

# HMCS HAIDA Frequently Asked Questions



The standard reference manuals for HMCS HAIDA are the primary source for information regarding the ship:

- HMCS HAIDA Interpretation Manual latest version February 2009
- HMCS HAIDA Basic Reference Kit An edited version of the Interpretation Manual produced by Jerry Proc, latest version 21 April 2014.

Both these manuals are available on-line at the Hamilton Naval Heritage website  
<http://hamiltonnaval.ca/haida-references/>

The HAIDA FAQ is intended to capture the questions asked by visitors to the ship and provide short simple answers. Hopefully it will be a living document with HAIDA volunteers and Parks Canada staff suggesting questions and answers on an ongoing basis.

Please contact me with questions, answers & comments at [rcnr@rogers.com](mailto:rcnr@rogers.com) or write it on a blank sheet at the back.

Yours aye,

LCdr (Ret'd) Neil S. Bell, CD\*\* 8 August 2018

## Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Anchors .....  | 4  |
| Ammunition - see also “Magazines” .....                              | 5  |
| Armament – see Guns, Depth Charges, Hedgehog, Squid, Torpedoes ..... | 5  |
| Armour .....   | 5  |
| ASDIC.....   | 5  |
| Birthday.....  | 6  |
| Boarding & Leaving the ship.....                                     | 6  |
| Boilers – see also Water.....  | 6  |
| Bridge.....  | 6  |
| Built.....   | 6  |
| Bullring .....   | 6  |
| CAT Gear (Counter Acoustic Torpedo) .....                            | 7  |
| Captain .....  | 7  |
| Cartridge Cases .....  | 7  |
| Cold War.....  | 7  |
| Communications .....   | 7  |
| Convoys .....  | 7  |
| Corrosion.....   | 8  |
| Corvettes .....  | 8  |
| Crew .....   | 8  |
| Cuban Missile Crisis.....  | 8  |
| Damage .....   | 8  |
| Damage Control – see Fire & Flooding.....                            | 8  |
| Deaths & Injuries .....  | 9  |
| Depth Charges.....   | 9  |
| Destroyer.....   | 9  |
| Dining Hall or Cafeteria.....  | 9  |
| Dress Ship .....   | 10 |
| Electricity .....  | 10 |
| Engine Room .....  | 10 |
| Escape .....   | 10 |

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Fire .....         | 10 |
| Flags .....        | 10 |
| Flagship .....     | 11 |
| Floating .....     | 11 |
| Flooding .....     | 11 |
| Food .....         | 11 |
| Fresh Water .....  | 12 |
| Frigate .....      | 12 |
| Fuel .....         | 12 |
| Garbage .....      | 12 |
| Gearing Room ..... | 12 |
| Guns .....         | 12 |
| Gun's Crews .....  | 13 |
| Hamilton .....     | 13 |
| Hammocks .....     | 13 |
| Heads .....        | 13 |
| Hedgehog .....     | 13 |
| HMCS .....         | 14 |
| Hull .....         | 14 |
| Jail .....         | 14 |
| Korean War .....   | 14 |
| Ladders .....      | 14 |
| Laundry .....      | 14 |
| Leaks .....        | 14 |
| Lifeboats .....    | 15 |
| Magazines .....    | 15 |
| Mascots .....      | 15 |
| Mines .....        | 16 |
| Missiles .....     | 16 |
| Name .....         | 16 |
| Navy .....         | 16 |
| Number .....       | 17 |

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Port and Starboard.....             | 17 |
| Prince Charles & Lady Camilla ..... | 17 |
| Propellers .....                    | 17 |
| Radar .....                         | 17 |
| Radio .....                         | 18 |
| Range .....                         | 18 |
| Reuse & Recycle.....                | 18 |
| Royal Staircase.....                | 18 |
| Rum.....                            | 18 |
| Sail .....                          | 18 |
| Sea Time .....                      | 19 |
| Showers.....                        | 19 |
| Sick Bay .....                      | 19 |
| Speed.....                          | 19 |
| Sperm Oil .....                     | 19 |
| Squid .....                         | 19 |
| Smoke .....                         | 20 |
| Steering .....                      | 20 |
| Submarines.....                     | 20 |
| Sunk .....                          | 20 |
| Thunderbird.....                    | 21 |
| Torpedoes.....                      | 21 |
| Trains .....                        | 21 |
| Water.....                          | 21 |
| Weight.....                         | 22 |
| Women.....                          | 22 |
| X, Y and Z.....                     | 22 |

## **Anchors**

*How much do the anchors weigh?* The anchors weigh 36 cwt (cwt = 112 lbs) or 2 tons each but it is the anchor cable, not the anchor, that holds the ship in place. Each link of the cable weighs about 4.2 lbs and the whole stbd cable of 9 shackles (before 1949, a shackle was 12 ½

fathoms vice 15 fathoms so the cable was 675' long) weighs almost 5 tons. There is also a much smaller kedge anchor by the torpedo tubes that weighs only 560 lbs.

