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A periodic publication of the UNTD Association of Canada designed to provide news and short stories in a lighthearted fashion. Back issues can be found on the web site here: [Gunroom Shots - UNTD Association of Canada](#)

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UNTDA 2023



Commemorating the Centennial of the Canadian Naval Reserve in Victoria BC for all former and current naval reserve officers and officer cadets.

Join us in Victoria BC 9-12 May 2023 to celebrate the Centennial of Canada's Naval Reserves; the 80th Anniversary of the Founding of the UNTD and the 55th Anniversary of the Creation of the ROUTH.

Wow – that's a lot to celebrate – and maybe some of you can suggest other rationale to gather or other notable events to celebrate.

Our program will focus on commemorating the Centennial of the Naval Reserves, and the various officer training programs from the UNTD to the ROUTH, NROC and RESO and beyond.



HMCS Stettler At Sea



**8 Mess – Prestonian Class Frigate 1961
Punka louvres – no Air Conditioning**

But our program is not just designed to stimulate our recall of our training, as important as that was to our naval and civilian careers. It will also inform us about where the RCN and the Naval Reserves are today and where they are going. So, fasten your seatbelts and head for Victoria BC where we will slip and proceed with our opening on Tuesday 9 May 2023 at 1830.

On our website you will find an overview of the program with a link to a detailed program with information on all the activities; registering online; hotel bookings; and activities in Victoria and beyond for before and after our conference that might strike your fancy. Go to www.untd.org and click on this banner.

Commémoration du centenaire de la Réserve navale du Canada à Victoria, en Colombie-Britannique, pour tous les anciens et actuels officiers et élèves-

officiers de la Réserve navale.

Joignez-vous à nous à Victoria (C.-B.) du 9 au 12 mai 2023 pour célébrer le centenaire de la Réserve navale du Canada ; le 80e anniversaire de la fondation du DUIN, et le 55e anniversaire de la création du PFUOR. Wow - c'est beaucoup à célébrer - et peut-être que certains d'entre vous peuvent suggérer d'autres raisons de se rassembler ou d'autres événements notables à célébrer.

Notre programme se concentrera sur la commémoration du centenaire de la Réserve navale et les divers programmes de formation des officiers du DUIN, PFUOR, EORN et PIRO et au-delà.

Mais notre programme n'est pas seulement conçu pour stimuler notre rappel de notre formation, aussi importante soit-elle pour nos carrières navales et civiles. Il nous informera également sur la situation actuelle de la MRC et de la Réserve navale et sur leur avenir. Alors, attachez vos ceintures et dirigez-vous vers Victoria BC où nous nous glisserons et procéderons à notre ouverture le mardi 9 mai 2023 à 18h30.

Sur notre site internet, vous trouverez un aperçu du programme avec un lien vers un programme détaillé avec des informations sur toutes les activités ; inscription en ligne; réservations d'hôtels ; et des activités à Victoria et au-delà avant et après notre conférence qui pourraient vous plaire. Allez sur www.unt.org et cliquez sur cette bannière.



The goal of the CSVC project is to flesh out the life stories of the 1,769 Canadian Naval Reservists who perished in WW2, to tell their story of sacrifice, and to “repatriate” them to their home division. These stories are being developed by volunteer researchers from across the country. You can find links to the completed stories on the new CSVC home page [here](#), and the French CVMC page [here](#).

Here are two of those stories researched by LCdr RCN(Ret) Paul Seguna, CD which give a fascinating insight into these honoured wartime Reservists:

Lieutenant John Daniel Mahoney, RCNVR

John "Jack" Daniel Mahoney was born in Toronto on 3 March 1922 to Daniel Joseph and Alice Katherine Mahoney. Educated at the Western Technical School he enjoyed rowing as a member of the Toronto Argonauts Rowing club. He was employed by the Globe & Mail as a staff photographer prior to his joining the RCNVR at HMCS YORK on 17 July 1942 as Lieutenant (Sp) naval photographer in recognition of his specialist civilian skills. He is credited on several photographs of prominent RCN personnel, such as Lieutenant Commander Desmond Piers, CO of HMCS Restigouche, taken during his service in WWII as an official photographer (see: <https://legionmagazine.com/en/2013/05/trying-to-stay-ahead-of-the-pack/>). While serving in the RCN Office of Information in London, UK in 1944 he was assigned to HMCS Athabaskan, with fellow naval information officer Lieutenant Leslie Ward, to cover pre D-Day naval operations off the Occupied coast of northern France. Both joined Athabaskan just prior to the ship's departure in support of mine-laying operations off the coast of Brittany the evening of 28-29 April 1944. Lt Mahoney was lost with Lt Ward when Athabaskan was subsequently sunk in action with units of the Kriegsmarine the early hours of 29 April 1944. His body was recovered ashore after the action and he was buried at the Plouescat Communal Cemetery, in Row B Grave 30 Finistere (Brittany), France.

Postscript:

His mother raised some questions regarding the circumstances of his death as reported in a Toronto post war newspaper report when she received letters from a former German serviceman who claimed to have been involved in the burial of members of the Athabaskan crew discovered on the beaches. He provided letters and personal items taken from Lt Mahoney's body that raised questions as to the nature of his death in her mind. She queried naval authorities in a letter; however, no further information was obtained.

Lieutenant(SB) Leslie Ward, RCNVR

Leslie Ward was born in Leeds, England on 14 July 1907 to Robert and Elsie May Ward and moved to Toronto with his family as a youth in 1919. He had worked as a journalist for fifteen years with the Toronto Evening Telegram before joining the RCNVR at HMCS YORK, Toronto on 30 July 1943. He left his wife, Margaret and two young sons Peter and John Michael to serve in the RCN as a Temporary Lieutenant (SB) and was assigned duties as a naval information officer given his experience as a journalist.

He was immediately assigned to HMCS Bytown, Ottawa for duty with the Director of Naval Information Office. This was followed by initial RCNVR training in September 1943 at HMCS Cornwallis. He returned to HMCS Bytown in October assigned to the Director Naval Information Office once more and worked there until 5 April 1944 when he took passage to the UK having been assigned to the staff of the Senior Canadian Naval Officer in London as a Public Relations Officer arriving on 26 April. The opportunity to be assigned to cover naval operations in the channel presented itself and he and Lieutenant Jack Mahoney, a naval photographic officer, joined HMCS Athabaskan on the 28th April shortly before the ship left port for operations against German naval forces off the coast of France in the company of HMCS Haida. In subsequent action against German naval units Athabaskan was sunk and both Ward and Mahoney perished.

Listed as Missing Presumed Killed (MPK) Lieutenant Ward's body was never recovered. He is commemorated on panel 11 of the Halifax Memorial. A memorial bench is also dedicated to his memory at

All Saints Anglican Church in Westboro, Ottawa with the dedication that reads: *To the glory of God and in loving memory of Lieutenant Leslie Ward RCNVR lost in the sinking of HMCS Athabaskan April 29, 1944*

Postscript:

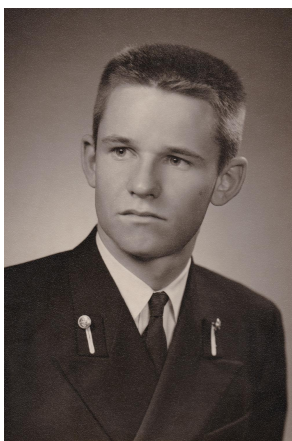
Lieutenant Ward's son Peter followed his father into journalism as a career working with the Toronto Evening telegram and the RCN as a Public Affairs Officer with HMCS York. He was awarded the Naval Association of Canada's Admiral's Medal in 2021 in recognition of his role as a founding member of HMCS Haida Inc, the foundation that saved the historic warship as a permanent memorial to the RCN in WWII.

Lieutenant Ward's grandson, Mark, an experienced diver joined a multinational diving expedition in July of 2002 and descended 285 ft to the wreck of Athabaskan on the sea floor near the French coast to lay a memorial plaque on the ship honouring those lost - including his grandfather. The plaque reads: *"At this site the people of Canada honour the 128 sailors who gave their lives in HMCS Athabaskan, sunk in action with the enemy, 29 April 1944. Protect them whereso'er they go"*.

