

Fall, 2011

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HMCS PRINCE ROBERT
See centre pages

HMCS MICMAC
Salty Dip Page 18

The YARDARM
Published twice yearly, Spring and Fall
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on behalf of
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Ready Aye Ready
And
Right Royal!
See Page 5

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OUR JENNY WRENS continued...

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Yardarm Editor

COPY DEADLINES
Spring issue: March 7
Fall Issue: August 7

Name	First Name	Maiden Name	City	Date of Death
Lind	, Merle	?	Red Deer, AB	Jan. 10, 2011
Ritchie	, Muriel	Sturch	Brampton, Ont	Jan. 10, 2011
Sommerville	, Norma Ruth	Tedlie	Saint John, NB	Jan. 24, 2011
Pogson	, Josephine	Allison	Beausejour Man.	Feb. 8, 2011
Wilson	, Cynthia Emma	Kendall	Scarborough, Ont	February 8, 2011
Mason	, Catherine Theresa	McNevin	Sarnia, Ont	Feb. 14, 2011
Harper	, Ruth Alexandra	Hayman	Moncton, NB	Feb. 18, 2011
Maclean	, Katheen 'Kay	McFerran	Victoria, BC	Feb. 18, 2011
Graham	, Dorothy	Hill	Kitchener, Ont	Feb. 24, 2011
Languille	, Annie Margreta	Langille	Pictou, NS	March 9, 2011
Driscoll	, Marjorie Ade-laide	Driscoll	Guelph, Ont	March 11, 2011
Marshall	, Marion Elizabeth	Marshall	Petrolia, Ont	April 16, 2011
Moore	, Alice Campbell	Entwisle	London, Ont	May 11, 2011
Roycroft	, Florence	Moore	Abbotsford, BC	May 20, 2011
Phipps	, Kathryn Elizabeth	?	Unionville, Ont	June 16, 2011

RCN RCNR or CF

Malpage	, Mona W L	Cameron	Halifax, NS	June 22, 2011	cf
Wiswall Gray	, Dorothy , Carol Irene	MacGregor Gray	Bewick, NS Saainch, BC	July 8, 2011 July 13, 2011	rcn cf

WRNS

Sandilands	, June	Hayward	Saainch, BC	Nov. 6, 2010
Symonds	, Jean K.Lapsley	Drysdale	Ladner, BC	Dec. 3, 2010
Holmes Davies	, Patricia Leslie Valaida	Siddens Stott	Saainch, BC Ajax, ON	Jan. 9, 2011 July 2, 2011

Nursing Sisters

Jones	, M. Virginia Inez	Walker	Brentwood Bay, BC	May 2, 2010
McClennan	, Darlene Beatrice	Smith	Waterloo, ON	Sep. 25, 2010
Sigsworth Lavally	, Marion Louise , Helen Irene	Madden McCracken	Halifax, NS Qualicum Beach, BC	Nov.30, 2010 Dec. 21, 2010

THUNDER BAY

Peter Paul "Peps" Reguly January 26 2011 age 85

Lloyd O'Connor April 2011

Bernard Lyle MacDonald April 28 2011 age 85

Wallace John Stepler April 23, 2011 age 87

Of note:

Margaret Ruth (Drummond) Page CM, CD, DLJ, OMLJ, MPH, BScN RegN.

(Retd) March 3, 2011

WINNIPEG

Elmer Crossley CAIRNS 9 March 2011

Donald (Don) Douglas YOUNG 3 August 2011

WOODSTOCK

Susan Aylward Born - January 17, 1925, Died - May 4, 2011.

She was a former WREN. She was also a Member of RCNA London

OTHERS

Don Sabiston CD RCN WORLD WAR II VETERAN Peacefully at the Ottawa Civic Hospital on May 3, 2011, at the age of 86.

John R. Sullivan, RCNA past president age 86

Our Jenny Wrens.....

From the Wren Book Of Remembrance



Name	First Name	Maiden Name	City	Date of Death
Van Gorder	Sheila Margaret	Finn	Bobcaygeon, Ont	Jan. 15, 2010
Chandler	Alison Frances	Reynolds	Dunnville, Ont	April 9, 2010
Ewan [Ripley]	D. Rosemary	Baker	Victoria, BC	Nov. 25, 2010
Dixon	Bernice Louise	Burley	Beaverton, Ont	Dec. 5, 2010
Kennedy	Frances Lillian	Luchuck	Calgary, AB	Dec. 10, 2010
Ireland	Phyllis	Talbot	Markham, Ont	Dec' 10, 2010
Campbell	Sheila	Griffin	Montreal, PQ	Dec. 16, 2010
Hough	Elizabeth Mollie	Johnson	Saskatoon, SK	Dec. 27, 2010
Dougall	Jean Alyce	?	Nelson, BC	Jan. 2, 2011

Continued on page 23

From The Helm

Fall 2011

The wonderful news that Royal is to be re-instated for the Air Force and Navy came in mid-August and is covered elsewhere in this issue. Our heartfelt thanks must go out to those who have so tirelessly worked to this end.

Another six months have now passed. I was at the spring Reunion held in Waterloo ON by the Kitchener-Waterloo Naval Association in the Weber St. Club Rooms. All in attendance were treated to a great variety of entertainment along with a hint of Oktoberfest activities. A superb variety of eats was provided by the Galley staff during Friday and Saturday period. The Reunion banquet was well organized and those in attendance had a perfect view and sound of all activities. The organizational skill of the K-W hosts was excellent with plenty of assistance available. If there was a complaint it would be a lack of participants. It takes many hours of time and commitment to bring this type of reunion into being. With better attendance, lower registration fees will be in order.