## **Ammunition** - see also "Magazines"

*How much did the ammunition weigh?*

- 4.7" – 50 lb shell & 30 lb cartridge
- 4" – 67 lbs
- 3"/50 – 24 lbs
- 40mm Boffin – 4.88 lbs (4 round clip weighed 19 lbs, 24 round box weighed 120 lbs)
- 2 pdr Pom Pom – 2.95 lbs
- 20mm Oerlikon - 0.5 lbs
- Torpedoes, mines & depth charges – see respective entries

## **Armament** – see Guns, Depth Charges, Hedgehog, Squid, Torpedoes

*How did the armament change over time?* As built, HAIDA had:

- 3 twin 4.7"/45 Mk XII guns on CPXIX mounts (-10° to +40°) at "A", "B" & "Y" (original Tribals had four 4.7"/45s) for surface fire – power ramming, 140 HP steam turbine & oil hydraulic pump for elevation and training
- twin 4"/45 Mk XVI dual purpose guns on CPXIX mount at "X"
- 1 quad 2 pdr anti-aircraft
- 6 twin 20mm Oerlikon anti-aircraft
- One depth charge rail & four depth charge throwers
- 1 quad surface torpedo tube launcher for Mk IX\*\* torpedoes

During her conversion between 1949 and 1951, it was changed to:

- 2 twin 4"/45 Mk XVI guns on CPXIX mounts at A & B
- 4" gun at "X" replaced with twin 3"/50
- Oerlikons removed & 4 single 40mm Boffin guns installed
- Quad pom pom replaced with Mk 29 gun sight which with the Mk 34 radar on the 3"/50 gun made up the Mk 63 Fire Control system
- Depth charge rack and Y gun removed and replaced with 2 triple Squid anti-submarine mortars
- 1 quad surface torpedo tube launcher for Mk IX\*\* torpedoes

## **Armour**

*How much armour did HAIDA have?* None. Armour is very heavy and slows a ship down, so destroyers don't carry it. There was light protective plating on the gun shields (1/8") and wheelhouse for protection against shell fragments.

## **ASDIC**

*What is ASDIC?* An old name for sonar, purportedly from **Anti-submarine Detection Investigation Committee**, using sound waves to detect underwater objects like submarines.

## Birthday

*When is HAIDA's birthday?* HAIDA was laid down on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1941 and launched August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1942 but it is August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1943, the date of her commissioning, that we celebrate as her birthday. HAIDA is 75 years old in 2018.

## Boarding & Leaving the ship

*Do I have to request permission to come aboard? Should I salute? What about being piped aboard?* In Canada, a person in uniform comes to attention at the brow and salutes in the direction of the ensign while a person in civilian clothes comes to attention and removes a hat if wearing one. Requesting permission to come aboard and double salutes (the flag and the quartermaster) are done in the United States Navy and not in Canada. The side is piped for the Governor General or Lieutenant Governor, Flag & General officers, and Captains of Commissioned vessels.

## Boilers – see also Water

*What are the big gratings on the upper deck?* Air vents for the boilers. Powerful Sirocco or centrifugal fans pulled air into the boiler rooms to allow more efficient combustion in the boilers.

*Why can't the boiler room hatches be opened under steam?* Because the boiler rooms are pressurized, opening a hatch while the boilers were working would cause an explosive decompression. The only access when the boiler is working is through an air lock.

*How many people worked in the boiler rooms?* Each of the boiler rooms would have had four: a PO, a water tender and two fire tenders.

## Bridge

*Why is the bridge open to the elements?* Radar was in its infancy and most observation was visual. To deal with aircraft attacks you had to be able to see the aircraft without obstructions. HAIDA sometimes had a canvas awning over the bridge.

## Built

*Where was HAIDA built?* Newcastle-on-Tyne in England. Most Canadian shipyards were too small to build big ships like the Tribals and Canadians had no expertise in building steam turbines. We built small ships like corvettes for Great Britain while they built the Tribals for us. Before HAIDA was launched we had started building four more Tribal class destroyers in Halifax but they weren't completed till after the war.

## Bullring

*Why is the bullring (the large fairlead in the bows) painted red and blue?* Traditionally, when a ship crosses the equator or the arctic circle, the bullring is painted either red or blue for a

while to mark the occasion. HAIDA crossed both during her service. A recent Canadian innovation is painting the hullring green when a ship visits Churchill, Manitoba on Hudson's Bay. The first Canadian ship to visit the Black Sea also painted her hullring blue since black is the normal colour. The painting is done by the youngest officer and non-commissioned member.

## **CAT Gear (Counter Acoustic Torpedo)**

*How did CAT gear work?* In September 1943, the German navy introduced an acoustic homing torpedo called the T5, nicknamed by the Allies GNAT (German Naval Acoustic Torpedo). HMCS ST CROIX was sunk by a GNAT on 20 September 1943. The CAT gear was a noisemaker (iron bars banging together) that was towed 150 to 200 yards behind the ship. The torpedo was attracted to the louder noise and made repeated passes at the CAT gear till it ran out of fuel. Two CAATs were more effective than one.

## **Captain**

*Are you the captain?* The Commanding Officer of HMCS STAR, Hamilton's Naval Reserve Division, is designated as the Honorary Captain of HMCS HAIDA.

