

The Bosun's Call



"PASSING THE WORD"



Editor: Doug Thomas 462-4049, doug.thomas@eastlink.ca November/December 2015



Next Social Event



The Christmas luncheon is scheduled for RA Park 1130 for 1200 on the 11th of December. Price - per person \$25.

If you plan on attending, please advise Bob Lancashire by e-mail (<mailto:casalanc@eastlink.ca>) or by phone (902-446-7107); or you can advise Don Uhrich by e-mail (<mailto:dguhrich@eastlink.ca>) or by phone (902-462-2980).

Remember it is pay & display parking at RA Park, \$2.50 / hour, cash or credit card. Please offer a friend/member a ride. If you know a member who is not on e-mail, would you please be so kind as to advise her/him of the Lunch.



The Trafalgar Luncheon

The Trafalgar Luncheon at the Saraguay House on the 22nd of October was a big success – we all seem to enjoy the venue and about 50 members and spouses turned out. The buffet was excellent, as usual, and Admiral Newton was our guest speaker. He gave a very interesting talk about the activities of the Fleet, which was achieving some significant successes in the then-current NATO exercises in European waters, and he was very optimistic about the Navy's future.

Canadian Naval Heritage Patrimoine naval canadien



HMCS Sackville in North Atlantic during WW II / NCMS Sackville dans l'Atlantique Nord pendant la Seconde Guerre II
Yves Berube - Maritime Museum of the Atlantic / Musée maritime de l'Atlantique

The 2016 CNMT Naval Heritage Calendar is now available for sale from the Sackville Gift Shop and DND CANEX stores in Windsor Park, Shearwater, and "A" Block in Stadacona. The price is \$10.00, plus tax.



MYSTERY SHIPS



What, Where, When?

(Hint – she is one of three...or is she?)

Answer: she is one of the three Prince Class Armed Merchant Cruisers, and she is one of two that were converted to LSI (L)s: Landing Ships Infantry (Large) – either *Prince David* or *Prince Henry*. Note that the original single six-inch guns have been replaced by a twin 4" Mk 16 (fore and aft) and additional anti-aircraft guns. These ships were also used as amphibious landing command ships.

The third Prince – *Prince Robert* - was converted to an anti-craft cruiser with 5 twin 4" HA/LA mountings