(Ed Note): Our readers will be interested to know that Paul Seguna who submitted these stories was himself a long-serving Public Affairs Officer in the RCN where he also headed the Combat Camera team on a number of overseas missions. Ironically, he served in today's HMCS Athabaskan, namesake of the Athabaskan which went down with Lts Mahoney and Ward. Paul is a member of the UNTDA Communications Committee and is our in-house design artist and cartoonist for Gunroom Shots.

UNTD Memories

by Chris O'Brien (Carleton 1963)



DRILL - There's a right way, a wrong way, and the 'Navy Way'

Dad and I both learned Army drill before we ever learned Navy drill, Dad during his two years at RMC in the

late 1930s, and me while "serving" in my school's cadet corps in Ottawa. As a result, both of us had moments in our Naval careers when having had these Army moves drilled into us caused us some embarrassment.

As Dad wrote about it, he was pretty proficient at all that Army stuff:

Two years on the square at RMC, member of the drill squad, a man whose slap on the [rifle] butt in front of the Stone Frigate reverberated through the halls of Fort Frederick...

All well and good, but he discovered during his first drill instruction with the Royal Navy in Portsmouth in September, 1937, that he'd have to unlearn some of what he'd learned at RMC. On his first day after joining *HMS Erebus*, he and his fellow cadets went ashore for some field training.

We were finally lined up to the satisfaction of the Gunner and his Greek chorus of two Gunner's Mates and were shown the mystery of standing at ease. We then heard the detail for coming to attention. Finally, the command was given and I crashed to attention. "'0o stamped 'is flamin' foot!?' bellowed the Gunner.

After hearing Dad's confession to the crime and where he had learned it — "The Royal Military College of Canada, Sir!" — the Gunner addressed the whole term.

"Nah then, let's forget all we learned in OTC's and school cadet corps. There's a right way, a wrong way, and the 'Navy Way'. From 'ere on in we do it 'the Navy Way'. And why don't we stamp our flamin' feet? Because some of our ships are getting a little thin through and if we stamp our flamin' feet we might go right through the flamin' deck and break some poor bleeder's neck who's sitting below innocently drinking his tot."



Lesson learned!

I, on the other hand, had no excuse whatsoever for my own transgression of Naval drill. Having spent countless hours on the parade square and in the drill shed during my basic training in *Cornwallis*, Naval drill had become second nature to me. When I was a second year cadet at *Scotian* during the winter of '65-'66, during one of the weekly training evenings, Ian Moore — the keenest cadet I ever knew (see below) — and I were given the task of instructing a bunch of first year cadets in some basic drill.

Everything went smoothly until we came to making a right turn on the march. In a moment of brain fade, I endeavoured to “help” the lads make a nice snappy turn by suggesting that as they were about to pivot rightwards off their left feet, they should raise their left feet a few inches so they could snap them down sharply so as to make a very quick 90° move rightwards with their right feet.

Uh oh! In a millisecond, Moore interrupted my confident spiel with a correction in no uncertain terms. No, this was not the ‘Navy way’ of doing a right turn, he said, and I felt a cold sweat of shame and embarrassment break out under my uniform. What was I thinking? And then came memories of my time stamping my foot in my Army cadet corps at school not so many years before — “A-ten-SHUN! Lift that right foot up 6 inches and ram it down 12!” Ridiculous!

Yes, brain fade it was, but I never raised a foot after that, and nobody below decks ever had to worry about my boot crashing down on him as he sat innocently drinking his tot.

Now, Ian (quite rightfully) having put me in my place all those years ago, I feel it's only fair that I get to return the “favour” by telling an amusing little story about my first memory of him at *Cornwallis* in the summer of '64. He was training with the Sea Cadets and I'm sure he was as keen then as when I got to know him later in the UNTD. He was the Drum Major of the Sea Cadet band which was standing in for the *Cornwallis* band that was on tour at the time.

