



THE NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR Robert Williamson

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1947 UNTD SUPPLY OFFICER CANDIDATES

White cap tallies designate this UNTD Supply Class as Probationary Officer Candidates. Bob Darlington (front right end) Vern Margetts (4th from left, middle) Cover Story Inside. (Class members names on page 8)

COVER STORY

In the last issue of this newsletter Fraser McKee wrote a notice about his new book, “**Three Princes Armed**”. Subsequently, we have learned that his co-author, Captain (N) **Bob Darlington** was a member of the UNTD. We can now add another writer to our long list of distinguished UNTD graduates.

Bob Darlington was born in Winnipeg and was directed towards a naval career after joining the sea cadets. In 1945, he and his close friend Vern Margetts joined the University Naval Training Division as Ordinary Seamen Officer Candidates. They enjoyed their service so much that they arranged with their home division, HMCS *Chippawa*, to spend the whole summer on the West Coast in 1946. Those wonderful five months saw them employed in HMCS *Ontario*, *Charlottetown* and then *Crescent*, more or less as ship’s company.

Bob continued to serve in the sea cadets as well as the UNTD, holding the position of Executive Officer of the Winnipeg Corps. In 1947 Bob and Vern did a short cruise in HMCS *Uganda* and decided to enter the Supply Branch. They were made Probationary Writer Officer Candidates. **The Supply School set up a special course for the fourteen candidates shown in the rare UNTD cover photo**. On completion of the course Bob and Vern were put to work in the Discharge Transit Centre at HMCS *Naden*.

In 1948, they were sent to the East Coast, working as ship’s company Pay Writers in HMCS *Iroquois*. Then Bob was posted to HMCS *Magnificent*. Both he and Vern received a message saying that the RCN was looking for engineer, electrical and supply officers. They both took an oral board in HMCS *Stadacona* and in early August were promoted Acting Sub Lieutenant Supply Branch RCNR and transferred to the RCN the next day.

Bob was at sea in *Magnificent* at the time and had to join the wardroom without owning any officer’s clothing. He managed to survive by borrowing from Trev Roberts and Willie Davis.

Because Bob and Vern joined the UNTD in 1945, they predated the Cadet era and held the rare rank of Probationary Writer Officer Candidate. They also believe that they may have been the first members of the UNTD to go Regular Force as direct transfers. As such they appear to qualify as UNTD Historical

Trivia but it hasn’t got them free drinks anywhere yet.

Bob went on to serve at sea in HMCS *Beacon Hill* and HMCS *Gatineau*, in supply, training and secretariat positions in Canada, Italy, the United States and with NATO, retiring in 1982.

He returned to Winnipeg as the DND Regional Audit Director, retiring from that in 1987 and moved to Victoria.

In 1996 Bob first collaborated with Commander McKee in writing “**The Canadian Naval Chronicle**”, published by Vanwell Publishing in St. Catharines, which went to a 2nd edition in 1998. It was a carefully and completely researched volume on every one of the RCN’s successes and losses in World War II. It is widely used as a reliable reference and ensures that the veteran’s stories do not die with them untold.

With regard to “**Three Princes Armed**”, Bob Darlington suggested to Fraser McKee that the three ships (HMCS *Prince Robert*, *Prince Henry* and *Prince David*) had interesting pre-war and wartime careers. Thus an agreement was reached that Bob would write the wartime story and Fraser did the pre-war and post-war material.

For me there were several interesting aspects about the book. The description and excellent photos showing the conversion of these passenger ferries to warships to meet the every changing needs of the Canadian navy was fascinating. None more so than the refit to Landing Ships Infantry for the Normandy invasion. This part of the book provides the reader with a never before close-up account of putting Canadian troops ashore under fire.

I was also intrigued by the number of names that I recognized in the crews of the three ships, such as; Finch-Noyes, Edwards and Adams – all of whom reached flag rank after the war during my UNTD era.