I must confess that I had a feeling that we might be on our last legs with a number of branches folding due to limited attendance and decreasing membership. I am happy to report that we are maintaining our status quo with clubs and numbers. A number are leaving and a few oldies may be returning. We have had a good response from departing clubs and their members are turning to MALs membership.

There has been a change of Chief of Staff for Maritime Command and Rear

Admiral Paul Maddison is now at the helm. He is a member of our Bridgewater branch.

Also Admiral ret'd Larry Murray has assumed the Honourary President and Chairman's role of the Canadian Legions Dominion Command.

The Dominion President is now Pat Varga a past member of the navy with roots in Manitoba.

Political changes in the country have led to a number of new ministers notably in Veterans Affairs Canada. They in their usual mode of efficiency have lost track of the fact that Canada does have a large number of Naval vets. Hopefully they will again recognize our existence.

Your executive have undertaken a number of issues in hopes of recognizing deserving members across the country. More on this will be revealed in due course. We do have your interests at heart.

Jerry Sigrist has been chosen to be a recipient of the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

Presentation ceremony to be held Tuesday September 13th at the Westin Nova Scotia in Halifax. Ken MacAskill was a previous recipient of the honour. I look forward to seeing all directors at the AGM as this is an Election year and the best time to make club issues known as well as the members wishes.

"Steady as she goes"

Yours Aye,

Blaine Barker

President

A touch of humour..

Alligator Shoes

A blonde was on vacation in the Everglades. She wanted to take home a pair of genuine alligator shoes in the worst way, but was very reluctant to pay the high prices the local vendors were asking.

After becoming very frustrated with the "no haggle on prices" attitude of one of the shopkeepers, the blonde shouted, "Well then, maybe I'll just go out and catch my own alligator, so I can get a pair of shoes for free!"

The shopkeeper said with a sly, knowing smile, "Little lady, just go and give it a try!"

The blonde headed out toward the swamps, determined to catch an alligator.

Later in the day, as the shopkeeper was driving home, he pulls over to the side of the levee where he spots that same young woman standing waist deep in the murky bayou water, shotgun in hand.

Just then, he spots a huge nine-foot gator swimming rapidly toward her. With lightning speed, she takes aim, fires, kills the creature and hauls it onto the slimy bank of the swamp. Lying nearby are seven more of the dead creatures, all lying on their backs.

As the shopkeeper stands on the bank, watching in silent amazement, the blonde struggles and flips the gator onto its back. Rolling her eyes heavenward and screaming in great frustration, she shouts out, "Rats! This one's barefoot too!"

***Bill Davies sent this one in.
Thanks, Bill***

**British phlegm was never better
Illustrated than during 1940 as
witnessed by this calm notice:**

RICHMOND GOLF CLUB

TEMPORARY RULES. 1940

1. Players are asked to collect Bomb and Shrapnel splinters to save these causing damage to the mowing machines.
 2. In Competitions, during gunfire or while bombs are falling, players may take cover without penalty for ceasing play.
 3. The positions of known delayed action bombs are marked by red flags at a reasonably, but not guaranteed, safe distance therefrom.
 4. Shrapnel and/or bomb splinters on the Fairways, or in Bunkers within a club's length of the ball may be moved without penalty, and no penalty shall be incurred is thereby caused to move accidentally.
 5. A ball moved by enemy action may be replaced, or if lost or destroyed, not nearer the hole without penalty.
 6. A ball lying in a crater may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, preserving the line to the hole, without penalty.
 7. A player whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb may play another ball from the same place. Penalty one stroke.
- Larry Hart sent this in
Thanks Larry***

(Now those, who have asked me, know why I never took up golf-Des)

"Crost" the bar

ADMIRAL DESMOND PIERS

Calvin Mayo – 23 January 2011
Albert Scott – 12 May 2011

ADMIRAL HOSE

Mary Cahill, Past Pres. Ladies Aux.,
March 16, 2011
George Ducharme RCNVR, April 16,
2011
Paul Klein, USAF, May 5, 2011

ADMIRAL MURRAY

Robert Gordon "Bob" Boehk Jul 12,
2011, age 85

CALGARY

Murray Copot age 87 16 March 2011
Bud Bruce May 25, 2011

COMOX VALLEY

Clint Pomeroy, March 19, 2011 age 82

EDMONTON

James Brownlee Feb 08/25 to Dec
12/09
Rev. Doug Berry Sep 24/17 to Feb
22/10
Alfred Connelly May 02/25 to Jan
21/11
Reid Morris June 07/42 to June 13/10
Wanda Sobkow Feb 13/26 to Dec
21/10
Bob Sutherland Dec 28/20 to August
21/09

KELOWNA

Madonna Anthony "Tony" R. Age 85
Feb 1 2011
Phillip Roy Swainson 1924– Apr. 28,
2011



Kelowna continued....

William Albert Warren 1923– June 14,
2011
Charles Arthur Frey 1922– July 17, 2011

LONDON

*Susan A. Aylward May 2011
Walter H. Weston, CD. Born Feb.
18th, 1921. Died May 27th, 2011.
Alfred James Montague Reed
Born: May 6, 1924
Died: August 14, 2011

NEW BRUNSWICK

Reg Miller W11 Padre, and Russ Stiles,
1946–1951. Both from the Fredericton
area.

