

HMCS REGINA K234



Ship Type: Corvette		Class: Revised FLOWER (1940-41 Program)	
Displacement: 1015 Tonnes	Length: 208.3 Feet	Breadth: 33.1 Feet	Draught: 11 Feet
Top Speed: 16 Knots	Pendant Number: K234	# of Officers: 6	# of Crew: 79
Armament: 1-4" Gun, 1-2 pounder, 2-20mm, Hedgehog			
Builder: Marine Industries Ltd., Sorel, Que.			
Laid Down: 22-Mar-41	Launched: 14-Oct-41	Commissioned: 22-Jan-42	Paid Off: (See Remarks) 8-Aug-44
Remarks: Torpedoed and sunk by U667, off Trevoze Head, Cornwall, England, 8 Aug 44. Thirty of her ship's company were lost.			

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The "Revised Flower" Class corvette, HMCS REGINA, was laid down in the yards of Marine Industries Ltd., Sorel, Quebec, on 22 March 1941 and launched on 14 October. To avoid being held over the winter by ice, she was sailed unfinished to Halifax. Named in honour of Regina, Saskatchewan, HMCS REGINA was commissioned in Halifax on 22 January 1942.

The urgency for getting REGINA into fighting trim was emphasised on the very day of her commissioning by the torpedoing in the Canadian zone of four ships. In April 1942 when fully operational, she sailed as a local escort, accompanying convoys to the Western Ocean Meeting Point, turning them over there to Mid-Ocean Escort Groups enroute to the UK. By September, when the western terminus of convoys from the UK was changed from Halifax to New York, she commenced operations from there. Although rarely encountering the enemy, in July 1942, HMCS REGINA picked up twenty-five survivors of the torpedoed US cargo vessel, ALEXANDER MACOMB. Another ship rescued the remaining twenty-eight survivors.

Near the end of 1942 HMCS REGINA was one of the seventeen corvettes selected to support Operation "Torch", the Allied invasion of North Africa. She arrived in Britain in November 1942, was fitted with new equipment suitable for conditions in the Mediterranean, defects were made good and she sailed with convoys plying between the UK and Algiers, Casablanca and other African ports. Later, she was one of the nine corvettes transferred to the Gibraltar Escort Force.

On the night of the 9th February 1943, while escorting two stragglers from the convoy to Bone, Algeria, REGINA attacked a contact and blew the Italian submarine, AVORIO, to the surface. An attempt was made to tow the submarine to Bone, but it was too badly damaged and finally it sank.

REGINA returned to Canada in April 1943 with convoy ON-174. After a short refit, she sailed with local groups again, running out of Halifax to St. John's and New York.

From June '43 to Feb '44 HMCS REGINA began a long refit, carried out at Sydney, Pictou, Halifax and Shelburne. On completion, she was chosen again for a special operation. She became one of the nineteen Canadian corvettes taking part on Operation "Neptune", the naval phase of Operation "Overlord", the Invasion of Normandy. To prepare her, she was transferred on 23 February from the Western Escort Force to the Mid-Ocean Escort Force for duty with Escort Group C-1. On 2 March she joined Convoy SC-154.

On D-Day, 6 June 1944, REGINA, accompanied by HMCS Ships WOODSTOCK and SUMMERSIDE set out on their first invasion assignment: the escorting of a following-up convoy, EBM-2, from >>>>

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Milford Haven, Wales, to the Normandy beach-head. Most of her duties thereafter were the routine escorting of convoys or individual ships, but occasionally she was assigned to anti-submarine patrols.

On the morning of 8 August REGINA set out as the sole escort for Convoy EBC-66, bound for the Normandy beachhead. About eight miles off Trevoze Head, Cornwall, there was a heavy explosion and the American merchantman, EZRA WESTON, reported that she had struck a mine. REGINA concluded that she was likely to sink and ordered a tank landing craft, LCT-644, to remove the crew. During the rescue, the corvette stopped engines and lay off about 300 yards to supervise the rescue. Suddenly, there was a violent explosion and REGINA, who had been drifting slightly with the tide, disappeared amid a tall pinnacle of water and spray. Within 30 seconds there was nothing left to indicate that she had been there, except for her survivors floating about amid the debris.

LCT-644 sped toward the spot and began to pick up the survivors. One officer and twenty-seven men went down with the corvette and two seamen died of injuries before the landing craft could reach Padstow, Cornwall. Although those aboard both the corvette and the freighter believed that their ships had been mined, Admiralty experts, while making assessments later, leaned toward the view that they had been torpedoed.

HMCS REGINA BATTLE HONOURS

Atlantic 1942 - 1944

Mediterranean 1943

English Channel 1944

Normandy 1944

List of Commanding Officers HMCS REGINA K-234

22 January 1942 to 23 February 1942 Lieutenant-Commander R. F. Harris, RCNR

24 February 1942 to 20 October 1942 Lieutenant-Commander R. S. Kelly, RCNR

21 October 1942 to 3 September 1943 Lieutenant-Commander Harry Freeland, DSO, RCNR

4 September 1943 to 8 August 1944 Lieutenant J. W. Radford, RCNR

Motto: Floreat Regina (Let Regina Flourish)

Lineage: First of Name: Corvette, commissioned 22 Jan 1942. Sunk in the English Channel 8 Aug 1944.

Ship Colours: Purple and Gold



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The Model

March of 2008, the group Friends of Regina determined to commemorate HMCS Regina K234 by commissioning a model.

The Friends of Regina approached the Regina Scale Modelers (a chapter of International Plastic Modelers Society, Canada) with the project concept.

Michael Evans, Al Magnus, and Cam Barker

of the Regina Scale Modelers accepted the challenge.

Scale models of many famous warships exist as kits, but in the case of the Flower Class Corvettes only one, HMCS Snowberry, was available from Revell, Germany.

Above the gunwales, HMCS Snowberry and HMCS Regina were not the same. Michael, Al and Cam were faced with a great deal of custom design.

Few images of K234 existed, with even fewer descriptions sufficient to provide enough detail to facilitate the custom designing.

Fortunately, the few images and first-hand accounts from survivors of the K234's sinking were enough for these talented craftsmen to complete the task you see before you in this showcase.

Every detail was painstaking, crafted into a superb image of HMCS Regina worthy of the great ship and crew.

On the 4th of May 2009, the day after Battle of Atlantic Sunday, HMCS Regina K234 the Model was launched and now resides in a place of honour here in City Hall.

The White Ensign is on loan from Maurice Sabourin, a member of the Friends of Regina (now known as The Friends of the Navy)

www.reginascalemodellers.org

www.friendsofthenavy.ca

