



Winter 2020



Rear Admiral Desmond William Piers, CM DSC CD

FROM THE BRIDGE

Presidents Report for March 2020

Message to be fairly brief and will be covered in Regular Meetings as well as this Newsletter.

Noteworthy is the fact that our Naval Association is in its 35th-year Anniversary and a Brief History follows.

Scholarships are available to 7 Sea Cadet Corps in the Western Nova Scotia region, Chester, Bridgewater, Lunenburg, Shelburne, Barrington, Yarmouth, and Cornwallis. Information packages have been sent to the CO's.

Two S/M 's have been requested to represent ADPNA at the Bridgewater Volunteer Awards night to be held in April.

The Battle of Atlantic Mess Dinner and Candlelight Service as reported in the February Regular meeting is in good order and Master of Ceremonies for the evening service is S/M Alvin Westgate.

MAA Strong and the President will be meeting with members from the Llewellyn Sea Cadet Corp relative to the BOA Event in Chester.

Veterans Bingo will be held March 11th and volunteers are always required.

Not to be remiss, a number of S/M's have given outstanding Service in the past to our Naval Association. A Special Thank You to Past President Ivan Foote, our outstanding Secretary Andy Caines, our Membership Chair Sharon Butler, our Treasurer Richard Moss, our RCNA Director Frank Wells also our membership who attend the meetings faithfully each month.

A Brief History

Of the
Admiral Desmond Piers Naval Association
In Celebration of 35 Years

Sometime during 1984, in anticipation of the upcoming 75th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy the following year, a couple of ex-sailors working at the Michelin plant in Bridgewater (Shipmates Bob Henderson and Allan Johnston) realized that there were a number of ex-naval personnel in the area and that many of them worked at Michelin. These two Shipmates contacted others who were in agreement that something should be done to honour this Anniversary.

The first formal meeting of the newly-formed South Shore Naval Association (SSNA) was held February 8th, 1985 and an executive was elected.

The (SSNA) was duly incorporated as a society in August 1985, but a vote to join the National Royal Canadian Naval Association (RCNA) was defeated at the time. In fact, we did not establish our membership in the National RCNA until December 1995. This put us in reach of a much larger national organization with branches across Canada.

In 2002, Rear-Admiral Desmond Piers (Ret'd), one of our staunchest supporters, was made honorary President and Life Member. The annual Mess Dinner in 2003 saw our biggest change when the South Shore Naval Association was renamed the Admiral Desmond Piers Naval Association. This was to perpetuate the name of a great naval officer and friend; in 2004, Janet Piers was installed as our Patron-in-Chief.

A lot has been accomplished: we have reached our 35th Anniversary. We still offer a nautical atmosphere and good fellowship to shipmates of the Canadian Navy and the unsung heroes of the red duster, the Merchant Navy

We Will Remember Them

S/M Ron Jefferson

President.

HONORARY PRESIDENT



Rear-Admiral Craig Baines, MSC, CD

Rear-Admiral Craig Baines enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces Regular Officer Training Program in 1987. After completing initial naval training, he served as a Bridge Watchkeeping Officer in HMCS SAGUENAY and Deck Officer in HMCS THUNDER.

In 1991, he completed the Destroyer Navigation Officer course and was employed as Navigation Officer in HMC Ships CHIGNECTO and ANNAPOLIS. He graduated from the Maritime Advanced Navigation Officer Course in 1992 and was employed as the Navigation Officer of HMCS PROVIDER. Following the year-long Operations Room Officer course, he served as Operations Officer in HMCS REGINA and Combat Officer in HMCS WINNIPEG

Returning to sea in 2004, he served as Executive Officer in HMCS CALGARY. In 2007, he was appointed Commanding Officer of HMCS WINNIPEG where he received the Meritorious Service Cross for his leadership during WINNIPEG's counter-piracy mission off the Horn of Africa.

Rear-Admiral Baines' staff appointments include Staff Officer at HMCS UNICORN, the Naval Reserve Division in Saskatoon. He served abroad in Norfolk, Virginia with the US Navy's Second Fleet. He worked at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa in both the Directorate of Maritime Training and Education and as the Maritime Staff Director of Strategic Communications. In 2010, he was appointed as the Base Commander of Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt. Prior to becoming Fleet Commander of Canadian Fleet Atlantic, he served as Special Advisor to the Chief of Defence Staff.

His education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Manitoba. While on exchange in Norfolk, he completed the US Naval War College program and a graduate certificate program in the History of Strategy and Policy at Old Dominion University. He completed the Canadian Forces College Joint Command and Staff Program concurrent with his Master of Defence Studies. In 2013, he completed the National Security Program and a Master of Public Administration.

He was appointed as Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic in July 2014. During his 3 year posting as Fleet Commander, he sailed extensively with the Fleet and participated in major international exercises including Trident Juncture 2015, Joint Warrior 152 and Cutlass Fury 2016.