Among the memorable quotes scattered through the text is; “*See that ye hold fast the heritage we leave you, yea and teach your children its value, so that never in the coming centuries their hearts may fail them or their hands grow weak*”. **Three Princes Armed** certainly captures a piece of our naval heritage and meets the inspired requirements here attributed to Sir Francis Drake. Editor with Bob Darlington

UNTDs & THE LAST USA – CANADA BOUNDARY DISPUTE

Since its formation in 1943, the UNTD has had some very interesting adventures, but none more curious than its involvement in the site of the “Last USA – Canada Boundary Dispute”, which occurred in June 1859. This being the 150 anniversary of that significant event it is worth reviewing the story submitted by former UNTD Officer Cadet Bill Clearihue of Oakville ON.

The following information was pieced together from Bill’s logbook for the 1967 UNTD Cruise Bravo in the Gate Vessel, *Porte Quebec* (see photo on page 5) and some recent archival research supplied by the Maritime Museum of British Columbia in Victoria.

Bill recorded that Cruise Bravo, composed of three training ships, *Porte Quebec*, *Porte de la Reine* and HMCS *Cowichan* left Esquimalt harbour and headed north through Haro Strait keeping Discovery Island on the port side. The first land mass to be seen on the starboard side is the San Juan Islands, sovereign territory of the USA. The question naturally arises ... why are these islands not part of the British Columbia Gulf Islands of which they are a natural extension? We have Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany to thank for that. And so the story begins.

After visiting Powell River, the Gulf Islands and the Navy Yards in Seattle, we finally anchored off Friday Harbour on the SE side of San Juan Island. The harbour is named after Joseph Friday, a native Hawaiian and Hudson Bay Company employee who first settled there. It is a beautiful spot and we soon discovered that we were not the first UNTDs to visit the island.

On the Northwest corner of San Juan Island is a small cemetery with a plaque that reads:

English Cemetery

In memory of seven members of the Royal Marines and one civilian who died here during Boundary Negotiations 1860-1872.

Erected by the University Naval Training Divisions, Royal Canadian Navy for the Maritime Museum of BC. August 1964.

The Crowsnest Magazine – Vol. 16 No. 9 Sep 1964 reported that thirty UNTD Officer Cadets proceeded to San Juan Island from Esquimalt in auxiliary training craft for a combined training cruise and presentation ceremony at the site of the British military installation (Garrison Bay). Accompanying them were Col. J.W.D. Symons, Director of the

Maritime Museum of British Columbia and Cdr. F.E. Grubb, RCN (Ret.), the museum’s secretary. A representative of Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission received the plaque.



UNTD Officer Cadets Michael Campbell & Michael Rayner display the plaque at Royal Roads before departing for San Juan Island.



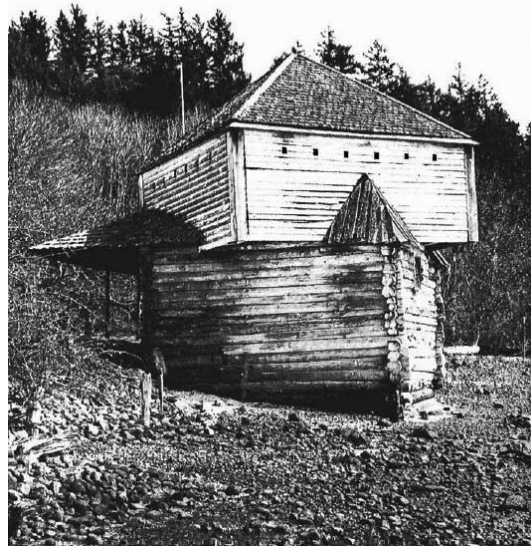
The Royal Marine Cemetery at Garrison Bay where the UNTD placed a plaque in 1964 contains seven plots of men who died from natural causes, drowning and accidental shooting during the 12 years of joint occupation of the island. Photos courtesy Crowsnest

Research shows that the UNTD connection to this plaque story really started on Tuesday, April 10, 1956. A special visit was paid to San Juan Island by