MANITOULIN & NORTH SHORE

Lloyd O'Connor April 2011

OSHAWA

Ron Stones Oct. 26, 2010
Born Dec. 23, 1942
Brian Hodgson Apr. 3 2011
Randy Vibert July 26, 2010

OXFORD COUNTY

Charles Feere March 29, 2011
*Susan Aylward May 9, 2011
A former WREN., she was also a
member of RCNA London
Len Wright July 6, 2011
H.W. Masters July 23, 2011

UP SPIRITS

Stand Fast the Holy Ghost

There once was a time in HM Ships
When the magic hour had come
The leading hands of every mess
Prepared to collect the rum

The smell of Jamaican filled the air as
the ritual began
A daily tot of Nelson's Blood was a
favourite to every man

When the (Rum) bos'n stood, his
measure poised
To serve every man his tot
Two fingers always in the 'cup'
Making sure that the 'Queen' got her lot

The 'ticker off' was there, of course
His pencil at the ready
With a sipper given from each man's tot
His hand no longer steady

The rum rat sat, his eyes aglow
His whiskers twitching well
He liked his rum so much it seems
He could get pi**ed on the smell

Sometimes the tots were passed around
As each man paid his debts
Favour, rubber, duty swapped
Could cost a couple of wets

Then came the time to sup the 'Queens'
"God Bless Her" was the toast
A watchful eye, as each man supped
So the Rum Bosun got the most

Once the rum had been consumed
And nothing left to pour
The dits began, as the 'Grog' took
charge,
Of favourite runs ashore

A feed, a fight, a couple of pints
Was part of a run ashore
A game of darts was in there too
Then all night in with a Pompey whore

No longer though, does the scent of
rum
Pervade her Majesty's boats
No more to sup Lord Nelson's Blood
And give the 'Queen' her toasts

So to all who drank Lord Nelson's
Blood
And heard the Klaxon's blast
May old shipmates meet and share a
wet
Spinning dits of the good times passed

A toast then to Horatio
And another to the Queen

John Snowdon

Like this one John.
A funny thing, though.
At Naval Clubs, reunions, and all that
sort of thing, people talk about "Up
Spirits" but in fact Up Spirits was the
pipe to get the designated officer (OOD
in harbour), the Cox'n, or Duty PO, and
the Victualling Storesman to go to the
Spirit Locker and draw the daily ration
for the Ship's Company. This was
usually around 1100 so that afternoon
watchmen wouldn't miss out.
The pipe for rum issue was at 1150 or
1155, right after "Secure" and was
"Hands to Muster for Grog."
I often wonder when the vets changed
that?

Bob Willson

Thanks, John and Bob

A RIGHT ROYAL SPEECH!

***Speech delivered by Shipmate Gerry
Sigrist at the Halifax ceremony on the
re-designation of the Canadian Navy
as Royal once more on August 16***

FOR RELEASE August 16, 2011
CONTACT: Gerald W. "Jerry" Sigrist
CPO1 CD2 (Ret'd)

Phone: 902-543-6763

The Royal Canadian Naval Association
Salutes the Restoration of the Royal
Canadian Navy, the Royal Canadian
Air Force and the Canadian Army.

As National Executive Secretary of the
Royal Canadian Naval Association and
Past Division Vice President
(Maritimes), I represent the RCNA at
this name-change ceremony in Halifax
today.

It is important that Michael Smith be
congratulated for his hard-fought battle
on behalf of naval veterans and serving
personnel to have the name Maritime
Command changed to its rightful,
traditional and respected name Royal
Canadian Navy. When his campaign
began, the RCNA was asked for
support, along with many other
veterans' organizations. Mail went out
to all our clubs in Canada and, within
days, return letters were received.

Clubs held meetings and took votes
and, without exception, all were 100%
in favour of the return of Royal
Canadian Navy, Royal Canadian Air
Force and Canadian Army.

I personally am a veteran of 32 years
naval service and, since retiring, have
never referred to "my" navy as
anything other than Royal Canadian
Navy.

Canadian Naval Veterans have waited
many years for this. It is wonderful to
know we now have, once again, a Navy
in Canada. I'm sure many other
Nations will take notice of this. Our
Government now seems to have a
policy with more commitment to the
Canadian Armed Forces. One example
of this is the restoration and
preservation of Canadian symbols and
traditions. Veterans have supported this
initiative by signing thousands of
petitions. The Royal Canadian Naval
Association is unanimous in their
support, as well as many other groups.

Thank you very much Mr. Sigrist.
It was more than okay... you did a very
good speech.
Much appreciated!
Julie

Julie Gaudreau
OFFICE OF THE PRIME
MINISTER / CABINET DU
PREMIER MINISTRE

Stakeholder Relations / Relation avec
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H.M.C.S. VICTORIA

Victoria News

Published: **August 05, 2011 9:00 AM**

Updated: **August 05, 2011 10:05 AM**

After five years of painstaking work, civilian employees at CFB Esquimalt are celebrating a year of major accomplishments as they prepare Canada's flagship submarine – *HMCS Victoria* – for diving.

"All these major milestones are long overdue and great for morale," said Phil McEvoy, production manager of the fleet maintenance facility, tasked with overhauling and outfitting the vessel with weapons capabilities.

The boat, which was tugged out of dry dock in April and tied alongside a dockyard jetty, is being readied for a dive this summer, possibly in early September.

"What that tells you is that it can go down and come back up on her own air systems, which is critical," McEvoy said, noting the boat will be relocated to a nearby jetty for the day-long event.

"They've (dredged) out a spot where she actually can go all the way down without touching bottom and be actually submerged (12 to 18 metres deep)," McEvoy said.

The complexity of *Victoria's* overhaul makes it difficult to schedule when major milestones will take place far in advance, such as when the boat undergoes a deep-sea dive in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Although *Victoria's* commanding officer, Cmdr. Christopher Ellis, hoped to navigate the vessel into the strait in July, the plan now is to conduct full sea trials later this year.

"(Submarines are) a very complex thing, so one little thing can delay you a day or two," said McEvoy.

Even when you start to involve yourself with them, you start to scratch your head on how complex they are," he said. "This is all brand new ground. Even the Brits didn't do what we're doing to this class of vessel."

