



the Ensign

Volume 25, Number 1

Winter 2015-16



news, views and seagoing tales from the
Naval Museum of Alberta Society



OUR COVER

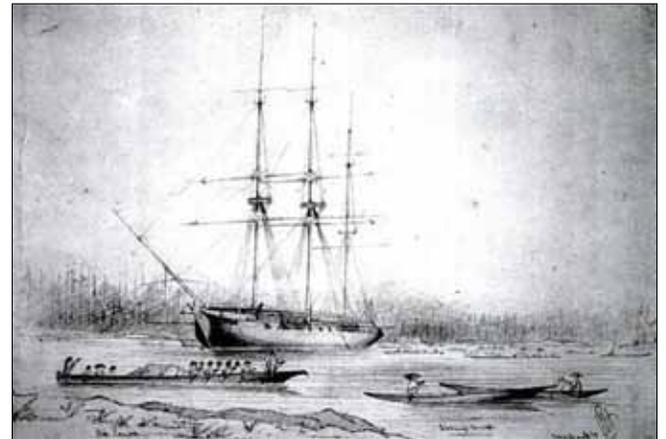
An aerial photograph of historic HMC Dockyard at CFB Esquimalt. Esquimalt harbour was first surveyed and deemed adequate for the Royal Navy by the brig *HMS Pandora* in 1842. In 1848, the frigate *HMS Constance* became the first ship stationed at Esquimalt. In 1855, three wooden huts were constructed on Dunzue Head to serve as a hospital. At the centre right of the photo is the graving dock which was built between 1876 and 1887 and which is still in use today.

From the editor

Scott Hausberg

This issue I am focussing on HMC Dockyard at CFB Esquimalt. I remember when I was a naval cadet staying at NOTC Venture, I was amazed by its historical structures—the ancient graving dock, the late 19th century red brick buildings, the tunnels under the hills, the gun emplacements and the tired wooden buildings which were built as temporary structures in WWII. The place is a living museum.

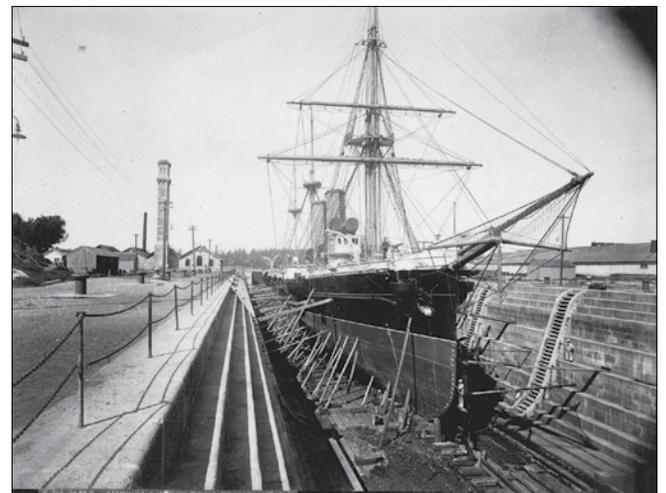
From the photo on the cover, it may not be easy to pick out the graving dock, as it is mostly covered with what looks like a white roof. I suspect that this cover was put in place while the Victoria-class submarines were in there.



LEFT
HMCS *Rainbow* in the graving dock.



TOP RIGHT
HMS *Constance* was the first Royal Navy ship to be based in Esquimalt.



BOTTOM RIGHT
HMS *Amphion* in the graving dock.

HMC Dockyard at CFB Esquimalt is full of grand and historic buildings such as Admiralty House pictured here.



President's report

Ken Sivertsen

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Our AGM was held on Saturday, November 28th, 2015. Once again the number of people attending was disappointing with only seventeen persons in attendance, even though we changed our AGM to Saturday afternoon.

We nevertheless did accomplish things of importance to the Society including the review of the financial statements, the election of directors, the review of the Statement of Purpose for the Society, and approved revised By Laws to reflect our changed role as well as to make some administrative changes required to reflect our current situation.

As you are aware, the Naval Museum of Alberta now has a full time Project Manager (Mr. Brad Froggatt), albeit on a term basis. Brad briefed the members at the AGM of his experience in both the Navy and the museum world and outlined some changes he

would like to make over the next while.

Cdr Janet MacDougall, Chairperson of the Naval Museum and Commanding Officer of HMCS *Tecumseh*, briefed the members of the current status with regard to obtaining a full time manager and a temporary assistant. The latter two positions will be federal public servants and staffing will take a bit longer.

For your information, the following persons stood up for the task and were elected to the Society's Board of Directors for 2016:

Ken Sivertsen – President

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Glenn Wilkinson – Director

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Mike Potter – Director

403-981-0275 • michael.potter@shaw.ca

Turning to the museum itself, there is a revision to the D-Day section to add the video produced last spring to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings which is now being run in the section. We have received a number of positive comments on the video.

The ceiling in the northern portion of the overhang of the mezzanine has been painted black to allow an emphasis of the displays in that portion of the museum.