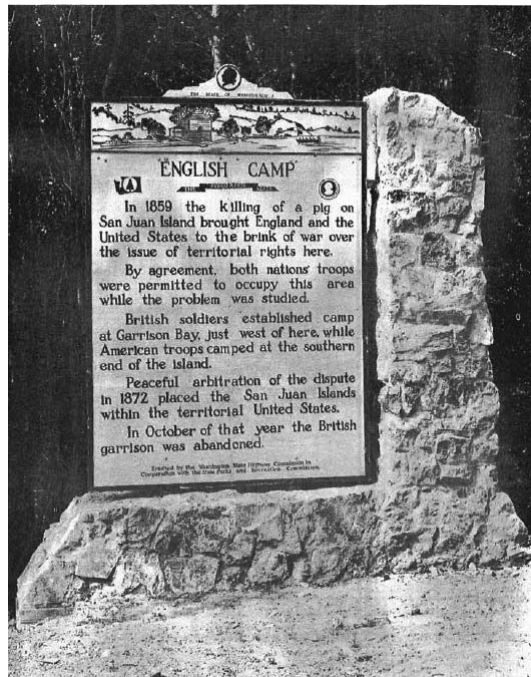
the Flag Officer Pacific Coast, Rear-Admiral H.F. Pullen and the Chairman of the Naval Maritime Museum, Esquimalt, Instructor **Cdr. C.H. Little (former Staff Officer UNTD 1946-52)**. In his report to the Crowsnest, Cdr. Little recommended that the military structures and cemetery at the site of the English Camp on San Juan Island undergo restoration. Herein was probably the seed for the 1964 plaque placement by the UNTD. Cdr. Little was always looking for ways to employ UNTDs during their training activities.

Now to answer the question, how did this boundary dispute come about and why was the German Kaiser involved? It all dates back to unresolved boundary issues after the War of 1812. American expansion in the west was achieved by an infiltration of traders, hunters and settlers, followed by a demand for American rights, then seizure by threat of war. When the Americans went to war with Mexico over the Old Southwest, the British thought it wise to agree to the 1846 Oregon Treaty. It gave the United States undisputed possession of the Pacific Northwest south of the 49th parallel. Rather than cutting off the southern tip of Vancouver Island, the boundary was to run through the middle of the channel separating Vancouver Island from the mainland, thence through the middle of the Juan de Fuca Strait to the Pacific. Unfortunately it was unclear which island channel was to be used – Haro Strait, nearest Vancouver Island or Rossario Strait, nearest the American mainland. Hence both countries claimed the San Juan Islands in the middle.

By 1859 there were 18 Americans living on San Juan. When one of them shot a pig owned by the Hudson's Bay Company, rather than submit to British legal authority, the American citizens requested military protection. Captain George E. Pickett (of Gettysburg fame) was sent with a company of 9th U.S. Infantry. The British responded with three warships. Finally cooler heads prevailed and determined not to involve two great nations in a war over a squabble about a pig. General Winfield Scott (War of 1812 fame), Commanding General of the U.S. Army, proposed a joint military occupation until a final settlement could be reached. Thus the Royal Marines set up a camp on Garrison Bay on the NW tip of the island and the Americans established their camp on the SE tip. The joint military occupation lasted for 12 years until a three-man arbitration commission under Wilhelm I of Germany ruled in favour of the United States.



The Royal Marine blockhouse at English Camp on Garrison Bay is one of the few reminders of a war almost caused by a pig. (Crowsnest)



This historical marker can be found at the entrance to the site of the English Camp of the Royal Marines on San Juan Island. (Crowsnest)

This event known as the Pig War was the last time that US, British/Canadian forces were assembled to oppose each other. The cemetery is an overseas military cemetery and Canada pays a tax for its upkeep. The Union Jack is raised and lowered there every day. *Editor & Bill Clearihue*



*BACK, Left to Right: Bowman, Cox, C/C Jewett, McCloy, Churlish.
MIDDLE: Deschênes, Orford, Huot, Clearihue.
FRONT: L/C McArthur, Laughland, Pottle, Gaudreau, Banfield.*

OLD OARS RENDEZVOUS OTTAWA 2009

Bob Duncombe reports that the UNTD Ottawa Old Oars are planning their fifth Rendezvous in Ottawa. It will be on **Wednesday, October 21, 2009** in the West Block on Parliament Hill.

The program will comprise 2 sessions, both in the West Block, afternoon and evening. You may attend one or both sessions.