Changes made to the sub are significant.

"It's night and day," said McEvoy. "She's in pristine condition from when we've started.

"When refits are done, it's quite impressive – the shave and a haircut – what it can make a ship or a boat look like."

Workers at the fleet maintenance facility will also continue to maintain and repair *Victoria*, Chicoutimi and Corner Brook once they are operational. *HMCS Windsor* is being refitted in Halifax.

This story was by Erin McCracken - Victoria News

Published: August 05, 2011 9:00 AM

Updated: August 05, 2011 10:05 AM

To whom our thanks. Dave Shirlaw drew it to our attention on the Maritime History Group.

Thanks, Dave.

Continued from Page 18..

As it was summer and the weather was clear and hot we stopped off at a bar I was familiar with for a cold beer.

When daylight was fading and night approaching I decided to return the patrol to Saint George's, h a i l e d another Hillman convertible taxi for the trip back, directing the driver to deliver us to the Saint George's Hotel. The Saint George's Hotel was atop a hill overlooking the harbour with a beautiful patio and bar in front. There we were, Micmac's Shore Patrol having a cold beer, overlooking a moon lit harbour and our ship alongside the jetty.

Before sailing the following day we brought aboard a truck load of liquor and beer. Found out years later the captain owned a lodge on Nova Scotia's South Shore, the booze was destined there.

Few days later at sea, captain treated us to two beers and watermelon on after X Gun deck. Beer and watermelon, that had to be a Navy First!!

S/M Gerald Sullivan sent this in.

Thanks shipmate

PLEASE!!!! The post office charges for Yardarms returned due to incorrect addresses. Please notify either Don Spiece or Des Steel if you have moved. See page 2 for telephone numbers etc.

Continued from Page 17..

Wow! We've left a great impression, nice going and a big thanks to all my brothers and sisters of our Royal Canadian Armed Forces that have honored, the Flags of our Canada, our families and Royal Family, our word, and of course bravery, and also I sincerely thank and pray every day for those young kids who continue today, walking in our footsteps, again, so outstanding and, so far from home. FLY NAVY FLY NAVY James W. G. Cope Royal Canadian Navy 1961 – 1971 Petty Office 2nd Class OBS-081 jimcope1942@hotmail.com Sent in by Jim McCaffery from Jim Cope. Thanks, shipmates

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former."

~Albert Einstein

"If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world...~

J.R.R. Tolkien

"I was thrown out of college for cheating on the metaphysics exam; I looked into the soul of the boy sitting next to me. "

~Woody Allen

Wise sayings sent in By Bill Davies. Thanks, Bill.

HMCS MICMAC c1954



April 1951 I was bridge messenger in HMCS Magnificent, proceeding south in the Caribbean Sea. At first light radar picked up drifting Dominican coastal ferry the Gilbert Jr. which had been drifting for several days, out of fuel, water and food. So-called engineer thought Captain had fuelled vessel, so-called Captain thought engineer had fuelled. Our escort, destroyer Micmac put crew, food & water aboard, found 12 female passengers as well as a number of chickens and two (horses??).

Micmac took vessel in tow to nearest port Curacao. We then proceeded east along Venezuelan coast to Trinidad for R&R, rum (\$1.00 a bottle) & coke. Had been at sea for two weeks, time for a little fun.

July /August 1954 I was a Leading Seaman aboard HMCS Micmac DDE 214 on a gunnery cruise to Bermuda.

When we arrived alongside in St. George's, as luck would have it I was duty watch. As I was also a Leading Seaman, I was detailed to take three men on Shore Patrol to Hamilton, at the other end of the island.

After drawing webbing, batons, arm bands and funds for taxi transportation, we set off in a Hillman convertible to enforce naval discipline in the capital, Hamilton. I had done Shore Patrol duties in a good many ports, traveling mostly in paddy wagons or on foot to assigned areas, this was the first time I zipped along in such a fancy manner, wished I'd had brought a camera.

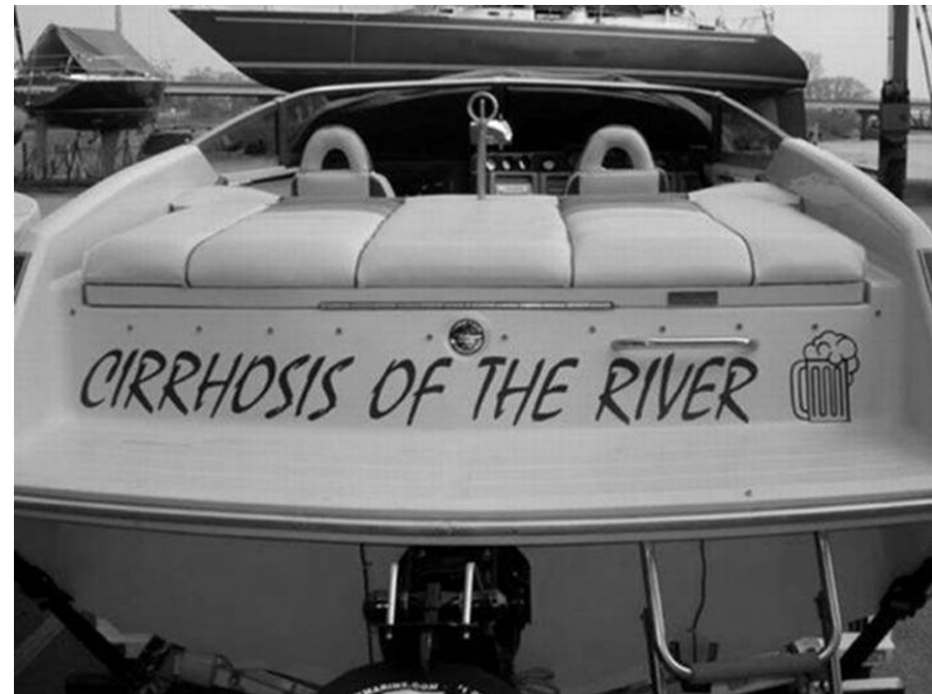
Upon our arrival in the capital it did not take too long to realize we were the only members of our ship in town, and in fact the only sailors prowling about the streets, and as I had visited Hamilton before in another ship and was somewhat familiar with the town, I decided to take my charges on a little tour.