## **Cartridge Cases**

*What happened to the empty cartridge cases from the guns?* If they were in the way during action, they were kicked over the side but generally they were collected to be recycled. The 3/50 has a cage on each side of the after superstructure where the cases could be kicked out of the way till afterwards.

## **Cold War**

*Was HAIDA in the Cold War?* Yes. The Cold War lasted from around 1947 till the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. HAIDA served during the first sixteen years and, after the Korean War, performed anti-submarine patrols in the North Atlantic with NATO.

## **Communications**

*What methods could HAIDA use to communicate with other ships?*

- Flashing light in Morse code from the 10" signal projectors on the bridge, the 20" signal projectors on the bridge wings, handheld Aldis lamps, or Fighting Lights on the foremast;
- Signal flags on halyards on the signal deck or semaphore
- Morse Code on HF radio
- Voice communication using VHF or UHF radio

## **Convoys**

*Did HAIDA escort convoys in the North Atlantic?* No. HAIDA did escort several convoys to Northern Russia but she never did the traditional back and forth across the Atlantic that so many Canadian ships were involved in

## Corrosion

*Does the ship have a cathodic protection system?* There was one in Toronto but not here in Hamilton. There are passive sacrificial anodes fastened to the hull and there an air bubbling system used during the winter months which prevents an ice buildup against the hull.

## Corvettes

*What is a corvette?* During WWII, it was a ship smaller than a frigate, 205 feet long. Canada built 123 during WWI and there were 146 built elsewhere, mostly in the UK.

## Crew

*How many men did she carry?* It varied but between 225 & 245:

- 14 officers (possibly plus 4 Midshipmen/Naval cadets in training)
- 11 Chief Petty Officers & ERAs
- 20 Petty Officers
- Approximately 200 Men

*A relative of mine served in HAIDA. What can you tell me about him?* If he served in 1943 in the first crew, his name will be on the noticeboard in the port forward flats. There is a crew list available on the website [hamiltonnaval.ca](http://hamiltonnaval.ca) but it is incomplete and is missing many names.

## Cuban Missile Crisis

*Was HAIDA involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis?* No. The RCN was not officially involved although it was on standby to assist in a blockade. HAIDA was paid off only eighteen months later.

## Damage

*Was the ship ever damaged in action?* 20mm rounds from the German destroyer T-29 penetrated the stbd side aft on 26 April 1944. Look for the metal patches outside the sickbay and the Captain's Day Cabin. Harry complained that the round which entered his cabin took the head off one of his golf clubs!

## Damage Control – see Fire & Flooding

*What are the pieces of lumber for?* In the event of damage from a collision or an explosion, the crew had to be able to make repairs. Look for the yellow damage control lockers that contained hammers, saws, wooden hole plugs, pipe repair kits, etc.

*Who was in charge of Damage Control?* The Engineer's Office just forward of the after funnel was Damage Control HQ. The forward section base was in the cross passage fwd (yellow damage control locker & red firefighting locker at frames 70-73) and after section base at the aft



end of the after canopy (yellow damage control locker & red firefighting locker at frames 164-165)

*What are the red & blue terminals on the bulkheads?* Connections for emergency electrical cables. If a section of the ship was damaged, electrical power could be restored by bypassing the damaged section

## Deaths & Injuries

*Was anyone killed on her?* HAIDA was a lucky ship. There were two men killed and eight wounded in an accidental explosion in Y gun on 6 August 1944. See the plaque on the stbd side aft. A sailor was injured by a 20mm round in February 1945.

*How many Canadian sailors were killed during WWII?* In total, 2,024 Canadian sailors died during WWII. 1,146 Canadian merchant sailors lost their lives.

*What happened if you were killed at sea?* If the ship was close to port, the body would be taken ashore but otherwise you would be sewed up in your hammock and buried at sea.

## Depth Charges

*How many depth charges did HAIDA carry?* It varied but probably around 46 (8 on stern rail, 2 on throwers, 22 on deck & 24 in the torpedo warhead magazine).

*How big were depth charges?* They weighed 420 lbs and were 28" x 18"

*How deep could depth charges go?* They could be set to explode at varying depths up to 385'. If they were set too shallow they would explode too soon and could damage the ship.

*How effective were depth charges?* Not very! A depth charge had to explode within 15 yards to force a submarine to the surface but a submarine could move a considerable distance between the commencement of the attack and the time the depth charges exploded. The success rate for a single attack was 3%.

*What about the depth charge on the jetty?* It's an American Mk 6 depth charge made in Beatrice, Nebraska, but it is very similar to the British Mk VII which HAIDA carried.

## Destroyer

*What is a destroyer?* Originally, it was a type of ship that was designed to destroy torpedo boats although it carried torpedoes itself. Modern destroyers are bigger than frigates and carry area defence or long-range anti-aircraft missiles.

## Dining Hall or Cafeteria

*Where is the dining hall?* Many visitors have difficulty with the concept that there is no dining hall or cafeteria, even after it has been explained. The system used on HAIDA is called broadside messing and would have been familiar to the sailors of Nelson's day.

## Dress Ship

*Do all the flags mean something?* No. There is a specific order designed to look good.