The afternoon session will begin at **1400** in a committee room adjacent to the historic Confederation Room where the evening session will be held beginning at **1700**.

The afternoon session will be a symposium led by the innovative Breakout Educational Network of Toronto and the Defence Management Studies Program, School of Policy Studies, Queens University in conjunction with the Old Oars. A multidisciplinary panel, including a university student, will discuss the topic - **“Leadership, Citizenship and Nation Building -- Officer Training and Canadian Universities”**. There will be time for audience participation. 70 seats will be available.

The afternoon session will flow directly into the evening session bridged by a reception beginning at 1700, including open bar service and a buffet dinner in the Confederation Room.

A documentary film will be shown produced by Stornoway Productions The film is the Ottawa premiere of **“No Country for Young Men”**, an

hour-long retrospective of the UNTD, the COTC, and the URTP (Reserve University Squadron, i.e. RCAF). The documentary includes observations by graduates from each program including Senator Bill Rompkey and Peter Newman (UNTD), Major General Lewis Mackenzie (COTC), the Honourable Ed Broadbent (RUS) and others.

This will be followed by an “open to the floor” discussion of the film and the synthesis or summary of the conclusions of the afternoon’s session. 150 seats will be available.

Then a traditional UNTD Weepers will begin with an open bar and a sing-along assisted by UNTD Cadet Captain Bill Rompkey on the piano and a songbook prepared by UNTD Cadet Bob Wootton. The entire cost of the program is privately sponsored and therefore **there will not be a cost to you this year**.

Senator Bill Rompkey has once again arranged for the rooms on Parliament Hill and he will be the host for the program.

At the moment seating is limited to UNTDs as individuals rather than as couples. Emails will be sent to 300 UNTDs plus NROUTPs. Other interested constituencies are being invited together with Members of the House of Commons and Senate. If interested, contact:

Bob Duncombe. <bobduncombe@gmail.com>
Thanks for attention, Yours Aye,
The UNTD Ottawa Old Oars ~

IN MEMORIAM

There is no doubt that our UNTD members are getting older as is evident by this report of three former cadets crossing the bar in recent months.

The Honourable Mr. Justice **A. de Lotbiniere Panet**, one of four former UNTDs on the Ottawa Bench of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice passed away at the age of 69. Funeral services were held on June 26. ~

Allan Squires, UNTD HMCS *Chippawa* 1946 –1950, University of Manitoba passed away in his 81st year this spring. Al was a member of the UNTD polio quarantine crew from HMCS *Athabaskan* in July 1948 and took a year out on a short service commission in 1949 before completing a degree in finance. He then returned to the RCN for ten years as a supply officer until his retirement as a LCdr, whereupon he went home to Winnipeg to become Accounting Manager for Eatons until the firm closed. He remained active with the navy through the NOAC, being National Director for the Manitoba Branch for 15 years and interim National Treasurer. He was a founder of the Naval Museum in Winnipeg and Editor of the “Ditty Box”, the newsletter of NOAC Winnipeg Branch. He was always proud of the fact that he could still fit into his old uniforms, which he wore to reunions and heritage events. ~

Thomas Anthony Ferens, UNTD HMCS *Chippawa* 1952 – 1955, University of Manitoba, passed away after a brief battle with Pancreatic Cancer on June 28, 2009 at the age of 77. Tom was born in Winnipeg and in his youth attended the Naval Academy there. As a cadet he developed strong leadership skills and was a fine athlete in high school track and football. Tom graduated with a Mechanical Engineering Degree and worked his way up to Vice President of Chikopee Manufacturing in Kitchener, ON. He volunteered his time aboard HMCS *Haida* and was a long serving member of the executive of the UNTD Association. ~

LETTERS

LCdr. Hugh Williamson,
HMCS Scotian,
April 20, 2009
Williamson.h@forces.gc.ca

I want to let you know how much I enjoy looking at the UNTD web page and reading the Newsletter of the UNTD Association of Canada. Not to long ago

I was watching a CTV news clip about the proposed sinking of HMCS *Annapolis* as an artificial reef. They interviewed retired LCdr. Ray Stacey, UNTD '67, a classmate of mine, which got me thinking about who might be left.