Continued on page 19



HMCS Victoria is preparing to return to its salty domain this year after an extensive five-year overhaul and weaponization program. The submarine is seen here in the Strait of Juan de Fuca just before arriving at CFB Esquimalt in 2003 - the first Canadian submarine permanently based on the West Coast since 1974.

Canadian Forces photo



Nautical Humours sent in by Larry Hart. Thanks. Larry

From: pinecottage@ns.sympatico.ca
To: noacexdir@msn.com
Subject: H.M.C.S. Stettler Photo
Date: Thu, 5 May 2011 14:19:28 -0300
Gentlemen:

My father (Harold M. Brown) was a veteran of the RCNVR in World War II and was for many years a member of your organization (NOAC.) He served as Torpedo Officer on the H.M.C.S. **Stettler** during 1944-45. He was also in the commissioning party of that ship after she was built by Canadian Vickers Shipyard in Montreal. I have been trying for some time to locate a crew photo of the **Stettler**. I know many H.M.C. ships had such photos taken and am assuming that the **Stettler** was no different. For example, there is a photo of the crew of H.M.C.S. **Magog** (commissioned the same day as **Stettler**) posing on the bow of the ship. I have contacted museums, Canadian legion branches and several individuals but have had no success locating such a **Stettler** photo. Would you be able to assist me in any way? I would certainly appreciate any help you could provide. Thank you.

Yours truly,
G.D. Brown

John:
I recently acquired a copy of the Yardarm booklet, last year's edition. I assume that was you who submitted the article on Merrill Rumsen. Thank you. I gave the copy to him yesterday.

He still can't believe all the attention he's been receiving in the last few years. Last Remembrance Day, he took the salute at the Cenotaph---probably the lowest-ranking military person or dignitary ever to do as a Leading Seaman.

He (and we along with him) will be celebrating his 97th b'day April 10th.

His e-mail mrumsen@rogers.com. Since all his many friends make such a fuss over him on that occasion for the last few years, he is wondering what we have planned for his 100th. Marvelous fellow, Merrill is.
Cheers,

Lloyd

S/M John Snowdon sent this in.
Thanks John and Lloyd

Wait for the date men.

From: Jerry Sigrist
[\[mailto:jerry.sigrist@eastlink.ca\]](mailto:jerry.sigrist@eastlink.ca)
Sent: July-15-11 10:10 AM
To: Blaine Barker
Cc: Ken MacAskill
Subject: Commendation

Just thought I'd let you people know (I see Ken is a previous recipient) that I have been chosen to be a recipient of the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

Presentation ceremony to be held Tuesday September 13th at the Westin Nova Scotia in Halifax.
Wonders never cease.

I've been busy for the past twenty years or so piddling around on my keyboard playing with long times ago, the happenstance of fun and youth, and life's simple continuances. But you see, I had this strong feeling so many time during an important period in my life that until a few minutes ago I realized I hadn't said anything about in written form and considering all the millions of words with which I've soiled the sheet by printing my piddled upon, I am somewhat embarrassed by my remissive-ness.

I've said it off-handed in conversations but never written about it. I'm a sop getting tears in my eyes to music, and yummy commercials, or babies and pups, and old friends and good byes and seriously, I have no excuses!, I mean reasons, I'm too old for excuses... so' here it is, I've never written about wearing my, in the words of my wonderful Grandmother Watson, born under the peal of the Big Ben complete with the accent 'Sailors Suit' and the deep pride that uniform abundantly provided me with so many times.

For an example... Years ago, I occasioned a walk, in downtown Rotterdam, my first day along side in its busy harbor, after a terrific, very consuming brewery tour in it's Heineken factory, complete with the unforgettable introduction to tooth-picked, freshly de-waxed, Gouda Cheese cubes and horseradish mustard, Lord almighty the finest combination of shouldn't go together ever, unaware of the drawing power of a 'CANADA' shoulder patch on each shoulder of my uniform as I casually floated along on, and in, my Heineken high, on a warm sunny afternoon in Holland's

September up to my brown holes in a perfect space.

At first I thought I had somehow flip-flopped into a lineup for something that people seemed to waiting in line trying to get to that had to be right beside me, but... it was me. Just to me, and they hugged me and shook my hand applauded smiling with tears in their eyes saying, "Canada... thank you, Canada." In a while I finally woke up, realizing it was what so many Canadians had done twenty five years earlier for these people and their lovely country, for which they were thanking me over and over again.. Imagine me, a young kid walking down the street, half in the bag, in a very old city, in a very old Europe, being honored spontaneously, by fifty or so people for being Canadian. Oh, the lessons of war and peace, 'thank you-'s, and time.

You know, like most of you, I've swaggered (my word) through and at, Forty-second and Broadway, Piccadilly Circus until dawn, climbing the tower for my kiss on the Blarney, braving the Long Bar of Cork, the Reeperbahn in Hamburg, praying in the Peace Garden Memorial in Hiroshima, committing gluttony in the twenty-four karat gold tiled assembly hall in Sweden's Castle in the largest smorgasbords, I've ever seen, and Scrumpy'd myself in the old Apple tree pub outside the main gates of HMS Victory and the Naval base in Portsmouth, all those and some many more in my Canadian Naval uniform and was honored, every time, for my presence, regardless of, my stagger, or the time of day because, I was simply, a Canadian...