On one occasion all the UNTD divisions were marching up to the parade square with the Sea Cadet band tunefully bringing up the rear. I do remember thinking that the pace seemed to be gradually quickening as we marched along, and by the time we got to the parade square we were moving at a very speedy clip indeed. From where we halted on the parade square my division had a good view of the band as it entered the square, and leading it was Ian with his left arm pumping his mace in and out in front of him at breath-taking speed.

Thinking back on it now, I'm reminded of that famous scene from the movie, “Ben Hur”, with slaves in a Roman trireme being ordered to row at a faster and faster pace until — [ramming speed, hortator!!](#) But who, then, had gradually speeded up the Sea Cadet band's pace? Was it Ian out front, or perhaps the bass drummer, or perhaps another band member, one with hortatorial ambitions? One thing for sure, though — even at ramming speed, Ian still looked supremely keen!

P.S. For those who are interested, [here's a video](#) of the sea trials of a full-sized replica of a Greek trireme,

Olympias. The trials included some ramming speed.

TIDBITS

Cadet Selection Boards

(submitted by Bill Clearihue)

I recently came across the snippet addended below while updating our UNTDA file on EBERWEIN . Of interest then Commander Freddy Frewer, father of GS Editor Barry Frewer was the chair of the 1952 Cadet Selection Board, which would have been a gruelling cross-country travelling affair, typically starting in the new year (i.e. winter months). Cadets weren't logged in to the Navy List until after these boards, so unless mentioned elsewhere, we would never know of those who didn't pass them. Those Boards and the concept of probationary cadet were a mainstay of the system in the 1950s and I think even into the early 1960s; they were certainly gone by my time (Sept '64).

The sheer number of Cadets and other Ship's Company, were also mind boggling, huge numbers compared to today and that's even before proportionalizing for population.

The other thing was the profound effect of changing Monarch and all that entailed, not the least of which changing "His" to "Her" in spelling out HMCS.

Addendum

The_Crowsnest_1952_04_v04n06_p28and29of38

HMCS Chippawa (Winnipeg)

The change-over of command of Chippawa from Commander Lorne D. G. Main to Commander L. B. McIlhagga was carried out February 7 without ceremony, owing to the death of King George VI.

Commander Main had been Chippawa's captain since October 1948. During his command the division increased from 300 to more than 600 reserve officers and men and stepped up its training program from one to three training nights per week. In 1950, Commander Main directed the navy's part in Operation Redramp, the Red River flood of 1950.

February was a big month for the UNTD. A selection board, headed by Commander F. C. Frewer, of Naval Headquarters, interviewed 41 probationary cadets. Of this group, 34 passed and were confirmed in the rank of cadet. Later in the month the division was inspected by Instructor Commander C. H. Little, Assistant Director of Naval Training; (Cadets). Commander Little commended the division on its showing during the year and presented awards for efficiency.

Senior and junior awards went to Cadet A. M. Eberwein and Cadet R. N. Brown, respectively.

Centennial Tulip Bulbs



Several special tulip bulbs have been developed in honour of the Naval Reserve Centennial. See the information from the Canadian Tulip Festival on how to order the bulbs at [this link](#).

Letters to the Editor

WW II Information Officer/ Photographer

In my research for the stories on Lts Mahoney and Ward I also came across a 2019 Youtube video about another WWII naval cameraman, Charlie Beddoe, that is very interesting. In it he comments about the loss of the Athabaskan as he was in her sister ship Haida during the action. Although he incorrectly remembered the names of Mahoney and Ward after so many years, his commentary does shed some light on the circumstances that led to their loss from the perspective of a direct witness. At any rate, here's the link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnF1JoJfTqc>

Cheers,

Paul Seguna

Former McMaster/STAR UNTD Volunteers

Three McMaster/STAR UNTDs from the 1960s are featured in a highlight of volunteers in the Alumni News. <http://alumni.mcmaster.ca/s/1439/19as/interior.aspx?sid=1439&gid=1&pgid=11695&cid=21114&ecid=21114&crd=0&calpgid=9274&calcid=16695> under "Community" - Aubrey Millard; Bob Williamson; and Roger Elmes. In my case the link to one of my activities (developing a 140 bed Longterm Care facility) must have been entered incorrectly. For those interested the correct link is <https://gurunanakdiversityvillage.ca/about/>

Cheers,

Roger Elmes



Count Yourself In

In the run-up to the 2023 Conference and Celebration, the UNTDA is wanting to add to its contacts lists in order to keep everyone informed of planned events. Please forward Gunroom Shots to your chums and encourage them to go to the home page at www.untd.org and give us their preferred email and current city. Another way is to email their coordinates to membership@untd.org.