ODDS AND ENDS

THE FUTURE HMCS PROTECTEUR WILL BE THE LARGEST NAVAL SHIP EVER BUILT IN CANADA

Seaspan Shipyards and its more than 2,800 employees were proud to host the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Member of Parliament for North Vancouver, and Vice-Admiral Art McDonald, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, for a ceremonial keel laying event for the Royal Canadian Navy's (RCN) future Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Protecteur.

The keel laying event is a significant milestone in a ship's construction during which a newly minted coin is placed near the keel where it will remain for the duration of the ship's life. The coin is said to bring good luck for the builders and all those who sail in the vessel.

The future HMCS Protecteur, the first of two joint support ships to be built by Seaspan as part of the National Shipbuilding Strategy (NSS), will be able to conduct a full range of military operations in high-threat environments. The fourth vessel to be designed and built by Seaspan under the NSS and the largest naval ship by length ever built in Canada, the future HMCS Protecteur is scheduled for delivery in 2023.

In 2019, Seaspan delivered the Sir John Franklin and the Capt. Jacques Cartier Offshore Fisheries Science Vessels (OFSVs) to the Canadian Coast Guard. These were the first two large vessels built and delivered under the NSS. Seaspan will deliver a third OFSV to the Coast Guard – the future John Cabot – in summer 2020.

In addition to building and delivering state-of-the-art ships Seaspan is also delivering significant socio-economic benefits as a result of the NSS. Seaspan has helped to rebuild a marine industrial sector, creating thousands of jobs, leveraging a supply chain of more than 600 suppliers and generating more than \$1 billion in economic activity across Canada.

QUOTES

“Today's keel-laying ceremony represents another milestone in our commitment to provide modern, safe and effective vessels to members of the Royal Canadian Navy and the Coast Guard. The hard work of the dedicated individuals at Seaspan ensures that the National Shipbuilding Strategy delivers on its mandate to rejuvenate Canada's shipbuilding industry. We are proud to celebrate the symbolic birth of Canada's first Joint Support Ship.”

– The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement Canada

“The construction of this new ship represents an important investment in the capabilities of our Navy, while also providing significant economic opportunities for the local economy, especially for Canadians living here in North Vancouver. Today marks an important milestone in our shipbuilding journey, and I look forward to seeing its ongoing progress in the future.”

– The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Member of Parliament for North Vancouver

“We are incredibly proud to reach this important milestone on the first of two Joint Support Ships that will be built by Seaspan. At Seaspan, we know that building ships requires you to build more than ships. You need to build a workforce, an industry, a supply chain, and strong partnerships. The JSS will be the largest naval ship ever built in Canada – a tremendous accomplishment for all the skilled and committed men and women involved in her design and construction.”

– Mark Lamarre, Chief Executive Officer, Seaspan Shipyards

QUICK FACTS

With a length of 173.7 metres and a breadth of 24 metres, HMCS Protecteur will be the largest naval ship by length ever built in Canada.

Delivery of HMCS Protecteur is scheduled for 2023.

HMCS Protecteur and HMCS Preserver will replace the former Protecteur-class Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment vessels. As a warship, it will include sophisticated damage control and self-defence systems that will allow it to conduct a full range of military operations in high-threat environments. In addition to providing critical at-sea replenishment, these multi-purpose warships will also be capable of seamlessly integrating with any Canadian or allied naval task group, and will significantly extend the range and endurance of these groups through the provision of fuel, ammunition, aviation support, food, spare parts, exercise and gym facilities, and medical and dental care.

Construction of the early blocks began in June 2018. Currently 16 blocks are complete and another 37 blocks are under construction.

More than 1,000 Seaspan employees will contribute to the construction of HMCS Protecteur.

HMCS Protecteur will have a cruising speed of 15 knots, a top speed of 20 knots and a range of ~10,800 nautical miles.

The keel laying event is a significant milestone in a ship's construction where a newly minted coin is placed near the keel, which traditionally runs along the length of the ship. The coin was laid by 45-year Seaspan employee Jeff Smith, where it will remain for the duration of the ship's life and is said to bring good luck for the builders and all those who sail in the vessel.

The jointly developed design for the keel coin features the crest of the future HMCS Protecteur on one side, and the crests/logos of the JSS project team on the back.

HISTORY

In the 2019 summer edition the significant RCN dates from December to end of July were published. Here is the August to end December dates. Compiled from The Royal Canadian Legion and DND data bases. Enjoy the reading.

AUGUST

1 August 1910 - HMCS Rainbow is commissioned at Portsmouth, England, as the first warship in the RCN.

1 August 1959 - The RCN is presented with Queens Colours by Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II in Halifax.

3 August 1942 - RCN Corvette HMCS Sackville sinks U-boat in Atlantic; one of four RCN kills in five weeks. North Atlantic.

4 August 1914 - War is declared between Great Britain and Germany. Canada is automatically at war with Germany as well.

5 August 1914 - Two submarines, later designated CC-1 and CC-2, are purchased for the RCN by the Premier of British Columbia in Seattle, Washington.

6 August 1942 - RCN destroyer HMCS Assiniboine pursues and rams German submarine U-210 in the fog, finally sinking her with a 4.7 inch shell. North Atlantic.