Concluded on Page 19...



As the editor sees it

ROYAL

I had included an article requesting those interested to sign a petition for the return of the designation Royal to the Canadian Air Force and Canadian Navy. The petition was part of the massive effort by Michael Smith to secure the designation Royal for the Navy and Air Force. Fortunately, I had delayed sending the Yardarm to the printer as a few clubs had yet to submit “Crost” the bar items for inclusion in this issue - nine days after the copy deadline.

The wonderful news that the navy has returned to being Royal arrived August 16 and led to a hurried restructuring of Yardarm pages.

On Page 5 is a copy of a speech given by RCNA National Secretary Jerry Sigrist on that date at the Halifax ceremony marking the event.

Heartfelt thanks to those who have tirelessly worked for the restoration. Bravo Zulu!

MISGUIDED?

Would be too mild a term to describe the machinations of MPs Bobby Rae and Ruby Dhalla, They introduced a private member’s bill in the House of Commons -Bill C-428 which would allow recent immigrants to apply for OAS in 3 years instead of the existing 10.

Ms. Rhuby Dhalla, who introduced the bill, represents a riding with a population mainly East Indian. Those who lived in Ontario during the Bobby Rae years as NDP Premier will recall the unholy mess he made of the province’s deficit—a mess yet to be

cleaned up by successive governments following his debacle.

After his disastrous term in office, he deserted to what he then thought was the natural party of federal government -the Liberals! How mistaken can you get.? He now presides over the shattered remnants of a once proud Liberal party

Neither appears to give a toss that the cost of their bill would be borne by the already heavily burdened Canadian taxpayer.

Of course, if they succeed,, they will reap the benefit of a massive immigrant vote. Shame!

DEMOCRACY?

The loss of any club from the membership of the RCNA is always a disheartening matter but, sadly, age takes it toll and declining memberships leaves some clubs, DEMS is a good example, with so few members that the only alternative is individuals becoming Members at Large. However, a decision by the Executive of the Toronto Wren Association to forego RCNA Membership leaves a rather nasty taste in my mouth.

It appears that the decision was made without any reference to the membership.

Many of you know that I have a very soft spot for our Jenny Wrens– Joy my wife of 64 years– was a Jenny Wren when I met her. We met at HMS Daedalus, the naval air station—a stone frigate. I do feel that she, and other dues-paying members of that Association should have been given a chance to express an opinion.

Strictly my own opinion, of course.

SAILORS’ BRAVERY AWARDED

OTTAWA – Five sailors and an honorary navy captain received military decorations June 10 from David Johnston, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, during a ceremony at Rideau Hall.

Medal of Military Valour

Leading Seaman Pier-Vincent Michaud, Trois-Rivières, Que.

On May 29, 2009, Leading Seaman Michaud was a member of a joint Canadian-Afghan patrol that was ambushed by the enemy, leaving one Afghan soldier dead and severely wounding two others. Immediately engaged in an intense, close-quarter firefight, Leading Seaman Michaud directed the Afghan soldiers to seek

cover and then moved 50 metres to the casualties’ location, which provided a short 60-centimetre wall for cover. As bullets impacted all around his position, he calmly administered first aid to the casualties and personally brought them to the extraction zone, despite the unrelenting enemy attack. His courage and selfless actions undoubtedly saved the lives of the Afghan soldiers



Meritorious Service Cross (Military Division)

Petty Officer 2nd Class Martin Joseph Claude Bédard, Valcourt, Que.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Bédard was deployed to Afghanistan as a physician assistant, from March to November 2009. As the senior medical authority at the remote Forward Operating Base Ma’Sum Ghar, he became a pioneer in the

application of advanced medical techniques normally reserved for medical officers. Operating in an incredibly austere environment without the benefit of modern medical facilities, he drew universal praise from other medical personnel, including specialists in the field. With unwavering dedication, he provided exceptional care to our soldiers at this remote location, and brought great credit to the Canadian Forces.



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Meritorious Service Medal (Military Division)

*Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Jocelyn Joseph René **Fréchette**, Ste-Foy, Que.*

From January to March 2010, the firm guidance provided by Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Fréchette enabled the crew of HMCS *Athabaskan* to provide exceptional support following the devastating earthquake in Haiti. The relations Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Fréchette maintained with non-governmental organizations, community leaders and military units also made it possible to deliver assistance in the areas



hardest hit. His efforts helped to optimize the use of the ship's resources and to undertake humanitarian assistance projects that had a lasting impact on the region
*Commander Christopher John **Hargreaves**, Victoria, B.C.*

Since his appointment in 2008 as commanding officer of Canadian Forces Fleet School Esquimalt, Commander Hargreaves' inspirational leadership, detailed analytical skills, dedication and infectious motivation have been the driving force behind initiatives to improve naval courses. His actions were instrumental in enhancing the sailors' quality of life and reducing time away from home and units. His commitment and professionalism have had a significant impact on the individual training requirements for naval force employment, generation and development.

*Honorary Captain (Navy) Cedric **Steele**, Victoria, B.C.*

In the 13 years since 1997, Honorary Captain (N) Steele's unflagging service to Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, Maritime Forces Pacific and to the Canadian Forces in general, has inspired and connected the Navy with prominent Canadians and various business groups, as well as the local community. Through Captain (N) Steele's extraordinary energy, vision and tireless efforts, the Esquimalt-based Navy has become linked to the identity of Greater Victoria, as further demonstrated by his commitment to create the Naval Centennial Homecoming statue on the Victoria waterfront.