I joined the UNTD in 1966 and did my summer training at Cornwallis in '67, Naden '68 and Stadacona in '69. I believe we were the last full term of UNTD Officer Cadets. By a combination of circumstances including, being one of the youngest cadets, the extension of compulsory retirement age to 60 and having the good fortune of not being promoted to an unemployable high rank, I have remained active at HMCS *Scotian* as the unit LogO.

Well it is down to the wire. On Wednesday evening April 22, 2009, the last training night for Scotian, I turned 60, which I think makes me the last serving original UNTD – the oldest barnacle on the hull. It's been quite a ride. U-2686

Editor's note – Ken Stephens, U-2689 (notice the closeness of ID numbers) UNTD '68 was last known to be serving as XO at HMCS Hunter until 2007 and is now an Air Cadet Officer. ~

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This letter may be of help to a few UNTDs who served in destroyers as I did. I was a happy UNTD cadet for three wonderful summers, 1952, 1953 and 1956. I enjoyed the generous cruises in those days, the first going to The Azores, Dieppe and Plymouth. Unfortunately, while on board those tribal class destroyers I was exposed to the asbestos insulation. Fifty years later in 2007 I was diagnosed with lung cancer.

The Department of Veterans Affairs concluded that my malignant mesothelioma arose out of my Reserve Force service and I was granted a disability award. At the moment I am undergoing chemotherapy for this condition with the support of the Department of Veterans Affairs health benefits programme.

I sincerely hope that mine may be a unique case, but if any other UNTD's experience similar symptoms to mine, I encourage them through their oncologist to quickly contact the Department of Veterans Affairs, which has responded quickly and generously to me. ~

UNTD ANNUAL MESS DINNER

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

THIS YEAR'S DINE THE LADIES

**AT THE STAFF COLLEGE TORONTO
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2009 AT 1830 FOR 1900
TARIFF (estimated) AT \$75.00**

**GUEST SPEAKER
ERIC MORSE**

RCMP'S DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Former diplomat, writer, photographer, lecturer on Roman history and noted for his "op-ed" pieces in the major newspapers on Afghanistan and other strategic and military matters.

~

UNTD CELEBRATIONS IN 2010

For full up-to the minute information and registration forms, on the annual, pre- and post- Halifax events see our Website: www.untd.org, under "Events" or call Bill Thomas a (905) 628-2412.

As in the previous three years, UNTDs will be gathering with our comrades in the NOAC at their annual AGM, next year in **Halifax, June 30-July 4. A registration form for that program is enclosed with this newsletter.** Accommodation must be arranged privately and separately, and UNTDs have three possibilities:

- With the NOAC at **Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel; \$179 per night; Toll free reservations 1-800-943-6760; www.halifaxmarriott.com**
- With other UNTDs at **Cambridge Suites; \$169.00 per night; 1-800-565-1263; bookhalifax@cambridgesuiteshotel.com; www.cambridgesuiteshalifax.com (Host: Bill Thomas)**
- Or with UNTDs at **Lord Nelson Hotel; \$155.005 per night; 1 (800) 565 2020 Fax: (902) 423 7148; ask@lordnelsonhotel.com; www.lordnelsonhotel.com (Host: Brooke Campbell)**

At the time of publication, arrangements for a UNTD only event during the AGM have not been finalized, but UNTDs are hosting the "Up Spirits" at HMCS Scotian on the Sunday morning.

For the **golfers** among us, and for those waxing nostalgic over the Cornwallis days, Reg Kowalchuk is planning a gathering at the **Digby Pines, June 27- 30, (T) 902.245.7718 (F) 902.245.7706; lweir@digbypines.ca; ww.digbypines.ca**

And for those who haven't been to **NFLD** since their days as an "Untidy", Bob Jenkins is preparing a gathering in **St. John's, July 9 – 10**, tentatively scheduled to include a Round of Golf, a visit to the famous Crows Nest Officers' Club for **TGIF Cocktails, a Dine with Wives** ; and possibly a visit to some local attractions (depending on interest)

In the fall of 2010, there will be a UNTD/ ROTP/NOABC Festivity in **Victoria, October 29th, 30th, 2010**. Brooke Campbell has tentatively booked 75 cabins in the Wardroom CFB Esquimalt for attendees. The program, which will be **co-hosted with the Victoria UNTD group**, will probably include Weepers on the Friday night and a more formal **Dine the Wives** Saturday evening. There likely will be a dockyard tour and possibly other activities associated with the weekend.

