NEWSLETTER OF THE NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA - VANCOUVER ISLAND

Winnipeg's new medals

Mimi and Toutou go to war

ar Naval Hero dies at 100

New Ocean Mapping

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A picture is worth 1000 words.....here is strategic capability in action from December as pictured through the periscope of a Canadian submarine. Covert intelligence gathering, or a hunter ready to strike a fatal blow...the enemy will never know which it is. Look closely and you will see two ships conducting a replenishment at sea, happily unaware that they were about to have a very bad day (or exercise). MarPac Photo

NAC-VI 22 Feb Luncheon

Guest Speaker:

Sandra Richardson, CEO of the Victoria Foundation Cost \$25 Guests - spouses, friends, family are most welcome

Lunch at the Fireside Grill at 1130 for 1215 4509 West Saanich Road, Royal Oak, Saanich. Please contact Bud Rocheleau <u>bnhrocheleau@shaw.ca</u> or <u>250-386-3209</u> prior to noon on Thursday 18 Feb. Please advise of any allergies or food sensitivities.



President's Message February 2016

February in Victoria is the month we start to see the end of winter and with it thoughts of warmer days ahead. Already flowers are up and they are recruiting for folks to pick daffodils, always a good sign.

Redevelopment of the website is moving along well and we will soon be able to share with you our new look and feel. We are still looking for some good pictures, please drop me a note or give me a phone call if you have pictures or ideas to share.

Also in development now are some evening presentations which will supplement our luncheons and perhaps provide membership value for those who cannot get away to a lunch at noon. Look for this in March.

By now you will have received your receipts in the mail and given our new membership year, for those that renewed before yearend a pleasant surprise. If you are a bit late getting your dues in, don't worry we can get you with a double receipt next year. Executive members Geri Hinton and Rod Hughes are reviewing our service commitment to our members. They are looking to determine how we can better provide information and support. Please contact them if you have thoughts or suggestions here.

This is the first review of this in many years, As many services and supports have changed, we are looking to incorporate these new services and initiatives into our program as we move forward.

Lot's of seeds being planted and as spring approaches we look forward to growth and development.

Yours Aye Bill

NAC-VI Membership Renewal Time

Many thanks to all of you who have already sent in your NAC-VI Membership renewal and donations to the Endowment Fund and the Navy League.

Just a reminder for those of you who have not had time to do so, we are back on the calendar year and membership renewals are due prior to 31 Dec 2015 (or when you are next near a mailbox) for 2016. Any questions, please call the Membership Director, Kathie Csomany at 250-477-4175

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New MND visits HMCS Winnipeg

The Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of National Defence addresses the ship's company of *HMCS Winnipeg* on the ship's flight deck during his visit to the ship on December 23, 2015 during Operation Reassurance.

Winnipeg hosted the Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of National Defence, Mr. Peter McGovern, Canada's Ambassador to Italy, and some senior Canadian Armed Forces members and Department of National Defence staff during their holiday visit to deployed CAF units. HMCS Winnipeg was deployed with Standing NATO Maritime Groups on Op REASSURANCE in the Mediterranean Sea, but was



relieved by *HMCS Fredericton* on 8 Jan. *HMCS Fredericton* is the second HMC Ship to deploy an Enhanced Naval Boarding Party on an operational mission. *Winnipeg* in the meantime has been patrolling in the Straits of Malacca and Andaman Sea with a Port Visit in Penang, Malaysia.

Photo by: Cpl Stuart MacNeil, HMCS Winnipeg

Stealth destroyer to the rescue

The new littoral combat ship *USS* Zumwalt has had an exciting start to her career at sea. Captained by

Capt James Kirk (I am NOT making this up) the ship was on sea trials in December, when they



received a distress call from the small fishing vessel *Danny Boy* off the coast of Maine. The largest destroyer ever built for the US Navy (600 ft and 15,000 tons) sent out a small boat and crew to pick up the ailing fisherman and transfered him to the destroyer's deck. From there they were able to switch him over to a helicopter and then ashore to a hospital.

Despite loud naval objections, the

Secretary of Defense has recently reduced the number of stealth vessels to be built to from 52 to 40 and to use only one supplier instead of two.

HMCS Winnipeg and NATO Article 5 Medal

Crew members of *HMCS Winnipeg* received the NATO Article 5 medal on January 9, 2016 for their service in support of Operation REASSURANCE, Canada's contribution to NATO assurance measures in Central and Eastern Europe.

