

# Halifax Becoming Home for Russians

By LESLIE COHEN  
United Press International  
Halifax, N.S. — (UPI) — The mighty United States aircraft carrier Intrepid steamed majestically into Halifax.

Audaciously, a few hundred yards in its wake, steamed a Soviet trawler, bristling with radar and other sophisticated electronic gear.

Local residents didn't raise an eyebrow. For this East Coast port, steeped in the traditions of the sea in war and peace, is becoming a home away from home for hundreds of Russian sailors and their ships.

**Commonplace To See**  
And it is commonplace to see U.S. and Soviet ships berthed side by side here. At one time recently, seven Russian ships operating out of Cuba were berthed at piers adjacent to a visiting U.S. Navy carrier division.

The sight of the gold and red hammer and sickle is increasingly familiar both off Canada's East Coast, some times in areas where allied warships exercise, and in Halifax harbor, which claims to handle more Russian ships than any other port in the Western world.

According to the Russians, they come here strictly as fishermen. They deny their mazes of radio and radar antennas or their complicated, apparently navy-style sounding or listening equipment are used for anything other than to catch fish and navigate.

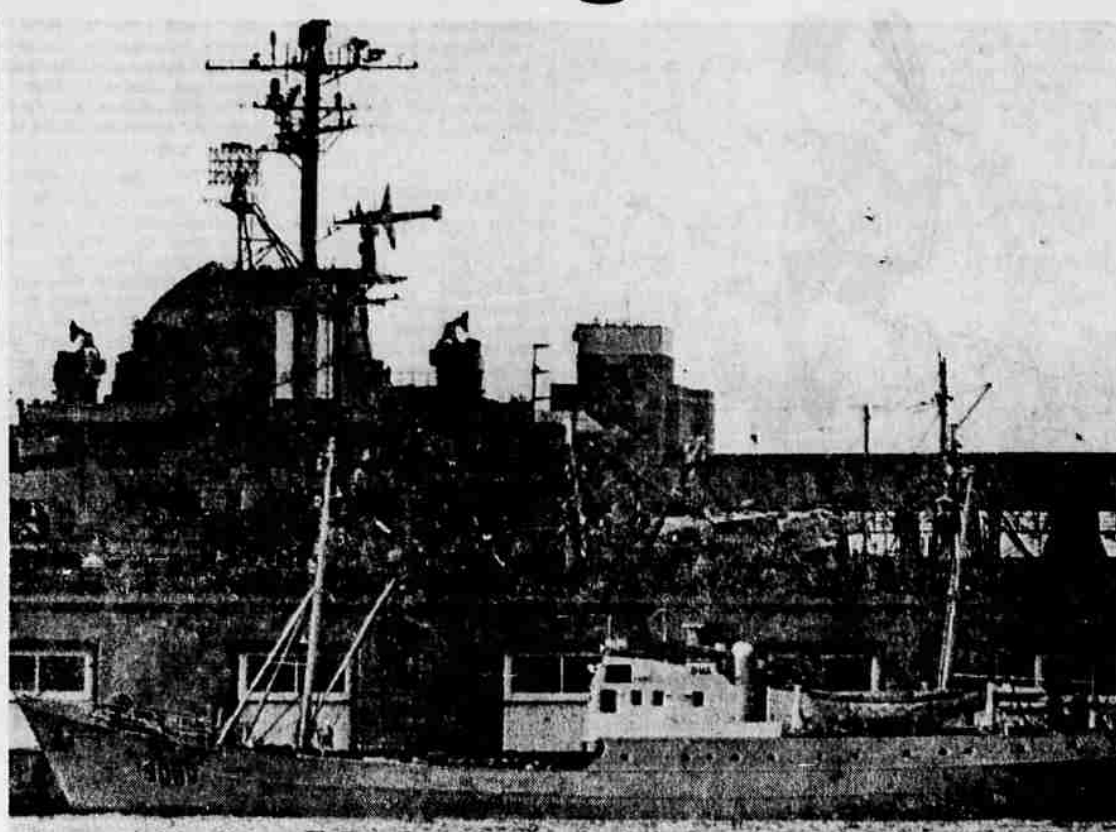
About 50 of the Communist ships use Halifax as their "home" port while fishing the Georges and Grand Banks this year. They include trawlers, water tankers, druggers, tugs and factory and "mother" ships. They have been using Halifax regularly during the February-November fishing season since the Soviets began exploiting the area in the northwest Atlantic four years ago for cod, herring and redfish.

Soviet scamen play soccer at dockside or walk the streets of Halifax in twos and threes — but almost never alone.

Local officials say there are no better behaved visitors to this city of about 100,000 than the Russians. The supplies the Soviets purchase include alcoholic beverages, but "we never have any trouble with them," said one official. "And no Russian has ever jumped ship here," a Halifax customs official noted.

**Estimates an Average**  
A spokesman for the local shipping agent who services the Russian fleet estimates an average of 30 different ships dock here about 100 times per year for repairs, water and other supplies. During June, Russian ships berthed at an average of one a day.