7 August 1975 - Pierre Trudeau announces that Canada will seek agreement to set up 370 km (200-mile) economic coastal zone.

8 August 1813 - US Commodore Isaac Chauncey's ships Hamilton and Scourge capsize in minutes in a heavy gale off Forty Mile Creek on Lake Ontario, and 53 sailors drown; the ships were putting on extra sail to escape British Captain James Yeo's fleet, and sank from a shift in weight of the guns; largest loss of life suffered by the United States Navy in the war. Yeo did not see the disaster happen, and did not press his advantage.

8 August 1944 - German U-boat U-667 torpedoes and sinks RCN Flower Class corvette HMCS Regina off Trevoise Head, Cornwall, UK; thirty of her ship's company are lost.

9 August 1945 – Temporary Lt (RCNVR) Robert Hampton Gray VC DSC was shot down and killed in a dive-bombing raid at Onagawa Wan (Bay) as he attacked and sank Amakusa a Japanese Etorofu-class escort destroyer; serving with the Royal Navy as a Corsair pilot aboard HMS Formidable Gray he was the last Canadian known to have died In World War II; he was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross. In 1989, in Sakiyami Park, Japan, Gray became the First member of the Allied Forces honored by the Japanese with a memorial.

9 August 1941 - HMC Ships Assiniboine and Restigouche escort HMS Prince of Wales, with Prime Minister Winston Churchill aboard, into Placentia Bay, Newfoundland.

10 August 1813 - Sir James Yeo's forces capture American schooners USS Julia and USS Growler in an engagement near Twelve Mile Creek on Lake Ontario; the British rename the schooners Confiance and Hamilton and will use them as troop transports until Isaac Chauncey recaptures them near False Ducks Islands on 5 October. New York State.

10 August 1941 - US President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill have their second meeting at Placentia, on a British warship; four days later they will issue the Atlantic Charter setting forth eight goals for the world; a document that will serve as the basis for the United Nations Charter. Placentia Bay, Newfoundland.

10 August 1990 - Canada to send three ships and 800 sailors to the Persian Gulf as part of multinational force to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

11 August 1954 - HMCS Venture is commissioned in Esquimalt, British Columbia, as a naval cadet training establishment.

12 August 1814 - Royal Navy Capt Alexander Hobbs, commanding 70 seamen and marines, attacks three U.S. armed schooners supporting Major General Jacob Brown's Fort Erie campaign; masquerading as American supply boats, the British board and seize USS Somers and USS Ohio while USS Porcupine escapes; the vessels are renamed Huron and Sauk; last naval engagement on Lake Erie in the war.

12 August 2010 - HMCS Winnipeg intercepts a Thai ship, the MV Sun Sea carrying Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka, off the coast of British Columbia. BC.

13 August 1813 - British schooner HMS Nancy discovered and trapped by a US squadron at the Nottawasaga River; Capt Lt Miller Worsley of the Royal Navy, warned of a close American presence, had the Nancy towed two miles up the river, where he built a blockhouse armed with two 24-pounder carronades and a 6-pounder gun from the schooner; his force consisted of 21 sailors, 23 Ojibwa and 9 French-Canadian voyageurs; the following day, 14 August, some American wood-cutting parties discovered the schooner's hiding place, and Worsley was forced to scuttle the ship. Wasaga Beach, Ontario.

13 August 2010 - The MV Sun Sea, carrying 490 Tamil migrants from Sri Lanka, is towed to the docks at CFB Esquimalt; the Thai cargo ship was intercepted off Vancouver Island on 12 August; the Tamils are moved to detention centres in the Vancouver area to await processing of their refugee claims.

14 Aug 1945 - Japan offers its unconditional surrender.

14 Aug 2008 - Leading Seaman Robert Teodor Binder MB, of Mississauga was a member of the Canadian Forces Naval Reserve who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Bravery on 26 November 2010. The citation to his award notes that on the night of 14 August 2008, at the age of nineteen, he and two others repeatedly dove and performed CPR in order to rescue the occupants of a sinking car.

15 August 1827 - Royal Navy Captain John Franklin lands at the entrance of the Rideau Canal, on his return down the Ottawa River from the Arctic, welcomed by Colonel By. The following day, 16 August, Franklin will lay the foundation stone of the Ottawa Locks being built by Thomas Mackay.

15 August 1944 - HMC Ships Prince David and Prince Henry participate in the Allied landing in southern France, codenamed Operation Dragoon.

16 August 1956 - HMCS Assiniboine is commissioned into the RCN as the first of the new St. Laurent class of destroyer escorts.

16 August 2011 - Government announces that the name "Air Command" is being changed to the air force's original historic name: Royal Canadian Air Force, and the name of Maritime Command to RCN to better reflect Canada's military heritage and align Canada with other key Commonwealth countries whose military units use the royal designation.