For approximately three months of the deployment, *Winnipeg*'s service with two Standing NATO Maritime Groups (SNMGs) was in support of Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR, NATO's mission to build maritime situational awareness in order to detect, deter and disrupt terrorism in the Mediterranean Sea.

The ship served on the operation with the German-led SNMG 2 this past July and August, and again with the Portuguese-led SNMG 1 in Nov. and December. The ship held the medal presentation ceremony on the flight deck during an operational port of call in Goa, India.

The event was presided over by RAdm Gilles Couturier, the MarPac Commander, and CPO 1st Class Michael Feltham, the Formation Chief Petty Officer.

Winnipeg deployed from Esquimalt, B.C., on June 15, 2015 and has been conducting operations and participating in multinational exercises with the SNMGs since mid-July. The crew received their medals shortly before the seven-month milestone of the deployment. This is only the first round of medals presented. Following a

second period of service to OAE in November and December, additional crew members qualified for the medal, which will be received in the coming months.

"It was a momentous occasion for all of us," said Cdr Pascal Belhumeur, the CO of *HMCS Winnipeg* and recent medal recipient. "This is

Guess Who?

This fine upstanding young cadet is a familiar face around NAC-VI luncheons. For answer to the mystery see page 11.



Rear Admiral Gilles Couturier, Commander of Maritime Forces Pacific, presents Master Seaman Brandon McLeod with the NATO Article 5 medal for his contribution to NATO Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR on board HMCS Winnipeg on January 9, 2016 in Goa, India.

DND photo

the best crew of sailors that I have ever had the pleasure of sailing with throughout my career and they are all very deserving of this honour. We have become a *Winnipeg* family over the past seven months and we live by the ship's motto: 'One with the strength of many'."

The day the crew received their medals, *Winnipeg* was replaced by *HMCS Fredericton*. *Fredericton* deployed from Halifax on January 5, 2016, and is the fourth Royal Canadian Navy ship to deploy in support of this mission.



An Unlikely Battle: *Boxing Day 1915*

by Larry Dawe

Lake Tanganyika in 1915, was the effective border between the Belgians and the Germans in East Africa for a distance of over 400 miles, (a distance well over half the length of British Columbia). The Germans operated 3 warships *Kingani* (8 kt, 56 ft), *Hedwig* (6 kt, 120 ft) and *Graf von Götzen* (8 kt, 220 ft), which assured effective control of the lake and thereby, security of German East Africa all the way East to Dar es Salaam.

All of these vessels were shipped in pieces from the Indian Ocean by railway to the East side of lake. Simi-

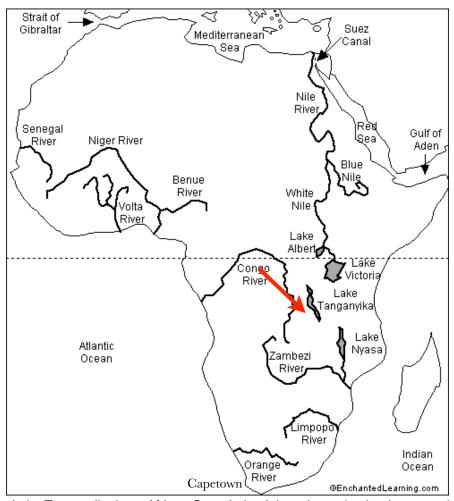
larly the Belgians had built a railway to the West side of the lake through the huge Congo region. They too had shipped a large vessel in pieces *Baron Dhanis* (1500 tons... significantly larger than *Götzen*); but had hidden the pieces for lack of a suitable boiler and fear of attack/destruction while assembling.

One hundred and one years ago, a wily South African hunting guide briefed the Admiralty on his plan to defeat the German Navy on Lake Tanganyika. His plan was accepted.