Continued on Page 11

RE the Lost ships monument and HMCS Prevost and the London RCNA and Naval Club May 1

It rained buckets in the morning and the HMCS Prevost and the Lost Ships ceremony was on the drill deck inside, less folk than last year...but very nice. Ships company, many flags and lots of sea cadets and navy leaguers...and a few veterans. I got to lay the wreath for the Wrens. There were about 4 colour parties. And a real bugler with beautiful sound.

The roses did not come. Peg fastened a colour photo to a stick in a pot ...everybody though this pitiful things were the real thing...I think they might have planted them...BUT Peg got the real ones Tues [May 4]. RCNA G Coulter said keep it short, I cut the little words to about 1 min...of course only those we talked to knew the real story.

Then later on one of the other officers told S/Lt Lewis [who had been the one in charge of the monument] that the 'rose bushes were on the deck so she put them in the office' wherein we told her the story...I said DON'T PLANT the sticks....they are a dummy!. Meanwhile Lewis showed us the printed plaques he had made that matched the stones. These will be set out as readable signs. He has been pleased with the success as folk drop in to see the stones...and he said a lot of people have relatives or friends who went down on the ships ...and they come because there is no grave to go to.

We went to the Wardroom for a mingle and as the only Wren there a number of folk came by to chat.

I met Leo Hickey husband of late Dorothy Hickey and the new CO of Prevost as Lt Cdr White had just been transferred to Victoria.

Then Peg and I went out to the Naval club near the airport. It holds 160 and nicely decorated inside, lots of posters, plaques, crests, and well managed. We had some more food and met a few more Naval types. Most friendly and a lot came over to just say HI. There are Navy Lady roses in the club garden and now will be in the Lost Ships monument garden at Prevost .

Everyone should be encouraged to visit the Monument.

MAL Joan Balch sent this in

A Visit to Churchill Downs

A group of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, accompanied by two female teachers, went on a field trip to the local racetrack, (Churchill Downs) to learn about thoroughbred horses and the supporting industry (Bourbon), but mostly to see the horses.

When it was time to take the children to the bathroom, it was decided that the girls would go with one teacher and the boys would go with the other. The teacher assigned to the boys was waiting outside the men's room when one of the boys came out and told her that none of them could reach the urinal.

Having no choice, she went inside, helped the boys with their pants, and began hoisting the little boys up one by one, holding on to their 'wee-wees' to direct the flow away from their clothes.

As she lifted one, she couldn't help but notice that he was unusually well endowed.

Trying not to show that she was staring the teacher said, 'You must be in the 5th grade.'

'No, ma'am', he replied. 'I'm riding Silver Arrow in the seventh race, but I appreciate your help.'

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SOLO BY JIM NICOL

THREE OR FOUR MORE SONGS ---

---(A) BEER BARREL POLKA

(B) MY WILD IRISH ROSE

(C) ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME

BAND

(D) MY BUDDY

“Y” GUY’S CONTRIBUTION ---

“BUBBLES” AND HER BODY

WARDROOM’S

CONTRIBUTION“VIEVA A LA

VIEVA LA”

TIPPERARY

KISS ME GOODNIGHT SERGEANT

MAJOR

ROSES OF PICARDY

LET ME CALL YOU SWEETHEART

CARRY ME BACK TO OLD

VIRGINNY

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

IF YOU WERE THE ONLY GIRL IN

THE WORLD

LOCH LOMOND

SWEET ROSIE O’GRADY

EAST SIDE WEST SIDE

WAIT TILL THE SUN SHINES -----

The speech delivered by S/M Jerry Sigrist (Page 5) was in the distinguished company of the Minister of Defence, Peter McKay, the only other speaker. Minister of Justice, Attorney General Rob Nicholson and Admiral Paul Madison were also there. After the speech, Minister McKay jumped up and shook Jerry’s hand!

Jerry believes he has recruited the Commander in Chief as a member! What a boost this has all been for the RCNA!

Bravo Zulu, Jerry.

ONLY AN OLD CHIEF...

A retired Chief Stoker was sitting at home on the verandah with his wife--- she was reading a book, and he was sipping Capt’n Morgan’s rum when out of the blue he said , "I love you." She glances over at him and asks, "Is that you or the rum talking?" He replies, "It's me..... talking to the rum."

S/M Lloyd McIntee

A group of seniors were sitting around talking about all their ailments.

"My arms have gotten so weak I can hardly lift this cup of coffee," said one.

"Yes, I know," said another. "My cataracts are so bad; I can't even see my coffee."

"I couldn't even mark an "X" at election time, my hands are so crippled," volunteered a third.

"What? Speak up! What? I can't hear you!"

"I can't turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck," said a fourth, to which several nodded weakly in agreement.

"My blood pressure pills make me so dizzy!" exclaimed another.

"I forget where I am, and where I'm going," said another.

"I guess that's the price we pay for getting old," winced an old man as he slowly shook his head.

The others nodded in agreement.

"Well, count your Blessings," said a woman cheerfully - - "thank God we can all still drive"

From John Snowdon who received it from “George”. Thanks, John and George.

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Rear-Admiral Tyrone Herbert William Pile, Geraldton, Ont., and Victoria, B.C.

As commander of Joint Task Force Games for Operation Podium, the Canadian Forces’ mission in support of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, Rear-Admiral Pile led one of the most complex domestic military operations ever conducted in Canada. He demonstrated exceptional leadership in shaping a co-operative and effective working environment among dozens of partners, including all levels of government and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as well as their civil and military counterparts in the United States. His ability to facilitate the collaboration and coordination of these entities, while ensuring that strategic and operational goals were understood, respected and met by all, was instrumental to the success of Operation Podium and brought great credit to the Canadian Forces.