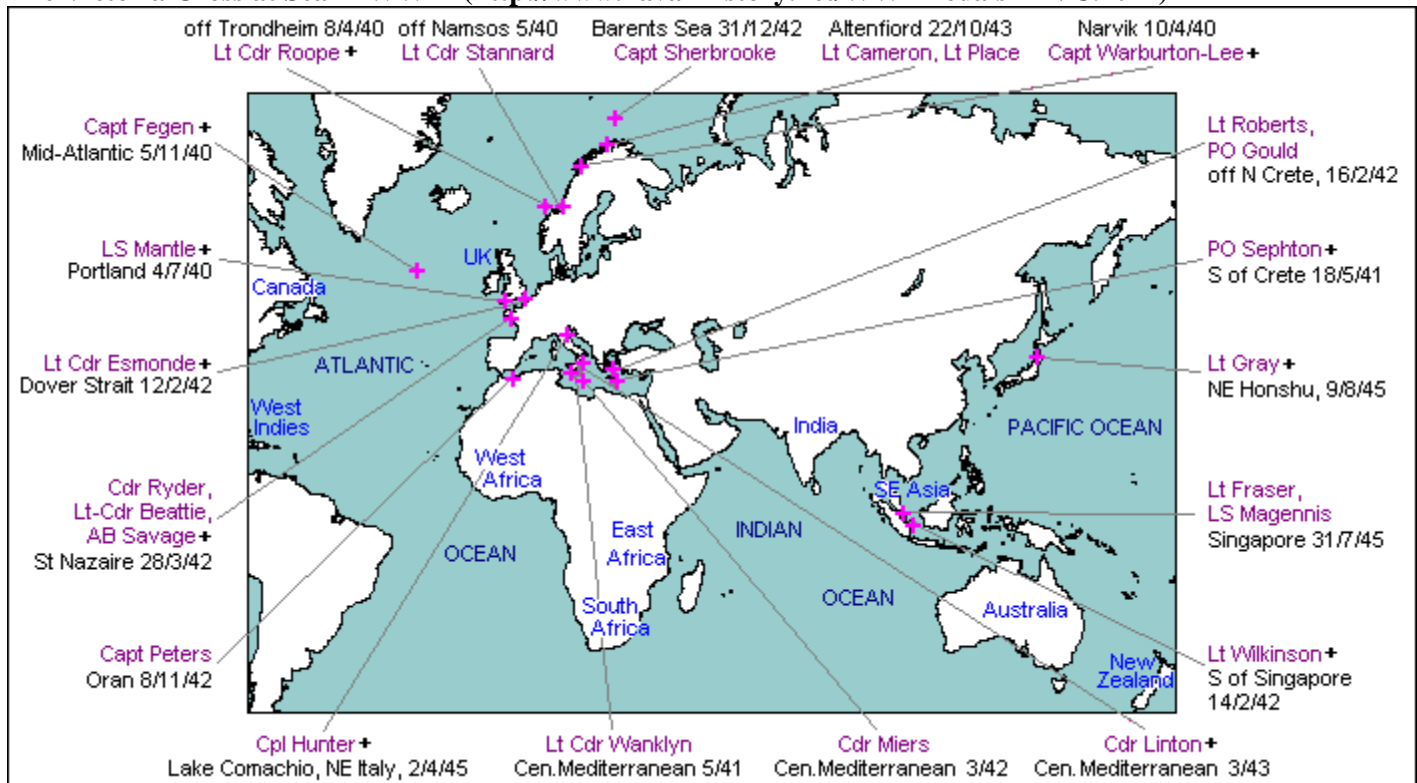


Three iconic ships pictured here at a Naval Review in the late 1930s. Name the one in the foreground and the one in the background.

Answers: The Pocket Battleship *Graf Spee* is in the foreground at the 1937 Coronation Review off Spithead in 1937, with HMS *Hood* in the background. Both ships were destroyed within the next four years. The dark grey battleship between them is HMS *Resolution* - I'm told.

First prize – a beer at the bar during the Trafalgar luncheon – went to Doug Maginley, and second place to Mike Hodgson.

The Victoria Cross at Sea in WW II (<http://www.naval-history.net/WW2MedalsBr-VC.html>)



The student on stage simply looked at the audience and said, "GOD BLESS YOU," and then walked off the stage

The audience exploded into applause. This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future, with or without the court's approval.

This is a true story; it happened at Eastern Shore District High School in Musquodoboit Harbour, Nova Scotia.

A QUICK SMILE

(With thanks to the RCNA's Yardarm

A man was sitting reading his papers when his wife hit him round the head with a frying pan. 'What was that for?' the man asked. The wife replied, 'That was for the piece of paper with the name Jenny on it that I found in your pants pocket'.

The man then said 'When I was at the races last week, Jenny was the name of the horse I bet on.' The wife apologized and went on with the housework.

Three days later the man is watching TV when his wife bashes him on the head with an even bigger frying pan, knocking him unconscious. Upon re-gaining consciousness the man asked why she had hit him again.

His wife replied. 'Your horse phoned'.

.....
MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU TO THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

During my travels across Canada, I have had the honour of meeting veterans, members of the Canadian Armed Forces, and Department of National Defence (DND) civilians and I have tremendous pride in their service to our country. Their message was clear: Canada needs to take care of its military the way its military takes care of Canada.

Recent events serve as a reminder for us all of the enormous debt owed to our Canadian Armed Forces members, past and present, and the contributions you have made in the name of freedom and democracy.

At our first Cabinet meeting last week, the Ministry began work immediately. Your new Minister of National Defence, Harjit Singh Sajjan, will be dedicating his time and energy to making Canada's military stronger. Your Minister – along with our Associate Minister of National Defence, Kent Hehr – will have Cabinet's full support to reinvest in Canada's military, making it stronger and leaner, more agile, and better equipped, with the right support systems for military personnel and their families. We are also committed to ensuring that new and significant investments are made to meet the sacred obligation that we have to our veterans.

The men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces have a long and storied history of exemplary service. From combat missions, to peace operations, to disaster relief, Canada has always been there, and will continue to be an active force for good around the world. Canadians expect us to make good on our promises, including those to members of the Canadian Armed Forces, their loved ones, and their communities.

I am honoured to have this opportunity to serve as Canada's Prime Minister. As we bring about real change, I have no doubt that you will play a critical role in helping us meet those commitments, and I am confident that with your support we will accomplish great things for all Canadians.

As servicemen and women, you exhibit the very best of what it means to be Canadian. Today, as on all days, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who put their lives on the line for our great country.

Sincerely,

Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



NEW MND

Harjit Singh Sajjan has served Canada and his community as both a soldier and a police officer. He continues his service to Canada as the Member of Parliament for Vancouver South and as Minister of National Defence.

Harjit is a retired Lieutenant-Colonel in the Canadian Armed Forces and a combat veteran. He was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina and served three separate deployments to Kandahar, Afghanistan. Harjit has received numerous recognitions for his service, including the Meritorious Service Medal for reducing the Taliban's influence in Kandahar Province. He is also a recipient of the Order of Military Merit, one of the military's highest recognitions. Harjit also served as an Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

Harjit was a police officer with the Vancouver Police Department for 11 years. He completed his last assignment as a Detective-Constable with the Gang Crime Unit specializing in organized crime. He proudly tackled gang violence and drug crimes in Vancouver. Harjit is also a human security specialist, and has lectured to a wide audience in both Canada and the United States.