## Electricity

*What is the electricity supply?* Two steam turbo-generators in the engine room produce 200 kW of 225 volts direct current each while diesel generators in the gearing room and #1 boiler room can produce another 100 kW each when needed. Two 50kW motor alternators in the fwd and aft KVA rooms produce 440 volt ac and motor generators in the Low Power Room produce 22 volts dc.

## Engine Room

*How many people worked in the engine room?* Four per shift: a Chief ERA, a PO ERA and two stokers.

## Escape

*How did you escape if you were trapped in a compartment?* All mess decks had either an escape hatch to the deck (17" diameter) above or an escape scuttle to the outside (15.75"). It paid to be skinny!

## Fire

*What did they do in the event of fire?* There was a 40 ton/hour steam turbine fire and bilge pump in the gearing room and 20 ton/hour electrical hull & fire pumps in the aft lower mess deck and wardroom flats which fed the fire-main running throughout the ship with hydrants, hoses, nozzles, extinguishers (both modern and original) and breathing apparatus (Chemox) in all compartments. Everyone was trained in firefighting.

## Flags

*What do the four flags on the stbd side mean?* HAIDA's IRCS (International Radio Call Sign) CGJD, flown when entering or leaving harbour (from 1943 to 1946, it was CGDK).



*What does the flag at the stern mean?* It is the Naval Ensign, the flag flown by Canadian warships to distinguish them from other Canadian vessels. During HAIDA's time in service, she flew the White Ensign flown by all Canadian warships between 1910 and 1965.



*What is the flag on the port yard arm for?* It was given to HAIDA by the Haida Gwaii Nation of British Columbia, after whom the ship is named.



## Flagship

*What is a flagship?* Admirals have personal flags which are flown in any ship that they are in. A flagship is the senior ship in a fleet.

## Floating

*Is HAIDA floating?* Yes. This is the best way to preserve the ship as the force of water buoyancy is distributed evenly across the length of the hull.

## Flooding

*How did the ship deal with flooding?* The fire and bilge pump in the gearing room and hull & fire pumps in the aft lower mess deck and wardroom flats (see Fire) allowed the pumping out of spaces. Each of the five engineering spaces had two steam driven bilge ejectors and there was also a 50 ton/hour General Service Pump in #3 Boiler Room (moved from the Engine Room in 1957 when the 25 ton/hour evaporator was installed) to pump out the engineering spaces. There was a 70 ton/hour electrical salvage pump stored forward of the galley in the cross passage.

## Food

*Was the food good?* Not by today's standards but it was adequate and there was plenty of it. There was a small cold room (freezer) on the port side on # 5 deck under the fwd lower mess deck (see the beef screen on the port side where the frozen meat was hung to thaw) and a small cool room (refrigerator) on the stbd side but most of the food would be dried or canned.

*Did the officers eat differently than the crew?* The food was the same but the officers had their own cooks who probably did a better job of preparation and variety.

## Fresh Water

*How much fresh water did she carry?* 46 tons in 3 tanks fwd and 2 in #2 boiler room. (1 ton of water = 220 Imp gallons or 1000 litres) with a pump in #2 Boiler Room

## Frigate

*What is a frigate?* Originally a ship smaller than a destroyer, now it refers to a general-purpose ship with local defence anti-aircraft missiles. The modern Royal Canadian Navy is equipped with 12 Halifax class frigates. During WWII, Canada built 67 River Class frigates and there were 84 built in the UK.

## Fuel

*What does HAIDA use for fuel?* She carries 520 long tons of Bunker C, a heavy residual fuel oil, stored in 8 fuel tanks fwd & aft of the engineering spaces. It is highly viscous (resistant to flow) and must be heated to 65° C/150°F so it could be pumped and 107°C/225°F before it could be sprayed into the boilers. Notice the filler plates on the focsle, either side of the focsle deck and on the upper deck aft as well as the sections of large fuel hose.

## Garbage

*How did they dispose of garbage while at sea?* Check the break of the focsle on both sides and the quarterdeck for a metal bar with two pegs – this was the connection for a canvas chute which went below the water, so garbage could be thrown overboard and carried below the water, so it didn't float.

## Gearing Room

*What's in the gearing room?* Each turbine set has two shafts which are connected to the propeller shaft by gears which reduce the turbine revolutions by a factor of ten to one so that the propellers never exceed 365 rpm. As well, there's a diesel generator and a switchboard.

## Guns

*Do the guns really work?* Yes, with some maintenance and the right ammunition

*How far could the guns shoot?*

- 4.7" – 15.5 km / 15,000'
- 4" – 18 km / 39,000'
- 3"/50 – 7.3 nmi / 30,000'
- Boffin – 3 km / 12,500'
- 20mm – 1.5 km / 10,000'

*For reference:*

- Burlington Skyway – 5.3 km
- High Level Bridge – 2.9 km

- La Salle Towers – 3 km
- Hamilton Mountain – 3.25 km
- Mount Hope Airport – 14 km

*What powered the guns?* The 4.7” guns were each powered by an electro/hydraulic pump; one in each fwd and after lower mess decks and in the flats aft of the wardroom on the stbd side.

