lieutenants and one Engineer Lieutenant from the Imperial Service, and three masters for Mathematics, Science and Languages, who were appointed on the recommendation of the Civil Service Commissioners.

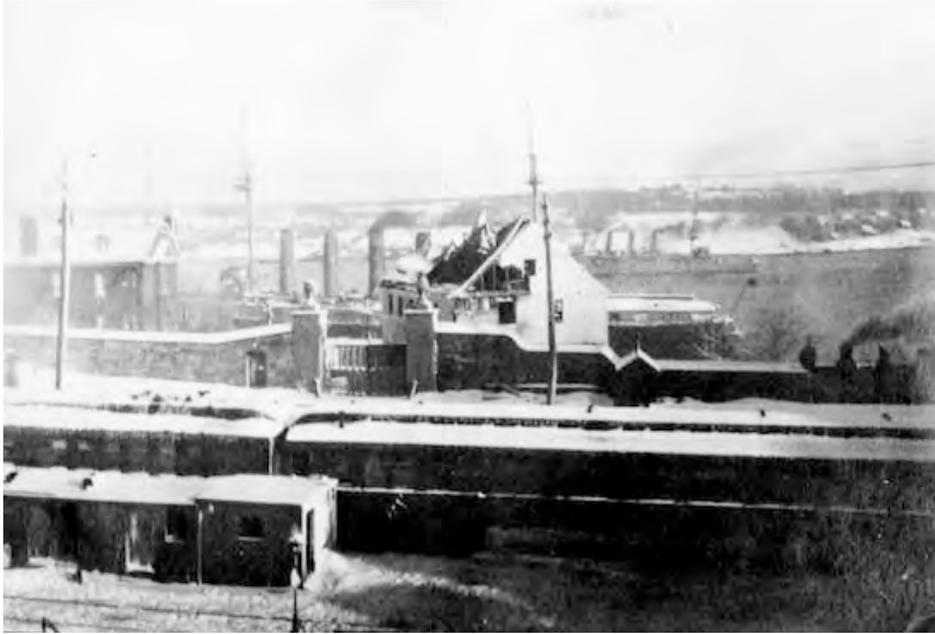
NAVAL CADETS.

An examination for entrance to the Royal Naval College was held in November, 1910, by the Civil Service Commissioners. There were 30 vacancies, and 34 boys sat for examination, but only 21 were successful. Candidates must be between 14 and 16 years of age, but in this, the first year, the limit was extended to 17 years of age, owing to the shortness of notice announcing that the examination would be held. According to present arrangements there will be an entrance examination each year, which will be held in the early part of November, the successful candidates at this examination being required to join college about the middle of January following. The year is divided into two terms, with six weeks vacation at Christmas and midsummer. The instruction of the cadets at college is modelled as nearly as possible on the system adopted in the naval training establishments in England, the consequence being that the benefit of the result of years of experience is derived. The course of instruction given assumes a thoroughly sound education, in nearly nil subjects of modern requirements, the result being that a cadet who, through any mischance, does not ultimately adopt a sea life as his profession, is not, in any way, handicapped by having been at the college, but has benefited by having received a really good education, and has also learnt the rudiments of discipline. Each cadet spends two years at college at the expiration of which he has to pass an examination, from the results of which his seniority as a midshipman is awarded.

Source for much of the material: Preston, Adrian W. and Dennis, Peter (edited by),
Swords and Covenants (1976, Croom Helm Ltd.).

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**RNCC and Annex immediately following the Halifax Explosion.
Note HMCS *Niobe* in background with all four funnels.**