17 August 1809 - Construction of Admiral Horatio Nelson's Monument begins; at the top of Jacques Cartier Square. Montréal, Québec

17 August 17, 1940 - World War II - Mackenzie King meets Franklin D. Roosevelt for two-day conference at Ogdensburg to discuss North American Defence; will sign Ogdensburg Agreement on August 18 the parties will discuss modifying cash and carry principle for delivery of arms from US factories to Canadian forces; on August 18, the parties will agree to set up a Canadian-American Permanent Joint Board of Defence, composed of senior officials from both countries.

17 August 17, 1943 - World War II - First Quebec Conference (codenamed "QUADRANT") - Mackenzie King hosts Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and the Combined Chiefs of Staff at the sixth Anglo-American War Conference, held at the Citadelle and in the Chateau Frontenac hotel; ends August 24, 1943; plans developed for Overlord, the 1944 landings in France; Churchill and Roosevelt also secretly signed the Quebec Agreement to share nuclear technology.

18 August 1833 - Steamship Royal William leaves Pictou NS; will arrive in Gravesend September 11; First vessel to cross the Atlantic under steam power.

18 August 1944 - HMC Ships Ottawa, Kootenay and Chaudiere sink the German submarine U-621 while on patrol in the Bay of Biscay.

18 August 2005 - Military - HMCS Fredericton (FFH 337) deployed to the Canadian Arctic to prohibit illegal fishing and to reassert sovereignty in the North.

19 August 1914 - World War I - Canada officially declares war on Germany and Austria-Hungary. Ottawa, Ontario

20 August 1942 - HMC Ships Prince Robert, Prince Henry, Prince David, Dawson and Vancouver leave Esquimalt, British Columbia, to commence operations in the Bering Sea.

20 August 1944 - HMC Ships Ottawa, Kootenay and Chaudiere sink the German submarine U-984 while on patrol in the English Channel - their second combined victory in three days.

21 August 1872 - Chebucto Head Lighthouse starts operations, Halifax, Nova Scotia

21 August 1940 - The Permanent Joint Board of Defence is established to co-ordinate Canadian and American activities relating to the defence of North America.

21 August 1944 - HMCS Alberni is torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine U-480 in the English Channel. 59 of her ship's company are lost.

22 August 1711 - An English naval expedition against Quebec is wrecked on reefs north of Anticosti island.

22 August 1944 - HMS Nabob, a British aircraft carrier but with a RCN crew, is torpedoed off Norway and severely damaged.

23 August 1953 - HMCS Caribou is commissioned as a Naval Reserve Division in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland.

24 August 1949 - North Atlantic Treaty goes into effect, with the parties agreeing that an armed attack against one country would be considered 'an attack against them all.' NATO created by Canada, the US and 10 European countries.

24 August 1957 - Military - Wind class icebreaker HMCS Labrador under RCN Capt O.C.S. "Long Robbie" Robertson the first deep draught vessel to navigate Bellot Strait; will become the first ship to circumnavigate North America in a single voyage; transferred to the Department of Transport on 22 November 1957, and re-designated the Canadian Government Ship (CGS) Labrador; later CCGS Labrador.

24 August 1969 - US oil tanker Manhattan leaves Chester on trial voyage through Northwest Passage; helped by Canadian Coast Guard ice-breaker CCGS John A. Macdonald, the Manhattan will reach Sachs Harbour, NWT, on September 15.

24 August 1990 - HMC Ships Athabaskan, Protecteur, and Terra Nova with 934 personnel sail from Halifax to participate in the United Nations to participate in the blockade of Iraq over its invasion of Kuwait three weeks earlier, Operation Friction.

26 August 1939 - World War II - The British Admiralty transmits the single word 'funnel' - the agreed-upon signal transfers control of Canadian merchant ships from the owners to the RCN.

27 August 1942 - The Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service is established.

27 August 1944 - Actions by Flying Officer Roderick Gray of the RCAF over the Atlantic Ocean earn him the George Cross. (Posthumous).

28 August 1942 - HMCS Oakville works with American aircraft to sink the German submarine U-94 in the Caribbean Sea.

28 August 1992 - RCN sends destroyer HMCS Gatineau to monitor UN embargo against Yugoslavia; moves to NATO standing force in Mediterranean.

29 August 1911 - The prefix ""Royal"" is granted to the Canadian Navy by the King.

29 August 1917 - Robert Borden's Military Service Act gets Royal Assent; all male British subjects up to 45 years of age liable for conscription; with certain exceptions. Ottawa, Ontario

30 August 1943 - HMCS ATHABASKAN (Destroyer) is commissioned at Newcastle on the Tyne, England.

30 August 2003 - Military - HMCS Haida (G63), Canada's most famous warship and the last remaining Tribal Class in the world, is moved to the Hamilton waterfront by Parks Canada; on the 60th anniversary of her commissioning into the RCN.

31 August 1694 - Military - Royal Navy vessel William and Mary attacks seven French warships at Ferryland, Newfoundland.

31 August 1939 - HMC Ships Fraser and St. Laurent leave Vancouver for Halifax to take up war stations in the North Atlantic Ocean.

