

SHIP'S BELL GIVEN TO LEGION BRANCH

The Eastview Ontario, branch of the Canadian Legion has fallen heir, appropriately enough, to the ship's bell from the frigate HMCS Eastview.

At the end of the Second World War the bell was given to the town of Eastview in recognition of what the residents had done for the ship.

Recently Mayor Gordon Lavergne of Eastview turned the bell over to the local branch of the Canadian Legion for safe keeping.

The Eastview, a River class frigate, was laid down in August 1943, at the Canadian Vicker's Ltd., Montreal yard, launched in November 1943 and commissioned in June 1944. Following work-ups, she served on the North Atlantic convoy routes until war's end, as Senior Officer's ship with C-6 Escort Group.

Sent to the West Coast after V-E Day, she was slated for Pacific duty but V-J day obviated that. The ship was turned over to War Assets Corporation in July 1946 and later along with two sister ships, she was sunk as a breakwater at the entrance of Comox Harbour, B.C.

BRIEF HISTORY OF HMCS EASTVIEW

HMCS EASTVIEW was commenced on August 26, 1943 and was commissioned on June 3, 1944. After storing and fitting additional gear at Halifax she sailed for Bermuda on August 19. Back at Halifax a month later, she was designated as Senior Officer's ship of C-6 Escort Group which was then being formed, and she retained this duty for the remainder of the period of hostilities in the North Atlantic. From September 18, 1944 to April 28, 1945, the group escorted nine convoys across the Western Ocean without once encountering the enemy although they made many attacks on underwater targets that were probably fish. On June 13, 1945, C-6 slipped from Lough Foyle, the last Canadian Escort Group to leave the British Isles. The people of Londonderry and the British ships in the Foyle cheered them as they passed and a flight each of Fleet Air Arm and Coastal Command aircraft dipped in salute overhead. At St. John's, Newfoundland, on June 25 the group was disbanded. Ten days later EASTVIEW sailed from Halifax for Esquimalt to be prepared for the campaign against Japan, but she arrived there on July 27 (less than three weeks before VJ-Day) and apparently was never taken in hand. On January 22, 1946 she was handed over to the War Assets Corporation.

Sold to shipbreakers, the three former frigates of the Royal Canadian Navy were stripped of fittings and as hulks were sunk to form a breakwater in Comox Bay, Vancouver Island. Now firmly lodged in the sands of the bay, the rusted shells still display the painted pennant numbers of HMCS EASTVIEW.

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