ROMPKY WRITES

Senator Bill Rompkey, UNTD Memorial University 1955 and a member of the Ottawa Old Oars has written a valuable historical work, which displays his passion as a Newfoundlander and his love of the navy. Entitled, “**St. John’s and the Battle of the Atlantic**”, this new book is a timely addition to a treatise of Canadian Navy history.

As we approach the 100th Anniversary of the Canadian Navy, this collection of writings by Bill Rompkey is designed to help Canadians understand the indispensable and dramatic role played by St. John’s – the “Gibraltar of the West” - and its people during World War II. Get an inside look at life in Newfoundland during this challenging time. Read how “Newfyjohn” forever shaped the East Coast legend of Canadian war service.

For information contact

Flanker Press – Pennywell Books
www.flankerpress.com or PO Box 2522,
Station C, St. John’s, NL. A1C 6K1 ~

UNTD Editor

ANOTHER SALTY DIPS

NOAC Ottawa Branch is pleased to announce that **Salty Dips Volume 9, “Carry On”** has just been received from the printers and is now available for sale in hard cover \$25.00 and soft cover \$15.00. This volume comes with a new attractive cover in full brilliant colour capturing a Canadian Patrol Frigate coming out of a tight turn. There are 192 photographs and extensive footnotes.

The book contains 31 marvelous Salty Dips, mostly covering Korea and afterward, dealing with Unification of the Canadian military and its evolution to today.

A complete description of the Salty Dips Project can be found on the NOAC Ottawa Branch website, www.noac.ottawa.on.ca along with an order form for the various volumes.

Bruce Hayes, UNTD Association.

(Continued from page 1 and 2)

COVER PHOTO

UNTD Officer Candidates
Supply & Secretariat Class,
July 7 – Aug. 11, 1947

Front row L-R: Duke Pearlstein (Toronto), Commissioned Writer Officer Bates, Lt(S) Willis, LCdr(S) Elcock, Lt(S) Powell, SLt(S) Foster, Bob Darlington (Winnipeg).

Middle row L-R: Bob Leroux (Ottawa), Wilf Fitzpatrick (Edmonton), Larry Hill (Edmonton), Vern Margetts (Winnipeg), Al Coombes (Hamilton), Norm Stanley-Paul (Toronto), Bob Buchanan (London), Peter Lynch (Toronto).

Back row L-R: Paul Bolton (Toronto), Jesse Cove (St. Catharines), John Myers (Toronto), Jack Walling (Toronto). RCN Photo E6651-71

Fraser McKee, the other author of “**Three Princes Armed**”, regrets to report that when he joined the navy in 1942, there was no UNTD program and he did not qualify as a Cadet at Royal Roads because of his academic grades. He elected to not join the army because his father was a Colonel in the RCCS (Signals). Ironically, after basic training Fraser was slated to be an Ordinary Seaman in the Visual Signals trade but managed to be selected and boarded successfully as a Probationary Sub Lieutenant (Temporary). “Talk about doubt in one’s capabilities!” commented Fraser. After the war, he transferred to the Reserve and it took him seven years of two weeks naval training each summer to become a Torpedo Anti Submarine Specialist. He reports that his only claim to fame was being the senior Reserve Lieutenant on the RCN Navy List. However, he eventually retired as a Commander at HMCS *York*. For information about the book, he can be reached at fmck22@rogers.com ~

The UNTD Association of Canada publishes this Newsletter twice a year. Send letters, anecdotes, or suggestions to Newsletter Editor: Robert Williamson, 1 Clonmore Ave., Hamilton, ON. L9A 4R2; Ph (905) 383-6084 or e-mail <williamson@mountaincable.net>

Visit the UNTD web site
[HTTP:WWW.UNTD.ORG](http://WWW.UNTD.ORG)

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