31 August 1942 - German U boats sink 108 merchant ships this month, with a loss of 544,000 tons. Atlantic Ocean

31 August 1945 - HMCS PRINCE ROBERT entered Hong Kong where her commanding officer represents Canada at the surrender ceremonies of Japanese forces.

31 August 1946 - The Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service is disbanded.

31 August 1993 - Fishery - Mulroney Government slaps a complete ban on cod fishing after stocks dwindle. A year earlier, Fisheries Minister John Crosbie ordered the \$700 million northern cod fishery shut down for two years to conserve stocks; in total, 40,000 Atlantic Canadians lose their jobs, in the single largest mass layoff in Canadian history. At its peak in the late 1960s, the northern cod fishery hauled in up to 800,000 tonnes a year.

SEPTEMBER

1 September 1942 HMCS Morden sinks the German submarine U-756 in the Atlantic.

1 September 1944 HMCS Ships Saint John and Swansea sink U-Boat 247 off Land's End, England.

3 September 1814 Lieutenant Miller Worsley and Andrew Bulger lead 77 men by canoe north from Wasaga Beach, Ontario, captures American warship USS Tigress at anchor in False Detour Channel, about 88 km northeast of Mackinac Island; then go after USS Scorpion, which they capture September 5.

3 September 1939 Battle of the Atlantic begins as merchant seawoman Hannah Baird of Verdun, Québec sees her ship, Donaldson liner SS Athenia torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat west of Ireland en route to Montréal, one week before Canada declared war and one week after the merchant service and military were placed on a war alert. The sinking kills 188 of those aboard, including Biards and three other Canadians, the first Canadian casualties of the Second World War.

3 September 1939 Britain declares war on Germany two days after the Nazi invasion of Poland; France follows 6 hours later, and then Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada on week later. On September 5, 1939, the United States will proclaim neutrality.

3 September 1940 US President Franklin D. Roosevelt announces Lend Lease Program, where 50 American destroyers will be traded to Britain, of which 7 go to Canada, in exchange for leases on naval and air bases in the British colonies, including St. John's, Newfoundland, and Bermuda; Canada also agrees to shelter the destroyers in Canadian ports before they are handed over to British crews.

3 September 1942 World War II - HMCS Shawinigan and HMCS Trail together pick up 17 survivors from the Canadian merchant ship Donald Stewart that was torpedoed and sunk northeast of Cape Whittle in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in position 50°32'N, 58°46'W by German U-boat U-517.

3 September 2016 - Franklin Expedition - Parks Canada and the Arctic Research Foundation find the underwater wreck of Sir John Franklin's flagship HMS Terror; it is "in pristine condition", north of where the wreck of HMS Erebus — the expedition's flagship — was found in 2014.

4 September 1990 Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announces formation of Operation Scimitar, to provide air cover for the two destroyers and the supply ship sent to the Persian Gulf in late August of 1991 as part of Operation Friction, tasked with enforcing the United Nations trade blockade against Iraq.

5 September 1814 Royal Navy Lt Miller Worsley, flying captured American colours in the USS Tigress, takes the USS Scorpion at anchor after fierce hand-to-hand fighting; sails both ships west to Fort Michilimackinac.

5 September 1918 The Royal Canadian Naval Air Service is authorized and begins operations in Nova Scotia.

7 September 1816 - Steamship Frontenac launched at Bath, west of Kingston; first steam powered vessel on the Great Lakes.

7 September 1942 HMCS RACCOON Torpedoed and sunk by U 165, while escorting convoy QS.33 in the St. Lawrence River. There were no survivors. 37 perished.

7 September 1943 HMS Nabob (an aircraft carrier) is commissioned into the Royal Navy with a Canadian crew and a Royal Air Force complement.

8 September 1939 Mackenzie King says no to conscription; stresses munitions-making, and building up RCN and RCAF.

7 September 1955 HMCS Sioux leaves Yokosuka for Esquimalt ending RCN involvement in Korea.

9 September 1919 Alexander Graham Bell sees his HD-4 hydrofoil, powered by twin aircraft engines, reach a new world water speed record of 122 kph; piloted by J.A.D. McCurdy at Baddeck, Nova Scotia.

9 September 1942 War Cabinet closes the St. Lawrence River to all Allied shipping except coasters; due to German U-Boat submarine dangers.

9 September 1944 HMCS Dunver and HMCS Hespeler sink the German submarine U-484 in Hebridean waters.

10 September 1814 Kingston naval dockyard launches the 112 gun HMS St. Lawrence, the largest warship ever to sail the Great Lakes; carrying more armament than Admiral Nelson's Victory.

10 September 1939 Canada declares war on Germany

10 September 1941 HMCS Chambly and HMCS Moose Jaw sink the German submarine U-501 off the coast of Greenland. This is the first U-boat kill made by the Royal Canadian Navy.

11 September 1833 - Quebec-built steamship 'Royal William' reaches England safely; the wooden paddle wheeler is the First ship to cross the Atlantic under steam all the way, although sails are raised whenever the wind is fresh; the two steam engines are kept running, but the ship goes slowly under sail because of the drag from the paddle wheels.