*Did HAIDA ever shoot down any aircraft?* Likely not, as there is no record of it. Bofors guns from HMS FEARLESS & INTREPID shot down an Argentinian A-4B Skyhawk I 1982 during the Falklands War.

## Gun’s Crews

*How many people in the gun’s crews?*

- 4” – 11 plus others in the magazine and passing ammunition
- 3½/50 - 11 (7 on the mount & 4 shell passers) plus others in the RU magazine, ammunition hoist and magazine
- Boffin – 2 on the mount plus ammunition passers
- 20 mm – 3 (1 to fire & 2 to load & change barrels when they overheated)

## Hamilton

*How did HAIDA end up in Hamilton?* When HAIDA was paid off in 1963, the Navy was going to scrap her but she was bought by an organization called HAIDA Inc. and towed to Toronto where she was operated privately at Pier 6 at the foot of York Street from 1965 to 1971. For the next thirty-one years, she was at Ontario Place. At the end of 2002, Sheila Copps, MP for Hamilton East and a former Deputy Prime Minister, arranged to have the Federal Government acquire her from the province and she spent eight months in a refit at Port Weller, arriving at her new home in Hamilton on 30 August, 2003, her sixtieth birthday.

## Hammocks

*Where hammocks comfortable?* Opinions differ. Some swear by them, but other sailors were happy to get bunks instead. HAIDA was the last Canadian ship to have hammocks as the primary sleeping accommodation for the ship’s company.

## Heads

*Why are the toilets called heads?* In the days of sail, the “facilities” consisted of open seats at the very bow or head of the ship, which were constantly washed by the sea and kept clean.

*How did they deal with sewage at sea?* The urinals & toilets were flushed with sea water & discharged directly overboard.

## Hedgehog

*Did HAIDA carry a Hedgehog?* No. A hedgehog was an anti-submarine spigot mortar with 24 bombs each weighing 65 lbs, which were fired to land in an ellipse about 250 yards ahead of the ship. Only exploding if they hit a submarine, they were much more effective than depth charges. HAIDA never carried one but many Canadian ships did.

## **HMCS**

*What does HMCS mean?* **Her Majesty's Canadian Ship** (NCSM – Navire canadien de sa Majesté in French). Most countries use some sort of prefix before ships' names. The United States uses USS, Portugal uses NRP, etc. HAIDA was originally His Majesty's Canadian Ship and then became the first ship in the Commonwealth to become Her Majesty's when recommissioned in 1952, a month after Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen.

## **Hull**

*How thick is HAIDA's hull?* The steel plates that make up her hull are an average of 3/8 of an inch thick. The plates, which are 5 to 7 wide high and between 5 and 20 plus feet long, are laid in eight parallel rows, or strakes from the garboard strake next to the keel up to the sheer strake below the upper deck. Most are fastened with rivets while the plates that were replaced during the Port Weller refit are welded.

## **Jail**

*Where was the ship's jail?* Haida didn't have one (Canadian sailors were always well behaved!). A drunk sailor coming back from ashore might be lashed into his hammock till he sobered up. The scuttles with bars on were to stop pilfering from storage spaces.

## **Korean War**

*What role did HAIDA play in the Korean War?* HAIDA did two tours in Korean waters: the first of ten months in 1952/53, when she joined The Train Busters Club; and the second in 1953/54 after the armistice. Each time she sailed west and circumnavigated the globe.

## **Ladders**

*Why are there two ladders at each hatchway?* The main ladder might be damaged or have to be removed to use the hatchway to hoist or lower items so each hatchway had an additional Jacob's Ladder (rope with wooden rungs).

## **Laundry**

*How was laundry done before the laundry was added to HAIDA after WWII?* Sailors did their own laundry in bucket with salt water, a scrub board and brush and sea water soap. Everything was air dried.

## **Leaks**

*Does the ship leak?* Yes. Leaks, both below and above the waterline are inevitable, particularly through the propeller shafting (now sealed off). There are flood sensors in the bilges.

## Lifeboats

*How many lifeboats did HAIDA carry?* None. Carley floats and later inflatable life rafts were for lifesaving, but the two motor cutters were work boats, used to transport men and material when the ship was anchored or moored. The whaler could be used to recover a man overboard.

*How did the boats get in the water?* The davits could pivot on their heels to suspend the boats over the water and then the falls were either led to the electric winch on the port side or taken in hand by a large group of seamen to lower the boat down to the water.