More changes will be forthcoming in the next little while.

Project Manager's Report

Brad Froggatt, CD

The past couple of months have been busy as usual. Work on the Doc Seaman Theatre is progressing with the Coastal Command section mostly in place. The next phase will be the mounting of the revised D-Day panels supported by relevant models of ships, boats and equipment installed in wall-mounted cases. The theatre is, of course, named for Daryl 'Doc' Seaman in recognition of his contribution to the Naval Museum of Alberta.

As you may know, there will be a review of the exhibit design in order to not only improve exhibits and text, but to expand on the exhibit timeline. Recently, Exhibition Planning & Design, the company contracted to both provide an upgraded ship's badge exhibit as well as an exhibit design study, was on site with their carpenter to obtain some final measurements for the corvette bridge design. Designs should be in shortly and hopefully work will follow soon after.

The work of the inventory of all NMAS artifacts at the NMA is progressing, thanks to Mike Potter and Bill

Kane. We should shortly have all of the information necessary to complete the official loan agreement between NMAS and NMA.

There have been a number of events held in the NMA gallery, mostly notable the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The turnout was great and judging from the feedback, it was a great success.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers who devote time to our museum and the archives. A special thanks should go out to Jennifer Brookman and Kara Garner-Welsh and all of the volunteer staff for their efforts in making this a success.

The NMA has been hosting a great many tours of the galleries, hosting school groups, cadets, seniors groups and many others.

Tours are booked during the day and there are also requests for special tours in the evenings. Thank you to all those watchkeepers who have made themselves available for the tours.

In addition to the watchkeepers, we have a couple of new volunteers in the gallery, one of whom will be providing tours, but we could always use a few more tour guides.

If anyone is interested in providing tours of the galleries, both during the day or in the evenings, please do not hesitate to contact the NMA office.

From the Workshop

Mike Potter

November and December have been dedicated to the completion of the Doc Seaman Theatre. Partition walls were installed and Brad printed all the relevant information regarding the Juno Beach landings, plus information about the roles and aircraft types of Coastal Command onto canvas. The canvas was stretched onto wood frames and attached to the partition walls. We had some acrylic covers made so that we could mount a German U-boat, a Canadian corvette and a DEMS freighter, along with four motor torpedo boats from the RCN, RN, Italy and Germany.

I am currently putting the finishing touches on those model mountings along with four model aircraft: a Consolidated Canso flying boat, a Short Sunderland flying boat, a Halifax bomber and a Bristol Beaufighter, all with Canadian markings and painted with the



An RCAF Consolidation Canso flying boat.

appropriate colours of Coastal Command.

Over the next few days I will find and build a large scale model of a Lockheed Hudson, the type flown by Doc Seaman during his tour of duty. These should all be in place during the first two weeks of January. Following the completion of the theatre, it is anticipated that a proper dedication will take place with the Seaman family in attendance.

Jim Cowie

July 22, 1934 ~ October 30, 2015

The following is from Jim's obituary which can still be found on line at www.mcinnisandholloway.com

Jim, beloved husband of Ann of Calgary, passed away on October 30th, 2015 at the age of 81. He graduated from UBC with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. He was a postwar Naval Supply Officer who left active service and joined HMCS *Tecumseh* as a reservist, retiring as a Lieutenant-Commander. He came to Calgary in 1959 to work in the petroleum industry. He had a long and successful career with several companies, retiring as President of Ryerson Oil and Gas Ltd. He was active in industry



associations, serving as President of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen (AAPL) and as a director of the Independent Petroleum Association of Canada (IPAC). He also completed the Advanced Management Program of the Graduate School of Business at Harvard University.

Jim was an avid golfer and Past President of Silver Springs Golf & Country Club. He was an active volunteer with the NMAS as a member, watchkeeper, member of the Board of Directors and subsequently as Past President and Chairman.

Naval Museum Watchkeepers



Naval Museum of Alberta Watchkeepers 2015

(left to right) Front row: Art Jorgenson, Ian Christie, Jack Pigeon, Bill Bethel, Bill Buchanan.

Rear Row: Gordie Rowan, Al McBean, Bill Kane, Bernie Harris, Ken Bache, Cal Annis, Eric Kahler, Tom Conrick, Allan Hudak.

Missing: Kal Kalman, Jim Goldburn, Don Campbell, Charlie Cobb, Dave Dalgetty, Pat Nichol, Chuck Von, Davie Vidalin, Don Westlund, Tim Wun, Rob White.

Recently, the museum watchkeepers gathered for a group photograph. Our watchkeepers are critical to the ongoing success of the Museum as they interact directly with museum visitors. If you are interested in helping as a Watchkeeper, please see the advertisement located at the top of the back page of this (and every) issue for contact information.

Coastal Command VC

As mentioned previously in this issue, the Naval Museum of Alberta has been generously supported by the late Doc Seaman and is in the process of creating a theatre in his name. As Doc Seaman flew for Coastal Command, I thought the following story [Source: *Militrivia*] appropriate for this issue. Ed.