11 September 1942 HMCS CHARLOTTETOWN Torpedoed and sunk in the St. Lawrence, near Cap Chat Quebec, by U517. She had just delivered a convoy to Rimouski and was returning to Gaspé. Ten of her ship's company were lost.

12 September 1759 Admiral Saunders bombards Beauport and feigns a landing to divert attention away from Wolfe's landing below the Plains of Abraham.

13 September 1942 HMCS OTTAWA sunk by U91 who hit her with two torpedoes in the North Atlantic while she was escorting convoy ON.127. 113 of her Ship's Company were lost, plus 6 RN seaman, and 22 merchant seamen.

14 September 1942 500 km east of Newfoundland, German U-Boat U-91 torpedoes and sinks RCN River Class destroyer HMCS Ottawa (A/Lt.Cdr. Clark Anderson Rutherford, RCN) in the North Atlantic, while escorting convoy ON-127; hit by two torpedoes, she blows up and sinks immediately; 113 of her ship's company are lost, plus 6 RN seaman and 22 merchant seamen; there are 69 survivors; Battle of the Atlantic growing in intensity.

16 September 1939 - RCN escorts the First of many ship convoys for Britain; RCN vessels guard the freighters in formation to protect against German U-Boat attacks. Halifax, Nova Scotia

16 September 1942 The first of sixteen RCN corvettes sails for the Mediterranean Sea to take part in the North African landings (Operation Torch).

17 September 1904 - Captain Joseph Bernier departs from Québec on the Canadian government steamship 'Arctic'; given the command because of his interest in the Polar regions (he had devised a plan to reach the North Pole via the Bering Strait); will make 12 expeditions into polar seas in the next 20 years; he will spend the winter in Hudson Bay collecting Canadian customs duties from whalers and traders. Québec, Québec

19 September 1941 - German U-Boat U-74 torpedoes and sinks RCN Flower Class corvette HMCS Lévis 200 km off Cape Farewell, Greenland; 18 lives are lost.

19 September 1969 Ottawa to reorganize Canadian Armed Forces; 50% cut in NATO manpower; retirement of RCN aircraft carrier HMCS Bonaventure.

20 September 1943 German U-boat U-305, using a new acoustic torpedo, hits and sinks RCN Town Class destroyer HMCS St. Croix, while she is escorting convoy ON.202, south of Iceland; 65 members of the ship's company perish; five officers and 76 men are rescued by HMS Itchen, however, only two days later, the Itchen is also torpedoed by an enemy submarine; only one St. Croix sailor, Stoker W. Fisher, survives the two sinkings; one of the men lost was Surgeon Lt W. L. M. King, RCNVR, Prime Minister Mackenzie King's nephew.

20 September 1917 Borden government passes the Military Voters Act and Wartime Elections Act, giving the vote to soldiers and sailors under 21, and serving women; wives, widows, mothers, and sisters of servicemen also get the vote; the first women ever to be able to vote in Canadian federal elections

24 September 1940 HMC ships Annapolis, Columbia, Niagara, St. Clair, St. Croix and St. Francis, ex-American destroyers from the fifty given to Great Britain in exchange for bases, are commissioned into the Royal Canadian Navy.

24 September 1941 Canada joins eight other allied governments in pledging support to the Atlantic Charter, an eight-point declaration issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

24 September 1955 HMCS Sioux returns to Esquimalt, the last ship of the Royal Canadian Navy to return from the Korean conflict.

24 September 1965 - Military RCN commissions HMCS Ojibwa, First of three 2000-ton RCN Oberon class submarines. Chatham, England

25 September 1940 Canadian armed merchantman Prince Robert captures German ship Weser off Mexican coast.

27 September 1854 Steamship Arctic sinks off Cape Race, Newfoundland with 300 people on board after colliding with the 250-ton French iron propeller ship S.S. Vesta; the 3,000-ton side-wheeler was the largest and most splendid ship of the Collins Line (United States Mail Steamship Company) in competition with Samuel Cunard's Royal Mail Steam Packet Company; casualties include 92 of her 153 officers and men, and all the women and children on board, including the wife, the only daughter, and the youngest son of shipowner E. K. Collins; first great disaster involving an Atlantic Ocean liner.

27 September 1994 US Navy closes Argentinia submarine detection base; last US military base in Canada.

30 September 1994 Halifax-class frigate HMCS Regina is commissioned in Saint John, New Brunswick.

OCTOBER

1 October 1910 Captain E.H. Martin, RCN, is appointed Captain-in-Charge, Halifax, thus establishing the Atlantic Command

2 October 1952 HMCS Iroquois is hit in action by shore artillery batteries. Three men are killed, and ten wounded, becoming the only battle casualties suffered by the RCN during the Korean conflict.

4 October 1944 HMCS CHEBOGUE (frigate) is torpedoed by U -1227 800 miles west of the British Isles but is able to reach port.

8 October 1944 HMCS Mulgrave strikes a mine off Le Havre, is beached and becomes a total loss.

8 October 1992 The Governor-General, the Prime Minister and other dignitaries unveil the Peacekeeping Monument in Ottawa.