The Russian fleet almost always enters Halifax harbor in groups of two or more. They first make contact with their shipping agent, giving them their estimated time of arrival a day in advance.



**DWARFED BY CARRIER**—The Russian trawler, Oka (foreground), is dwarfed by the U.S. carrier, USS Intrepid, as the two vessels share docking facilities at Halifax, Nova Scotia, recently. (UPI)

The shipping agent arranges with the harbor master for pilots, tugs and berthing space for the Soviets, depending on their needs. If necessary, as in the recent case of a stricken Russian seaman who was rushed to a hospital, the agent contacted the Soviet embassy in Ottawa with particulars.

The Russians, who seem to strive to give a continuous appearance of correctness, do not encounter any clearances difficulty with Canadian officials who find them "very cooperative." Once they have filled out the necessary forms and the crew is found to be in order, they are allowed ashore.

The Soviets have proved to be an economic blessing to merchants. In addition to trade in such traditional sailor

fare as souvenir trinkets and nylons, the Soviets occasionally spend as much as \$1,000 in replenishing supplies. A typical Russian food order would include Canadian potatoes, oranges from California and South Africa, radishes from Massachusetts, onions from Texas, Canadian meat and a stock of local beer and whisky.

**Seaman Are Friendly**  
The scamen are friendly but do not invite intimate contacts. They normally will pose cheerfully for newspaper pictures and, while many speak English, they will converse in their native tongue until they are certain of the stranger's purpose. More often they will refer the stranger to the captain in broken English.

The Russians recently let newsmen tour two of their

ships, a trawler out of Cuba and a water tanker serving the Atlantic fishing fleet. The guided tours extended from stem to stern and from the bilges to the bridge.

But the guides did not divulge anything more than cursory information on some of their more complex and sophisticated radar gear.

On each ship, the 502-ton Oka, a stern trawler from Kaliningrad, Russia, which operates out of Cuba and the tanker Vyru from Tallin, Russia (Estonia), most of the crew have their own rooms equipped with bed, desk, bookshelf and chairs. The officers' rooms were distinguishable by the addition of food and drink.

**Pictures on Wall**  
In the galley of the Oka hung pictures of Lenin and Fidel Castro posing with an

he said were used to detect fish. One piece of sonar gear operates as a television set, another on the bridge scans a graph on a roll of paper and a third was located in the adjoining navigation room above the chart table.

**Seven Months at Sea**  
The Soviet ships usually spend up to seven months at sea, starting in the Atlantic off the coast of Africa and working their way west to the North American side of the ocean. They generally fish the Grand Banks beginning in March and then move on to Georges in May.

Last year the Russians took a 4 million metric tons of fish and whale from all parts of the world except the Indian Ocean. Their North Atlantic operation produced a catch of about 300,000 metric tons, according to tables of the International Commission for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries.

Dr. Alexander S. Bogdanov, director of the Central Research Institute of Fishery and Oceanography in Moscow, said the Russians had "more than 100 scientific and exploratory ships researching" the world's seas in 1962.

**29-Man Crew**  
Captain Crechihin has a 29-man crew aboard the Oka. Through an interpreter — a consul from the Ottawa em-

bassy — he said the average age of the Soviet seaman is 25 and they all are salaried. The Vyru has a crew of 23, including two women.

A highlight of the two inspection tours was interviewing the captain of the Vyru, 31-year-old Estonian Axel Siemar, who has been coming to Halifax aboard the Vyru for the past three years, is an avid pop music fan and record collector.

The crew will be home about three months, Siemar said, when they will begin the Atlantic fishing circuit all over again off the coast of Africa.

The Vyru normally makes Halifax its home port on this side of the Atlantic. But it occasionally stops at Sydney, N.S., as have other Soviet ships. But such Nova Scotia ports as Sydney and Yarmouth are used only rarely by the Russians.

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unidentified person. Russian newspapers were in evidence and several reels of movie film, exchanged between ships while in port, lay on a table.

Missing from the bridge of the Oka was the normal wheel-type helm and engine telegraph used on most ships. Instead, the East German-built vessel features an electrical steering system that operates by manipulating three plungers: one each for turning right and left and the third to regulate speed.

Captain Geory Crechihin, 37, showed UPI a series of three sonar machines which

**Southern Oregon Troops Parade at Governor's Day**

Camp Riley, Warrenton — Some 265 southern Oregon National Guardsmen with the second automatic weapons battalion paraded here Saturday as the annual Governor's Day Review marked the midpoint of two weeks' annual training.

A thousand troops of the 249th Air Defense artillery and supporting units paraded at 10:45 a.m., before Gov. Mark O. Hatfield and military officials.

The second automatic weapons battalion has headquarters in Ashland, and batteries at Medford and Klamath Falls. Commander of the battalion is Maj. Ardis Warren, stationed at Ashland.

Medford Guardsmen are assigned to Battery A, with 37 men at camp commanded by Capt. Raymond R. Harris, and Battery D, with 53 men at camp commanded by Capt. Charles E. Henry. Ashland's Headquarters battery, with 65 men, is headed by First Lt. Paul D. Lovejoy. Batteries B and C, in Klamath Falls, have 61 and 49 men respectively.