On June 24th, 1944, Flight Lieutenant David Hornell, flying a Canadian-built Canso flying boat (our version of the venerable PBY), attacked and sunk a U-boat off the Scottish coast. For his bravery that day, he received the Victoria Cross, posthumously. He was the first of four Canadian airmen to be awarded the Victoria Cross.

Born in Ontario in 1910, he was raised in Toronto and enlisted in 1941 at the age of 31 (the up-

per age limit for air crew). He flew a PBY-5A Canso amphibious aircraft with the RCAF's 162 Squadron, temporarily attached to Coastal Command and conducting anti-submarine warfare in the North Atlantic.

On June 24th, 1944, he was on a patrol out of Iceland; his wireless gunner—Flight Sergeant Sydney Cole—spotted a sub in the distance and Flight Lieutenant Hornell turned to attack it. But the U-boat had

already seen the aircraft and the sub commander returned heavy and accurate anti-aircraft fire.

Just as he gained speed to attack the submarine, one of Flight Lieutenant Hornell's guns jammed and two shells hit his aircraft starting a fire inside the plane and knocking out one engine. Despite the chaos, he still managed to drop his depth charges and send the U-boat to the bottom of the ocean.

After the Canso crash-landed into the rough and icy sea, only one of the inflatable dinghies was serviceable. It was too small for everyone, so crew members took turns sitting inside or partially immersed in the

water while clinging to the dinghy's sides. Two of the crewmen died during the 21-hour ordeal. By the time the remaining crew were rescued, Flight Lieutenant Hornell was blind and completely



exhausted. He died shortly after being picked up. He is buried in Lerwick Cemetery located in Scotland's Shetland Islands.

Flight Lieutenant David Hornell's Victoria Cross was announced in the London Gazette of July 28th, 1944. He was inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in 1974.

[Ref. *Veterans Affairs Canada website*]

We highly value your membership in the NMAS. If it expired at the beginning of this year or you are new on the scene and would like to purchase a membership, please use the handy form below.

Thank You!



KINDLY RENEW OR PURCHASE A MEMBERSHIP IN THE NAVAL MUSEUM OF ALBERTA SOCIETY

YES, please renew/accept my Naval Museum of Alberta Society membership. A cheque for \$20.00 is enclosed and my information is filled out below (please print):

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please check this box only if you would like to receive *The Ensign* by mail rather than by email (because we do not have a colour copier, these will be in black and white, emailed copies are in full colour PDF format and save the Society both paper and postage).

Please check this box if you would like to make a donation to the Society. A tax receipt will be issued for all donations in excess of \$20.

Please return this form with your cheque payable to NMAS.
Mail to: Naval Museum of Alberta Society, c/o HMCS Tecumseh,
1820 - 24th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2T 0G6

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SALE



SURPLUS ITEMS FOR SALE!

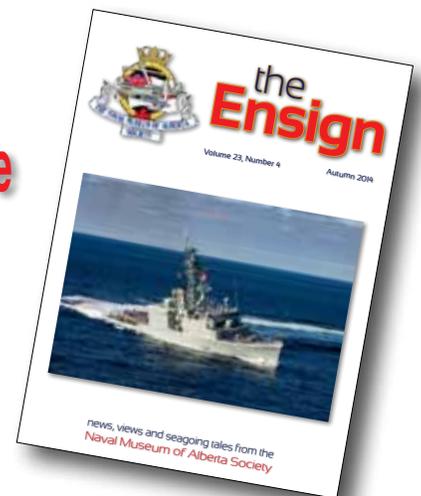
In the coming months, please visit the Gift Shop at The Military Museums. You'll see some museum surplus items on sale. Watch for surplus books, but later, you may also see some surplus ship's badges and the like...

**All proceeds from the sale of these items will go to support
The Naval Museum of Alberta Society**

DID YOU KNOW?

... that back issues of
'The Ensign' are available
on the NMAAS website?

The NMAAS website has many great features but surely the best is the ability to view past issues of 'The Ensign.' Read them over and over again in magnificent colour (for those who have only seen the black and white versions). The site is located at...



<http://navalmuseumofalbertasociety.wildapricot.org>



We always have a 'pressing' need for volunteers to serve as Naval Museum Watchkeepers!

If you would like to enlist in our fine body of Watchkeepers, please contact Bill Buchanan at 403-274-7535 or by email to cutknife@telus.net and we will promise not to send the Press Gang to your door!

2016 Membership Drive

The Naval Museum of Alberta Society is actively seeking new members!

Every new member adds to our ability to provide credible support to our museum. Please do your part to help us grow in 2016!

- Membership Application on page 8 •

Content is always wanted for *The Ensign*

If you have any material you think would be appropriate, please send it to Editor, Scott Hausberg scott.hausberg@outlook.com

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Admission Prices

Adults \$10.00, Seniors \$5.00, Youth 7-17 \$4.00
Serving personnel (past and present) and their families FREE
NMAAS members FREE • Ample free parking

Hours of operation

Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Weekends and holidays 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

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