2023 promises to be exciting for us - please encourage others to sign up and be part of the celebrations.

Vous Compter

Dans la perspective de la Conférence et Célébration de 2023, l'Association UNTD du Canada souhaite compléter ses listes de contacts afin de tenir tout le monde informé des événements prévus. Veuillez transmettre Gunroom Shots à vos amis et les encourager à se rendre sur la page d'accueil de www.untd.org et à nous donner leur adresse e-mail préférée et leur ville actuelle. Une autre façon est d'envoyer leurs coordonnées par courriel à membership@untd.org.

2023 promet d'être passionnant pour nous - veuillez encourager les autres à s'inscrire et à faire partie des célébrations.

Crossing the Bar



Samuel Robert (Bob)Huntington, RCNR(Ret)

March 14th, 1923 - June 21st, 2022

We are sad to inform you that Bob Huntington died this June after a short illness in his 100th year. Bob was born in British Columbia to Ethel Macintyre and Samuel Huntington and grew up in Vancouver and Garrow Bay.

Bob's studies at the University of British Columbia were interrupted by his service as a naval officer during the Second World War. As a Lieutenant Commander he served in a number of convoy escort ships in the North Atlantic, including the HMCS Middlesex. After the war he completed his studies at UBC and pursued a further career in the Navy where he was instrumental in building the University Naval Training Division (UNTD).

Following his love for science, he became an educator, teaching for many years at both North Toronto Collegiate and Northern Secondary School in Toronto and at North Park Collegiate in Brantford. He was recruited as the Education Officer at the Ontario Science Centre at the time it opened to the public in the 1960's.

He is predeceased by his wife, Dr. Beth Huntington (nee Marritt) and brother, the Hon. Ron Huntington, P.C. He is survived by his sister Kathleen Lindsay and succeeding generations of the Huntington, Lindsay, and Marritt families in Ontario, British Columbia, and the United States.

* * * *

Remembrance, by Bill Clearihue:

All crossings of the bar are sad, but Sam's is particularly poignant not just because of his age, but more for his lifelong support for all the organizations he touched, from the RCNVR, UNTD, NOAC/NAC, CNMT Sackville, the Crow's Nest St John's and the Hamilton Area Group (HAG) of NAC, as well as any number of civilian endeavours.

1949 was the first year that the UNTD transitioned from Ordinary Seaman Officer Candidates, to suitably attired Officer Cadets. In that same summer he led the famous UNTD raid on the Royal Roads boathouse which caught the irate attention of then RR Commandant CAPT Herbert Rayner and FOPC Harry DeWolf. Then RR XO LCDR Freddy Frewer and Sam were left to sort out the aftermath. Both Rayner and DeWolf went on to command the RCN, CAPT(N) Frewer went on to be Base Commander at both CORNWALLIS and CFB Esquimalt, where his son Barry and Rayner's son, Michael, were UNTDs in the 1960s.

When the NavRes HQ was moved to Hamilton in the early 1950s, Sam spent 5 years on the staff of COND, where again he was involved with former and current UNTDs.

For many years Sam ran a large stand of Maples with an elaborate syrup collection system, from which HAG members were annual recipients of the bounty thereof.



"Do you hear there!"

The UNTDA continues its communications drive to reach and attract members, particularly those from the UNTD follow-on training schemes - ROUTH, NROC, UNTDv2 and RESO. Gunroom Shots and the Newsletter would love to run your stories and anecdotes as a reminder that the Naval Reserves legacy continues to live on through you, our younger members. Waiting to hear from you.....



Send your letters, anecdotes or suggestions to Barry Frewer, Editor at:

Gunroom.Shots@UNTD.org

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