Rear-Admiral Tyrone Herbert William Pile, Governor General David Johnston, Honorary Captain (Navy) Cedric Steele, Commander Christopher John Hargreaves

*All pictures credit MCpl. Dany Veillette
Story courtesy Canadian Navy News*

HMCS PRINCE

Just a few memories that I hope might be of interest:

After reading S/M Gerry Sullivan, (spring 2011), exploits on the "Maggie" in '51 in the Med. my thoughts turned to my time in the same Med. in '44 on the Prince Robert. As a "refresher" I got out Com. Fraser McKee's excellent book, "Three Princes Armed" to make sure of my facts. I joined the Robert in June '43 and stayed till we returned in Dec. '44. What a ship, a former Can. Nat. Steamship cruise ship, with plenty of living space, not like a Naval ship that's built for war, and to hell with comfort of the crew. So here I was, 19 years old, never been out of Toronto, on a ship sailing down the Pacific coast to Panama. At Panama I see my first cocktail bar, am introduced to a "Zombie", made of seven kinds of rum, --- to a kid who'd never tasted rum. Then we went over to Scotland, and I'd been brought up by English parents, amid all their friends who spoke with English, Irish, or Scottish accents. In Scotland even little kids speak with brogues, just like the old folk I'd heard at home, that's the first thing I noticed!

The ship needed new Radar equipment, so I had a chance to go to London and meet some relatives. I stayed with an uncle who was a sober, solid citizen, when we were passing Trafalgar Square, where there were some women, my uncle said if he wasn't there they'd more than likely try to talk to me, (but he never let me find out). Later when the ship returned from Gibraltar I bought him a small sea-bag full of fruit (wartime England had none), so he rationed them out, an equal number for each, he was honest as the day is long.

While in Gib., I, and three wingers from Toronto, were in either the Swizo Bar, or the American Bar, or both, enjoying time ashore, eating shrimps from waitresses' trays (another first for me). After some time I've no idea how they found out, but we were on our way to a Government Liquor Warehouse. I have no recollection of anything, other than two of our bunch were caught with stolen booze and Dusty Miller and I got back to the ship. I have the Gibraltar newspaper that tells how Boop and Knobby got six months in Gib. jail, so we sailed without them, and picked them up again after they'd done their time.

I was awarded my "G.C.", (Good Conduct Badge) with an added 5 cents a day, sometimes referred to as "3 years of undetected crime." My only "crime" was, I was given 3 days #II punishment for the crime of, "while painting up in the crows nest, I spilled paint on "B" gun deck". #II punishment, as I remember, meant fall in after supper for a couple of hours extra work. In barracks it would mean doubling around the parade square carrying rifle and/or backpack.

The Robert, as an A/A Cruiser, was taking convoys down to Gib., in to Naples and return to Plymouth. The only action we saw was when we were called out of Plymouth as a convoy was being attacked by Ju. 88s off the Bay of Biscay and we went to their aid, fired all guns for two hours and resumed our convoy duties. According to Marc Milner's "Battle of the Atlantic", three aircraft were shot down and that ended the battle.

One Commander we had, Com. Watt, had ties with the C.B.C., and was all for us having a concert in the wide open mess deck

ROBERT IN '44

Because I was from Toronto, with our Casino Theatre featuring Charmaine, so I did a striptease wearing bra and panties from some guy's collection. The music was mainly Jim Nichols on violin and Chris on guitar. When ashore in Naples they brought their music to a wine bar and we had a ball. When we left the bar, I was so full of wine when I got to the end of the jetty to board the motor boat to take us to the Robert out in the harbour, I stepped off and landed in Naples harbour between the boat and the jetty. The water was nice and warm, but as a non-swimmer I wasn't worried about being squashed between the boat and the jetty, but my eager shipmates had me out in time.

On two occasions while visiting Gib. we took part in the ceremony "Escort to the Keys", that commemorates the 1779 locking of the gates to keep out the Spanish. We were the only contingent to have done this that was not under British command, and we had the honour to march to the beautiful pipes and drums of the Royal Scots. I felt we could have marched all over the rock. The skirl of the pipes doesn't just give you a tune to march to, you can feel the strange sound of the pipes, and the drums give you the beat, and I actually feel it so strongly that fifty-odd years later, when, as a veteran marching at the C.N.E. with Royal Canadian Legion Branch 10, Todmorden Branch, guided by the sound of the Scarborough Red Hackle Pipes and Drums. Eight years ago I tried out as a drummer in the band, but after a few years found that I was so busy making sure I followed the beat of the lead drummer,

Plus the fact the 45 pound drum was too heavy. I had my 1944 tiddley altered to fit my older shape, and I'll march to the beautiful pipes as long as my old legs will carry me. I will, on occasion take my place on the reviewing stand, but I still want to march in memory of my brother, brother-in-law, and my many, many old friends no longer with us.

Yours truly,

Jack Aldred, V-31675

PROGRAM FOR SHIP'S SING SONG

A CAPTAINS TALK INTRODUCED BY
COMMANDER ATWOOD.

- (A) PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES
- (B) SHE'LL BE COMING ROUND
THE MOUNTAIN
- (C) HOME ON THE RANGE
- (D) LET ME CALL YOU
SWEETHEART

BANJO SOLO BY A.B. SULLIVAN
DANCING BANJO SOLO --- SUNG
BY JACK SHILTON

THREE OR FOUR MORE SONGS

- (A) I WONDER WHAT'S BECOME
OF SALLY
- (B) WHILE STROLLING
THROUGH THE PARK ONE DAY
- (C) CAROLINA MOON
- (D) RED RIVER VALLEY
NUMBER BY THE BAND////-----

Continued overleaf...