## Magazines

*How much ammunition did HAIDA carry?* Ammunition is heavy, takes up a lot of space and is, of course, dangerous, so not as much as you might think:

- #1 mag – 584 rounds 4"
- #2 mag – 537 rounds 4" & 214 boxes 40mm (214 x 24 = 5,136)
- Torpedo Warhead – 4 warheads & 24 depth charges
- #3 mag – 1,518 rounds 3" & 92 boxes 40mm (92 x 24 = 2,208)
- #4 mag – 96 Squid projectiles

*What about the danger of fire & explosion in the magazines?* Each magazine had flooding and spraying valves close by as well as lazy rods connected to remote flood boxes:

- #1 mag – aft lower mess deck & aft upper mess deck
- #2 mag – stbd passageway and stbd side of focsle deck
- Torpedo warhead – valves in after canopy between heads
- #3 mag – wardroom flats & stbd side after superstructure
- #4 mag – wardroom flats aft and passageway fwd of Squid Handling room

## Mascots

*What was HAIDA's mascot?*

- Muncher, rabbit, 1943
- Handy Built, rabbit, 1944 – "Not satisfied with a rabbit's foot, we brought along four on the hoof"
- Skipper, dog, time unknown
- Pom Pom, dog, first Korean tour
- Puppy San, dog, 2<sup>nd</sup> Korean tour
- HAIDA also once transported a (small) reindeer as a gift from a Russian Admiral to the Admiral Commanding Orkneys and Shetlands.

## Mines

*What is the mine on the jetty?* It is the standard British contact mine of WWII, Mk XVII, one of millions made during WWII. It is 48” high by 40” diameter and could be laid in up to 500 fathoms of water with a charge of either 320 or 450 lbs. It would normally have been attached to a sinker which served as an anchor when laid.

*How did HAIDA protect herself from mines?* To counter magnetic mines, HAIDA had two large electrical cables running around the hull which carried high voltage and altered the magnetic signature of the ship. This system, called degaussing, was invented by a Canadian. She also had two oscillators (noisemakers) in a flooded forepeak to set off acoustic mines.

*Did HAIDA carry mines?* No. Minelaying required lots of storage space and special rails built into the deck for the mines to run on. HAIDA frequently worked with the Abdiel class minelayer HMS APOLLO.

*How many Canadian ships were sunk by mines?* The corvette WEYBURN was sunk by a mine off Gibraltar, the minesweeper MULGRAVE was a constructive total loss after striking a mine off Normandy and two MTBs were sunk by mines in the English Channel. Four Canadian merchant ships were also sunk by mines.

## Missiles

*Where are HAIDA's missiles?* Young people often ask a variation on this question. HAIDA just missed the missile age. The first practical surface to air missile on a destroyer sized ship entered service in 1962 (Tartar) with the USN. The first surface to air missile entered service in the RCN on the Iroquois Class in 1972 (Sea Sparrow). While Germany had successfully used air to surface missiles during the Second World War, the first surface to surface missile was the Soviet Union's Styx in 1960 while the RCN's first surface to surface missile was the Harpoon on the Halifax Class in 1992.

## Name

*Where did the name HAIDA come from?* All of Canada's Tribal Class destroyers were named after First Nations peoples in Canada. The Haida, a seafaring people, live in Haida Gwaii, also known as The Queen Charlottes, an archipelago off the west coast of British Columbia. HAIDA flies the flag of Haida Gwaii on her port halyards.

## Navy

*Is HAIDA still part of the Navy?* No. She was paid off in 1963. In May 2018 she was commissioned as the ceremonial flagship of the RCN, but the designation is purely ceremonial.

*Why did you join the navy?* Obviously, reasons vary. Adventure, a steady job, the desire to “do your bit”, camaraderie & friendship, see the world, etc.

*What ships is the modern Royal Canadian Navy composed of?*



- 12 Halifax class frigates - armed with surface to surface and surface to air missiles and carrying a helicopter. 15 new Canadian Surface Combatants in the planning stages to replace them.
- 4 Victoria Class submarines – diesel powered submarines, not as fast as nuclear powered but much stealthier
- 12 Kingston Class Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels – corvette sized, although called coastal, they have deployed to Europe and Africa.
- 1 interim leased supply ship with 2 building

## Number

*What does the number “215” on the hull mean?* All naval ships carry an identifying hull number or pennant number. HAIDA’s original number was G63 which she carried until 1952.

## Port and Starboard

*Where do the terms port and starboard come from?* Going back thousands of years, ships were often steered by a steering oar hung over the right side of the ship and this became the “steerboard” side. To avoid fouling the oar, the ship would always come alongside the dock on the left which became the “port” side.

## Prince Charles & Lady Camilla

*Why does Prince Charles look annoyed in the gun firing picture?* When they visited in 2009 to dedicate the DeWolfe Pavilion, Prince Charles fired the port gun which went "pfft...", a misfire. Camilla fired the stbd gun and it went off with a huge bang which echoed around the harbour and produced 8' of flame and black smoke. She teased him unmercifully all the way down the receiving line - but he took it in fine form.

## Propellers

*Why are the props on the jetty?* The props were originally removed in Toronto to avoid banging against a sloping portion of the concrete wall. Additionally, galvanic action between the alloy in the props and the steel hull, will erode the prop blades (10'3" diameter, manganese bronze - 88% copper & 12% manganese).

## Radar

*What kind of radar did HAIDA carry?* Originally, she had 271Q back by the emergency conning position but that was short range because it was sited low and was “wooded” (obstructed) by the forward superstructure. It could detect a surface target at nine miles, a trimmed submarine at 3,500 yards and a periscope at 900 yards. The range varied with the size of the target. HAIDA also had a type 291 radar fitted to the foremast.