8 October 2001 Minister of Defence Art Eggleton announces the details of Canada's contribution to the campaign against terrorism. Canada's initial commitment involved 2000 personnel from the Canadian Forces and included the deployment of ships, aircraft and a small contingent of soldiers. It is the biggest mobilization of the armed forces since the Korean War.

12 October 1710 The defenders of Port Royal surrender to a British naval expedition.

13 October 1910 Her Majesty's Dockyard, Halifax, is transferred to Canadian ownership by a British Order in Council.

14 October 1944 HMCS MAGOG (frigate) is torpedoed and badly damaged by U-Boat 1223 in the St. Lawrence River off Pointe des Montes.

16 October 1915 An Order-in-Council gives the Hospitals Commission authority to provide retraining and rehabilitation for disabled veterans.

16 October 1944 HMCS Annan sinks the German submarine U-1006 south of the Faeroes.

17 October 1944 HMCS Prince Henry and HMCS Prince David engage in landing liberation forces in Greece (17-18 Oct).

19 October 1940 HMCS Bras D'Or an auxiliary minesweeper foundered in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, she sank with all hands (5 officers and 25 crew).

20 October 1940 HMS Windflower, the first corvette built in Canada, is commissioned into the Royal Navy with a Canadian crew. She is turned over to the RCN in 1941.

21 October 1910 HMCS Niobe arrives in Halifax, the first Canadian warship to arrive at her base in Canada.

21 October 1942 HMCS Royal Roads becomes the Royal Canadian Naval College and commences training cadets.

21 October 1943 HMCS CHEDABUCTO Sunk after night collision with the cable vessel LORD KELVIN, 30 miles from Rimouski, Quebec. She is later beached and becomes a total loss. One officer was lost.

21 October 1944 HMCS Uganda (later Quebec) is commissioned, becoming Canada's first cruiser since Aurora was paid off in 1922.

22 October 1914 HMCS Niobe makes her first operational patrol off the Strait of Belle Isle.

22 October 1940 HMCS MARGAREE (Destroyer) lost in the North Atlantic, after collision with the freighter PORT FAIRY, while escorting the five-ship convoy OL.8. 142 of her ship's company were lost, many of which were survivors of FRASER's tragic sinking.

23 October 1939 HMCS SAGUENAY (Destroyer) intercepted the German tanker Emmy Friederich which scuttled herself.

23 October 1969 on board HMCS Kootenay: an explosion occurred. The blast and intense engine room fire would become known as one of the worst peacetime accidents in the history of the RCN, with nine of her crew killed. Three years later, six crew members received medals honouring their bravery during the incident. Chief Petty Officer V.O. Partanan was posthumously awarded the Cross of Valour.

25 October 1944 HMCS SKEENA Wrecked in a storm, and grounded near Reykjavik, Iceland. Fifteen lives were lost.

26 October 1952 HMCS CRUSADER destroys a North Korean supply train near Songjin: RCN gunners account for the destruction of eight enemy trains during the conflict.

28 October 1955 HMCS St. Laurent (second of name) is commissioned as the first warship of all-Canadian design and construction.

30 October 1918 HMCS Galiano was lost, with all her crew of 39 and one female passenger, in Barkley Sound, Vancouver Island. HMCS Galiano and her crew of Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reservists was the only Canadian Naval vessel lost during the First World War – only 12 days before the armistice to end the "war to end all wars".

NOVEMBER

1 November 1914 Battle at Coronel A brass plaque at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Esquimalt, BC, is dedicated to the four ex-cadets of the Royal Naval College of Canada and men of Her Majesty's Ship (HMS) Good Hope who were killed in action in 1914. Four cadets of the first class of the Royal Navy College of Canada, were the First Canadian Navy casualties in the First World War. Midshipman Malcolm Cann, Midshipman John V.W. Hatheway, Midshipman William Archibald Palmer, and Midshipman Arthur

Wiltshire Silver, died when the British warship HMS Good Hope went down with no survivors, sunk by the German navy.

1 November 1920 Three British ships, Aurora, Patriot and Patrician are officially commissioned into the Royal Canadian Navy at Portsmouth.

5 November 1962 A fire heavily damages the prototype hydrofoil BRAS D'OR under construction in Quebec.

8 November 1910 HMCS Rainbow arrives in Esquimalt for the first time.

8 November 1942 The first German agent is landed from a U-boat off New Carlisle, Quebec and is promptly arrested by the police.