Following the Saturday ceremonies, troops will be off duty until Monday morning, when they continue firing the track-mounted 40mm guns, over the Pacific Ocean range. Firing at both radio-controlled aircraft targets and at surface targets is slated until close of camp.

The Saturday review saw the presentation of the Eisenhower Trophy, the state's top award to a Guard unit, to Albany's Battery C, third automatic weapons battalion, commanded by Capt. Darwynne Knoffler.

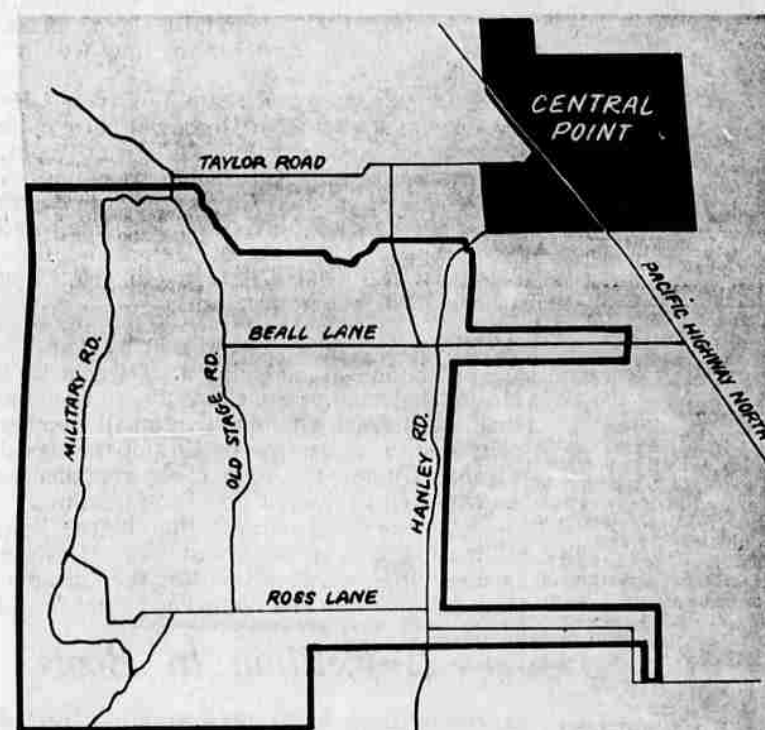
Joining Gov. Hatfield on the reviewing stand were Maj. Gen. Paul L. Kliever, Oregon adjutant general; Brig. Gen. Donald N. Anderson, assistant adjutant general and camp commander; Maj. Gen. Frederick R. Zierath, Ft. Lewis, Wash., and fourth infantry division commander; and Brig. Gen. Carroll W. McColpin, commander of Adair Air Force station.

**29 Cases of Disease Reported in County**

There were 29 cases of communicable diseases in Jackson county reported last week, according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, director of the Jackson county health department.

Influenza and chicken pox topped the list with five cases each. There were four cases of pneumonia, two of German measles and two of red measles. Cases of mumps numbered four, gonorrhoea, five; whooping cough, one, and syphilis, one.

## We Oppose the Formation of the West Side Water District



Proposed boundaries of West Side Water District shown in heavy lines.

The undersigned persons, who reside within the boundaries of the proposed West Side Water District, unalterably oppose the formation of such a district on the basis of the boundaries presently proposed. Here are our reasons:

1. We desire to maintain our properties in their present condition, devoted to horticultural and agricultural purposes. We have no intention nor desire to sub-divide these properties for residential use.
2. We firmly believe that the rich soil of this portion of the Rogue River Valley included in the proposed water district should be used for horticultural and agricultural purposes rather than residential purposes.
3. To date, those who are sponsoring the proposed West Side Water District have failed to offer any constructive or definite plan for the implementation of the proposed water project. No statement has been given as to organization and use cost of water. There has been no assurance or indication that any water from Medford or any other source will be available to the West Side Water District if formed nor has there been an indication as to the course the officers and directors of the district would follow.

- |                                |                                 |                               |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Kessler     | Mr. and Mrs. Veral Stearns      | Mr. and Mrs. Theron Gordon    |
| Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Dobbins     | Mr. and Mrs. Irvin L. Katherman | Mr. and Mrs. Wayne King       |
| Mr. and Mrs. E. Francis Cronin | Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Libby       | Mr. Hugo Wehman               |
| Mr. and Mrs. Austin Caldwell   | Mr. and Mrs. Ross Conner        | Mr. and Mrs. Dave Blumenstein |
| Mr. and Mrs. Rolf Holstrom     | Mr. and Mrs. Roy Picard         | Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Norris     |
| Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Stout       | Mr. and Mrs. Louis Bittie       | Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Flanagan   |
|                                |                                 | Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Hutteling  |

**Be sure to attend the PUBLIC MEETING — Jackson County Courthouse, Wed. Aug. 7-9:30 a.m.**

Ed. Adv. Frank J. VanDyke, 110 East Sixth St., Medford, Ore.

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