Two fast (18 kt), 40 ft Thorneycroft mahogany twin screw 100 hp petrol motor launches (HMS Mimi and HMS Toutou) were shipped from England to Capetown and then on 2,000 miles of railway North, then towed on trailers by steam traction engines over 146 miles of improvised roadway up and across the 6,000 ft continental divide and then 56 miles up a small river and finally 150 miles more by Belgian rail to arrive at Albertville on the West side of the lake. On Boxing Day Divine Service on the camp clearing (designated as the "quarterdeck") broke up with



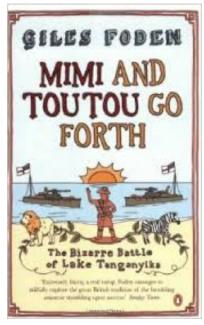
The eccentric tale of LCdr Spicer-Simpson which caught my eye in the Courtenay Museum. Spicer-Simpson lived there until his death in 1947



Lake Tanganyika is an African Great Lake. It is estimated to be the second largest freshwater lake in the world by volume, and the second deepest, in both cases, after only Lake Baikal in Siberia; it is also the world's longest freshwater lake. Wikipedia

the unexpected appearance of *Kingani*. *Mimi* & *Toutou* attacked the German vessel with gunfire, disabled the one gun forward, instantly killing the CO and two, ran it onto the shore at the camp and handed the survivors over to the Belgians as POWs.

At the time of the operation's approval, the oldest LCdr in the Royal Navy was LCdr Geoffery Spicer-Simson (b. 1876). Promoted A/Cdr to lead the operation; he was extremely eccentric. His body was almost completely covered with tattoos, (mostly of snakes, which very much impressed the locals); he was an expansive storyteller who had a reputation for greatly inflating his personal exploits; and, to the amazement of eve-



An excellent read of an eccentric seaman and his exploits in Africa.

ryone, he took up wearing a kilt in the field, (which the locals, the Belgians and his own men thought pretty strange).

This operation was his "finest hour". He directly defeated *Kingani* and six weeks later, *Hedwig* both by gunfire. This true tale is told vividly with fascinating detail and thorough bibliography in Giles Foden's book, *Mimi and Toutou Go Forth*. (Penguin 2004)

What attracted my attention to Spicer was a permanent display in the museum in Courtenay, B.C. where he lived, leading Sea Cadet programs, for a number of years until he died 1947.

The African Queen

The popular 1951 movie: **The African Queen**, (Bogart & Hepburn) was based on the C.S. Forrester, (of *Hornblower* fame) story, loosely based on Spicer-Simson's escapades of defeating the German Navy on the lake.

African Queen, which defeated the book's Königen Luise many times it's size, is reminiscent of Mimi and Toutou. The vessel actually used as African Queen, also UK built, as the Steam Launch (S/L) Livingston, is preserved as a Florida heritage site.



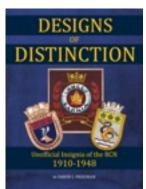
NAC ENDOWMENTS

Ever wonder where those endowment grants go?



RCN Badges

Bill Conconi, President of NAC-VI with author & NAC-VI alum David Freeman, who is receiving a grant from the Naval Associa-



tion of Canada Endowment Fund to assist with the publishing of his latest book: "Badges of Distinction of the Royal Canadian Navy".

Maritime Museum

Bill Conconi, President of the Naval Association of Vancouver Island with Jan Drent, a representative of the Maritime Museum of BC, and member of NAC-VI who is receiving a grant from the Naval Association of Canada Endowment Fund to purchase storage cabinets for the Museum's collection of historical nautical charts.





New Member

Commodore Jeff Zwick, Commander of Canada's Pacific Naval Fleet, is welcomed as the newest member of the Naval Association of Canada - Vancouver Island Branch by President Bill Conconi, President of NAC-VI.

Commodore Zwick was the guest at the Christmas luncheon.

The RCN's Marvellous

Sculptor in Residence Program:

Christian Corbet

Established in 2010, largely as a nod to the amazing Vancouver sculptor Christian Corbet, the SiR program will name an artist every seven years who is willing to annually donate at least one work which recognizes important naval figures in our rich maritime history.

From an article by Darlene Blakeley, Crowsnest

Mr. Corbet, who is also the Regimental Sculptor of the Royal Canadian Regiment and Forensic Artist-in-Residence for the University of Western Ontario, has so far created six busts for the RCN, all of them notable but often forgotten naval personages, five of which have been officially unveiled.

Along with Admiral Sir Charles Kingsmill, there are also busts of Chief Petty Officer Max Bernays (one of only two members of



Christian Corbet on the right (age 49)

the RCN to receive the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal from the British Admiralty during the Second World War); Commander Adelaide Sinclair, Director, Women's Royal Canadian Navy Service; Vice-Admiral Ralph Hennessy (awarded the Dis-

tinguished Service Cross for the sinking of U-210 in August 1942); and Midshipman William Palmer (one of the first Canadian military casualties of the First World War).