9 November 1910 His Majesty's Dockyard, Esquimalt, is transferred to Canadian ownership and forms the basis for Pacific Command

9 November 1940 HMCS Collingwood, the first corvette built in Canada for the RCN, is commissioned.

13 November 1942 Captain (RN) Frederick Thornton Peters born in Charlottetown and raised in Vernon and Victoria was awarded the VC for his actions 13 Nov 1943. Captain Peters was in the "suicide charge" by two little cutters at Oran. The "Walney" and "Hartland" were two ex-American coastguard cutters which were lost in a gallant attempt to force the boom defences in the harbour of Oran during the landings on the North African coast. Captain Peters led his force through the boom in the face of point-blank fire from shore batteries, destroyer, and a cruiser - a feat which was described as one of the great episodes of naval history. The "Walney" reached the jetty disabled and ablaze, she and went down with her colours flying. Blinded in one eye, Captain Peters was the only survivor of the seventeen men on the bridge of the "Walney". He was taken prisoner but was later released when Oran was captured. On being liberated from the gaol, he was carried through the streets where the citizens hailed him with flowers. He earned the Distinguished Service Order (George V), London Gazette 30 March 1915, Distinguished Service Cross (George V), London Gazette 8 March 1918 and Bar - London Gazette 11 July 1940. British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star with Bar (North Africa 1942-43) 1939-45 Medal, Distinguished Service Cross (USA).

16 November 1857 PO1 William Hall, 'Captain of the Foretop,' of that HMS Shannon, were recommended by the late Captain Peel for the Victoria Cross, for their gallant conduct at a 24-Pounder Gun, brought up to

the angle of the Shah Nujjiff, at Lucknow, on the 16th of November, 1857. William Hall was the first Nova Scotian, the first Naval VC earned by a Canadian citizen, and the first Black person to receive the Victoria Cross.

20 November 1943 HMCS Snowberry, Calgary and Nene sink U-536 in the North Atlantic.

20 November 1957 HMCS Labrador, an Arctic patrol vessel, is paid off and later transferred to the Department of Transport.

24 November 1944 HMCS Shawinigan While on independent anti-submarine patrol in the Cabot Strait, she was torpedoed and sunk by U1228. All hands were lost, 91 perished.

29 November 1957 HMCS Kenora and Kentville, two paid off minesweepers, are transferred to the Turkish navy as Bandirma and Bartin.

DECEMBER

1 December 1948 HMCS Shearwater, RCN Air Station, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, is commissioned.

2 December 1946 HMCS Middlesex goes aground on Shut-in Island near Halifax and becomes a total loss.

2 December 1968 The Canadian submarine HMCS Rainbow is commissioned; purchased from the United States, it was originally the USS Argonaut launched in 1944.

3 December 1969 As the aircraft carrier HMCS Bonaventure is decommissioned, the aviation fuel tanks are emptied and cleaned, but one of the tanks does not vent properly; two sailors are overcome by the fumes and another two lose their lives during the rescue attempt.

4 December 1940 HMCS Prince Henry is commissioned as an Armed Merchant Cruiser.

4 Dec 1950 A United Nations task force under Captain J.V. Brock, RCN, in HMCS Cayuga, and consisting of HMC Ships Athabaskan and Sioux, His Majesty's Australian Ships Warramunga and Bataan, the USS Forest Royal, covered the seaborne withdrawal of civilians and elements of the 8th Army (US) threatened by enemy advances in the Chinnampo area, Korea.

5 December 1950 HMCS Athabaskan and HMCS Cayuga bombard the port of Chinnampo, Korea (04-05 Apr).

6 December 1917 Halifax Explosion. A huge explosion in Halifax harbour destroys the naval facilities and much of the city.

7 December 1941 Canada declares war on Romania, Hungary, Finland and Japan.

7 December 1941 HMCS Windflower is lost and 23 of her crew perish after a collision with a Dutch freighter SS Zypenburg on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland.

8 December 1918 The Royal Canadian Naval Air Service is discontinued and the cadets being trained are demobilized.

10 December 1939 The first Canadian troop convoy sails for Britain escorted out of Halifax by HMC ships Ottawa, Restigouche, Fraser and St. Laurent

12 December 1969 RCN retires aircraft carrier HMCS Bonaventure after 12 years of service; "Bonnie" never saw combat, but was scrambled during the October Missile Crisis; later sold for scrap.

13 December 1940 HMCS Royal Roads is commissioned as a training establishment for Probationary Sub-Lieutenants.

17 December 1944 HMCS MONTREAL (frigate) rescues survivors of U-Boat 1209 wrecked on Wolf Rock southwest of Land's End.

19 December 1945 The Government of Canada approves in principle the formation of a naval air branch.

20 December 1943 HMCS Prince David is re-commissioned as a Landing Ship Infantry (Medium).

24 December 1944 HMCS Clayoquot is torpedoed by a U806 and sinks while taking station on convoy XB.139, in the approaches to Halifax harbour. Eight of her crew were lost.

26 December 1954 HMCS ships HURON and IROQUOIS leave Korea for their home base in Halifax.

27 December 1944 HMCS St. Thomas sinks the German submarine U-877 in the North Atlantic.

28 December 1940 HMCS Prince David is commissioned as an Armed Merchant Cruiser.

29 December 1942 HMC Ships St. Laurent, Chilliwack, Battleford, and Napanee sink the German submarine U-356 in the mid-Atlantic.

31 December 1990 The crew of HMCS Preserver flies to the Persian Gulf to relieve HMCS Protecteur's crew.

S/M Andy Caines
Secretary
ADPNA

BANYAN 2019





