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SHIPS IN PORT – Shown above is the British anti-submarine frigate HMS Ulster which accompanied 31 British and Canadian ships to Halifax Friday. The ships have completed the first phase of operation “Maple Royal” between Halifax and Bermuda.

Fleets in! Halifax Extends Welcome

By SANDY CAMPBELL
Canadian Press Staff Writer

This old port city braced on Friday as 10,000 British and Canadian sailors started shore leave after three weeks at sea taking part in the first phase of Operation Maple Royal.

At daylight Friday 15 Ships of the British Home Fleet and 14 units of the Canadian Navy Atlantic command began steaming through the foggy harbor entrance.

Three hours later, a white-helmeted Royal Marine guard of honor clicked smartly through the traditional ceremony as Rear Admiral H.F. Pullen boarded the submarine depot ship Maidstone to welcome Admiral Sir William Davis

FIRST PHASE

Admiral Davis, chief of the Home Fleet, directed the first phase of the largest joint Canadian-U.K. manoeuvres since the Second World War. The combined fleets gathered at Bermuda last weekend for antisubmarine exercises.

The fleet puts to sea Tuesday to begin the second phase of Maple Royal off Nova Scotia. Commodore J. V. Brock, senior Canadian naval officer afloat, will direct one of the forces and Admiral Pullen the other. It ends March 22. The Canadian ships return here and the British fleet will steam home. The U.K. task force represents about half of the Home Fleet.

ENTERTAIN SAILORS

Halifax storekeepers dug out items stored after last summer's 1 wist season. Novelties and souvenirs are expected to get a big play from the 5.300 British tars. A navy spokesman said about 3,-000 British and an equal number of Canadians will get shore leave at the same time. They will alternate with those keeping duty watch.

A dizzying round of luncheons, receptions, dances, bus tours and other entertainment has been arrangedë ë ë ë ë

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