



MERCHANT NAVY COMMEMORATIVE THEME PROJECT (MNCTP)



NEWS RELEASE

**TODAY THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY
CELEBRATES NIOBE DAY IN CANADA**

OCTOBER 21, 2021

OTTAWA, Today –

Mr. Stéphane Ouellette,
President and Chief Executive
Officer, Merchant Navy
Commemorative Theme Project
(MNCTP), joined the Royal
Canadian Navy in celebrating
Niobe Day in Canada.

Niobe Day marks the arrival of
His Majesty's Canadian Ship
(HMCS) Niobe in Halifax on
October 21, 1910, having
steamed across the Atlantic from
Portsmouth, England.

This was the first Canadian
warship to enter Canada's
territorial waters: a landmark event in the beginnings of the Naval Service of Canada.
HMCS Niobe was an 11,000-tonne armoured cruiser purchased by Canada from the
Royal Navy.



HMS Niobe was a ship of the Diadem class of protected cruisers in the Royal Navy. She served in the Boer War and was then given to Canada as the second ship of the newly created Naval Service of Canada as HMCS Niobe. The Naval Service of Canada became the Royal Canadian Navy in August 1911. During the early years of the First World War, HMCS Niobe patrolled the St. Lawrence approaches and eastern coast of America, chasing and intercepting German ships, and then joined the Royal Navy's 4th Cruiser Squadron to patrol off New York City. The cruiser returned to Halifax, Nova Scotia, on July 17, 1915, and never put to sea again. Niobe was paid off in September and served as a depot ship in Halifax. Her upper works were wrecked in the Halifax explosion on December 6, 1917. The HMCS Niobe continued to serve as a depot ship until 1920.

On October 14th, 2021, the Merchant Navy/Royal Canadian Navy commemorations were held at the Royal Canadian Navy Monument, located on Richmond Landing, in Ottawa. A wreath laying ceremony was also held at the [Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, in Halifax, Nova Scotia](#). This day recognized the 79th Anniversary of the sinking of the Newfoundland ferry S.S. *Caribou*, the 76th Anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Atlantic, and the 111th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy.

Quote

“Today is a special day as we celebrate Niobe Day in Canada, marking the arrival of the HMCS Niobe entering Halifax Harbour, as the first warship of the new Naval Service of Canada. Learning, recognizing, and appreciating these significant dates in history, embedded within our diverse cultural landscape, helps us to honour our ancestors by safeguarding its historical integration into our national and international mosaics of heritage and culture.”

– Stéphane Ouellette, President and CEO, MNCTP

Associated Links

- [Niobe Day – October 21 | Government of Canada](#)
- [HMCS Niobe, 1917 \(photographs\) | Canadian War Museum](#)
- [HMCS Niobe and Coronation Day in Charlottetown 1911 | Sailstrait Blog](#)
- [HMCS Niobe anchor damaged in Halifax Explosion found | CBC | October 20, 2014](#)
- [Royal Canadian Navy Monument \(Ottawa\) | Government of Canada](#)
- [Maritime Museum of the Atlantic \(Halifax, Nova Scotia\)](#)
- [History of the S.S. Caribou | Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
- [1942: U-boat sinks SS Caribou off Newfoundland | CBC Digital Archives](#)

Contact

- Merchant Navy Commemorative Theme Project (MNCTP)
Stéphane Ouellette
President and Chief Executive Officer
E-mail: ouellettes@rogers.com
Website: www.alliedmerchantnavy.com