RUSSIA'S GRAND PLAN TO MODERNIZE NAVY IS TRIPPED UP BY ECONOMY

Los Angeles Times, Carol J. Williams, Nov. 16, 2015

It's been 15 years since a (high-tech) torpedo exploded aboard the *Kursk*, sinking the Russian submarine, killing all 118 sailors aboard and wounding the navy's reputation and the nation's pride.

A tragic metaphor for government neglect of once-powerful armed forces, the disaster spurred ambitious plans for military expansion and modernization in the air and on the ground and high seas, which came to fruition a decade later when high oil and gas prices filled Moscow's coffers.



A Russian navy officer aboard the guided-missile cruiser *Moskva* – currently off the coast of Syria.

But the Russian navy's generous share of Project 2020 military modernization funds — \$156 billion for the shipbuilding and base-construction plans were designated in 2010 — is imperiled by a financial crisis brought on by Western sanctions and lower petroleum prices.

Although President Vladimir Putin has said that Russia remains on course to restore the reach and firepower of the fleet launched by Peter the Great in 1696, veteran military analysts and Kremlin insiders point out that the recession has cut the ruble's buying power in half and the protracted decline in petroleum prices makes it unlikely that Russia can afford the 50-plus warships that were intended for commissioning this decade.

Bolstering naval forces is a crucial part of the Kremlin's "basic goal of strengthening the country's positions among the world's leading sea powers," Mikhail Popov, deputy chief of the Russian Security Council, said in August, after Putin signed a new Maritime Doctrine that assumes a reinvigorated Russian fleet.

Revisions to the 2010 defense mission statement were few when the security chiefs rewrote it last year to incorporate the Kremlin's muscular assertions of power in a claimed "sphere of influence" in former Soviet territories. The new doctrine identifies NATO as the main threat to Russian security and claims the right to use nuclear weapons to defend against any aggression seen as imperiling an independent Russia.

Expanding the size and sophistication of the nation's ramshackle naval fleet is essential to Moscow's strategic priorities: Russia's move in late September to join the international air campaign against Islamic State militants in Syria highlighted its need for sea-based platforms from which to launch airstrikes and surveillance. An unspecified number of large, ballistic missile-armed amphibious assault ships and a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier capable of carrying a dozen aircraft and 450 marines are envisioned in the modernization plan, navy commander Adm. Viktor Chirkov told reporters at a St. Petersburg naval show in July.

Nine new or revitalized Soviet-era nuclear submarines are included in the modernization timetable. Three are intended to enhance patrolling of disputed island and natural resource claims in the Pacific. The other six are destined for the Northern Fleet, where Russia seeks to control a new shipping passage opening north of its landmass as Arctic ice melts.

Two new icebreakers to assist with navigation through the Arctic have also been authorized, and the production plans for frigates, destroyers and other surface warfare ships were expected to expand the fleet by 50 vessels by decade's end. That would exceed the number of Russian naval vessels built and launched in the entire 24 years since the Soviet Union collapsed.

"It is a reflection of Russia's need to be seen as a great power," said Alexei Arbatov, a strategic analyst at the Carnegie Moscow Center. But he noted that the ambitious construction plans have been complicated by the deepening economic crisis.

In punishment for Russia's seizure of Ukraine's Crimea region in March 2014 and its not-so-secret support of pro-Russia separatists in the neighboring country's eastern regions, the United States and the European Union imposed sanctions. Arms and military-industrial trade have been banned, senior officials and businessmen have been blacklisted and Russian access to international lending institutions has been terminated. France, where defense contractors had just completed the first of two Mistral warships on contract with the Kremlin last year, canceled delivery and refunded Moscow's \$2.35-billion purchase price and related investments.

<http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-russia-navy-ambitions-20151116-story.html>

PROJECT RESOLVE

<http://projectresolve.ca/website/>

You may have heard of the controversy regarding the single-source selection of Davie Shipyard for an Interim AOR, based on a converted container ship. Have a look at the web site, and I believe you will be impressed by the concept.



A Different Christmas Poem

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.

The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.
My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,
So slumbered I, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.

Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,
Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.

Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
a lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.



A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,
Perhaps a Trooper, huddled here in the cold.

Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!

Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts.

To the window that danced with a warm fire's light
Then he sighed and he said "It's really all right,
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."



"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,
That separates you from the darkest of times.

No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.
My Gramps died in Europe on a day in December."
Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers."
I've not seen my own son in more than a while,
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.

Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,
The red and the white ... A Canadian flag.
I can live through the cold and the being alone,
Away from my family, my house and my home.
I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.
I can carry the weight of killing another,
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother.
Who stand at the front against any and all,
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."

"So go back inside," he said, "Harbour no fright,