In late 1944, the Type 293 “cheesecake” air search radar was added with equipment in what is now the EMR on the main deck by the break of the focsle. It was probably not used by the late 1950s but is mounted on the foremast as an artifact. The equipment was replaced by IFF gear.

Prior to her first Korean trip in 1953, the Sperry Mark II navigation and surface search radar (solid antenna) was added to the foremast. Prior to her second Korean trip in 1954, the AN/SPS6C (large lattice antenna) was added for air search. HAIDA paid off with the latter two radars with their equipment in space port side of mast by catwalk.

## Radio

*What was HAIDA's voice call sign?* From 1943 to 1946, it was the unflattering "Idiot", and subsequently "King Cobra".

## Range

*How far can HAIDA go?* At 15 knots she can go 5,200 nm, or about ¼ the way around the earth, without refuelling (1.5 tons per hour) At 20 knots she can only go 1,700 nm (6.1 tons per hour).

## Reuse & Recycle

*Could the navy fix HAIDA up and put her back in service if needed?* No. She would need completely new engines, communications & weapons systems. It would be much cheaper to build a new ship.

## Royal Staircase

*Parks Canada advises people to face all ladders when going up and down but the ladder at the break of the focsle on the port side is so gentle it's easier to walk up and down normally. Why is that?* Weeks before the Royal Visit in 2009, Parks Canada was concerned about the steepness of the ladder that the Duchess of Cornwall would have to climb on the way to the scheduled firing of "A" gun and opted to replace the original almost vertical ladder with one at a gentler angle. Their concern was misplaced: Her Grace had no difficulty in her travels about the ship. The Royal Staircase still remains.

## Rum

*What was grog?* Originally it was 5 ounces of rum with 20 ounces of water twice a day, reduced over time to 2 ½ ounces of rum to 5 ounces of water once a day at noon. Canadian sailors liked to take the rum mixed with coke instead of water. Chief and Petty Officers could take their rum neat and officers were not entitled to rum but could buy wine or spirits in the wardroom

*When did the issue of rum stop in the RCN?* 30 March 1972, which was known as "Black Tot Day".

*What was "Splice the Mainbrace"?* A double issue of rum, only ordered on special occasions. Last ordered by the Queen on 29 June 2010 to celebrate the Centennial of the RCN.

## Sail

*Can HAIDA sail under her own power?* No. The boilers and pipes are too deteriorated to safely hold steam pressure and the engine room has not been flashed up since 1963. Not to mention that the propellers are on the jetty!

## Sea Time

*How long was HAIDA at sea at a time?* It varied widely. The Russian convoys could take three or more weeks for a round trip while in early 1944, HAIDA rarely spent more than half a day at sea. Her two Korean deployments average almost nine months each but not all of that time was at sea.

## Showers

*Why were there only two showers for all those men?* Showering was considered a luxury. Since fresh water was strictly rationed (boiler feed water & water for cooking & drinking came first), most washing was “birdbath” style – water in a basin and splashed on the body. “Pusser showers” were the rule: water on for a few seconds, water off, soap up, water on for a few more seconds to rinse off.

## Sick Bay

*The Sick Bay is very small. How could the doctor operate in there?* The Captain’s Day Cabin was used as the surgery. On 28 November 1943, while returning from Murmansk, HAIDA’s doctor, Surgeon LCdr Samuel MacDonald performed an appendectomy at sea on AB Andy Gillespie who had concealed his symptoms for three days so that he would not be sent to the hospital in Murmansk. The SBA (Tiffany) acted as scrub nurse & the Ship’s Writer & Paymaster were attendants. The patient made a full recovery. Others weren’t so lucky: a Hamilton sailor, Coder James Ralph Freure, V-38509, RCNVR, died in 1943 after an emergency appendectomy on board HMCS DRUMHELLER. There was another surgery in February 1945 on a sailor hit by a 20mm round.

## Speed

*How fast did HAIDA go?* She could exceed 36.5 knots or about 68 kmh. This was fast for a destroyer but not the fastest: the French destroyer Le Terrible reached 42.25 knots in 1935.

## Sperm Oil

*There is a filling cap on the focsle marked “sperm oil”. What is that for?* International regulations required ships to have an alternate source of illumination for the ship’s running lights and oil lanterns provided that.

## Squid

*How many Squid did HAIDA carry?* 96 in the magazine plus 12 more in the handling room and 6 on the mount, enough for 19 salvos.

*How big was a Squid bomb?* Squid bombs were 12” in diameter, weighed 390 lbs and contained 207 lbs of Minol.

*How deep could a Squid bomb go?* They could be set to explode as deep as 900’.

*How were they fired?* They were fired automatically from the sonar room underneath the bridge.

## Smoke

*Could HAIDA make a smoke screen?* One method was to inject bunker C fuel into the funnel uptakes where it would produce thick black smoke but this, being hot, tended to rise and was not very effective. HAIDA had a chemical smoke generator on the quarterdeck aft of the Squid mounting which sprayed an acid, probably chlorosulfonic, using compressed air. The acid vaporized, absorbed moisture and condensed into a dense white fog. It was usual for several ships to work together to produce a smoke screen which could then be used to mask a torpedo attack.

## Steering

*Where was the ship steered from? Why is there a steering wheel in the middle of the ship? Why can't the helmsman see where he is going?* The helmsman steered by following a compass course, so he didn't need to see where he was going. The wheelhouse is forward of the bridge rather than underneath to lower the ship's silhouette. The Emergency Conning Position is amidships in the event the bridge and wheelhouse were put out of action by enemy fire. If all else failed, the ship could also be steered from tiller flats right at the stern of the ship or by using the engines.

## Submarines

*How many submarines did HAIDA sink?* One, U-971 on 24 June 1944. Even though the submarine was brought to the surface with depth charges, it was a 4.7' shell from "B" gun that sank her. The RCN sank 32 submarines during WWII.

## Sunk

*Were any Tribal Class destroyers sunk?* 12 of the 16 British Tribals were sunk during the war: 5 by air attack, 4 by torpedo, 1 by surface gunfire, 1 by shore batteries & 1 in collision. HAIDA's sister ship ATHABASKAN was torpedoed & sunk by a German destroyer. HAIDA came close many times: Battle of North Cape with German battlecruiser SCHARNHORST (11 inch guns); shot at by submarines while escorting RA-66 from Vaenga (Severomorsk) in 1945; when ATHABASKAN was sunk. The RCN lost thirty-eight warships sunk or damaged beyond repair and 72 Canadian (including Nfld) merchant ships were sunk during WWII.

*How many ships did HAIDA sink?* Nine.

- 26 April 1944 T29 Torpedo boat

- 29 April 1944 T27 torpedo boat
- 9 June 1944 ZH1 destroyer & Z32 destroyer
- 24 June 1944 U971 U-boat
- 15 July 1944 UJ1420 or UJ1421 trawler
- 6 August 1944 M486 minesweeper & SC-3 escort vessel
- 6 September 1944 vedette patrol vessel

## Thunderbird

*What is the significance of the symbol on the mainmast?* The two-headed Thunderbird is an important symbol of the Haida people, often carved on the top of totem poles. Thunder was created by the flapping of his wings and lightning flashed from his eyes.

## Torpedoes

*How many torpedoes did HAIDA carry?* Four Mk IX\*\* torpedoes. At over 21' long and weighing over 1.5 tonnes, more than an average car, they were too big & heavy to store and too difficult to load into the tubes at sea.

*How fast were the torpedoes and how far did they travel?* The torpedoes could travel 5.5 nm at 45 knots.

*How were the torpedoes fired?* The tubes were rotated 90° to port or starboard and the guardrails are lowered. The expanding gas from an impulse charge pushes the torpedo about ten feet over the side of the ship. As it leaves the tube, a catch on the top of the torpedo engages with a fitting in the tube and starts the torpedo engine. They are normally aimed and fired from the bridge but there are sights and local control on the tubes as well.

*Did HAIDA ever sink anything with torpedoes?* No. Though surface torpedoes were still used during WWII, the advent of radar had made them obsolescent. They were effective as a scare tactic. Submarine torpedoes are another matter: in 1982 during the Falklands War, the British nuclear submarine HMS CONQUEROR sank the Argentinian cruiser GENERAL BELGRANO with the loss of 323 men with two Mk VIII\*\* torpedoes, an earlier version of the ones carried by HAIDA.

## Trains

*Why are there little railway locomotives painted on the side of B gun?* During the Korean War, the Allies tried to stop the flow of supplies by the North Koreans by destroying trains that ran along the coast. HAIDA was credited with destroying 2 ½ locomotives and thus became a member of The Train Busters Club.

## Water

*How much fresh water did HAIDA carry?* Approximately 46 tons (tanks at 95% to allow for expansion) or 10,316 gallons (1 ton = 36 cubic feet or 224 gallons, 1 cubic foot = 6.23 gallons)

stored in five tanks (3 forward and 2 in #2 boiler room) with a pressure pump in the fwd lower mess deck and expansion tanks outside the Chief's Mess and Sick Bay.

*How much boiler feed water was there?* Almost 50 tons or over 11,000 gallons. (1 ton of water = 224 Imp gallons) in tanks in the engine room and #2 boiler room. The system used several tons of feedwater daily as steam was used to periodically blow soot of the boiler tubes, to blow down the boilers to reduce the concentration of impurities in the feed water, and to sound the siren.

*What if they ran out of water?* There are two evaporators in the engine room, a 19 ton unit to port and a more modern 25 ton vacuum unit to starboard, which produce distilled water from sea water. The evaporators built up scale and deposits and had to be cleaned daily.

## **Weight**

*How much does HAIDA weigh?* Her standard displacement is 1,990 tonnes. 520 tons of fuel & 21 tons of reserve boiler fed water brings her full load displacement up to around 2,559 tonnes.

## **Women**

*Were there women aboard?* No. Almost seven thousand women did serve in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRCNS) at various places ashore and overseas, but women did not serve at sea in the RCN till 1980. Now they make up about 20% of the RCN.

## **X, Y and Z**

*What do the letters on doors and hatches mean?* They are watertight control markings. Normally Z openings can be left open, Y openings can be opened to pass through while X openings are not opened without permission.