In the spring of 2016 a bust of Able Seaman Leander Green, the first Newfoundlander to be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, will be unveiled.

Mr. Corbet has also begun work on a seventh bust, Dr. Margaret Brooke, who was named a Member (Military Division) of the Order of the British Empire during the Second World War for



her heroic acts following the torpedoing and subsequent sinking of the SS Caribou on October 13, 1942 in the Cabot Strait off Newfoundland. Dr. Brooke passed away in Victoria on January 9, 2016 at the age of 100.

Donated busts are usually unveiled in Ottawa and kept at the Naval Museum of Halifax (Maritime Command Museum). Members of the public can visit the museum to view the busts, and the busts may be shown in other communities as part of a future exhibit.

Naval hero Dr Margaret Brooke dies at age 100

VAdm Mark Norman, Commander of the RCN, issued the following statement on the passing of naval



Sub-Lieutenant Margaret Brooke

hero LCdr (ret'd) Margaret Brooke, MBE, PhD:

"On behalf of the entire Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian Armed Forces, my deepest condolences are extended to the family and friends of Lieutenant-Commander (ret'd) Margaret Brooke, who passed away peacefully on January 9, 2016, at the age of 100.

"LCdr Brooke was a true Canadian naval hero. An RCN Nursing Sister during the Second World War, then-Sub-Lieutenant Brooke was named a Member (Military Division) of the Order of the British Empire for her valiant actions following the torpedoing and subsequent sinking of the ferry SS Caribou on October 14, 1942, in the Cabot Strait off Newfoundland.

Fighting for her own survival, she tried to save the life of her colleague and friend, Nursing Sister Sub-Lieutenant Agnes Wilkie, by holding on to her with one arm, while clinging to ropes on a capsized lifeboat. Despite LCdr

Brooke's heroic efforts, her friend died in the frigid waters. LCdr Brooke continued to serve in the RCN until her retirement in 1962, at which point she went on to a successful civilian career in academia, achieving her PhD in pale-ontology.

"The Royal Canadian Navy was extremely pleased to acknowledge Margaret Brooke's great legacy with the announcement in April 2015 that one of the upcoming Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ships would be named Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Margaret Brooke in her honour.

Members of the RCN had the great fortune to visit LCdr Brooke and her family at the time of the announcement, which was also on the occasion of her 100th birthday. It was a wonderful opportunity to thank LCdr Brooke for her 20 years of military service to Canada, and for her heroism so many years ago."

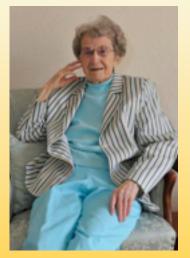
Dr Brooke thanks the Navy

In April of 2015 Dr Booke wrote, "I am amazed that my actions as a survivor of the sinking of the SS *Caribou* led the Royal Canadian Navy to my door. It is even more surprising as it coincides with the mention of my name in a recently published novel titled "Flying Time" by Suzanne North.

"I was honoured to learn during a telephone conversation with the Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of National Defence, on April 10, 2015, that a new Arctic/Offshore Patrol Ship will carry my name and be known as Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Margaret Brooke.

"The following day, Commodore Bob Auchterlonie, Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific, came to my home and wished me a happy birthday. This was the first contact I have had with the navy since I retired more than 53 years ago."

"I was and remain very proud of my years serving in the Royal Canadian Navy and thank all who were involved in making my 100th birthday an even more memorable occasion."



Dr. Margaret Brooke, MBE. B.A. PhD

PIRATE SHIP YIELDS MEDICAL KIT



Blackbeard's Surgeons

As all devoted readers of the Lead and Line already know, *Queen Anne's Revenge* ran aground on a sandbar in 1719 and was lost. In 1996 that wreck was found and quite a few artifacts have been brought to the surface.

Among them was a rather impressive assortment of medical tools proving that Blackbeard took the business of keeping his crew in fighting condition very seriously indeed. When Teach captured Queen Anne's Revenge he released the French crew but forced the three surgeons to stay.

Much of the medical equipment had French markings including a urethral syringe, a porringer (probably used in blood-letting exercises) and clyster pumps which were used to pump liquids into the rectum. Archaeologists don't know why the pumps were used but it is your editor's personal opinion it would be useful for dehydration from vomiting or possibly even diarrhea.



The remains of two clyster pumps were found on the wreck. These devices would have been used to pump fluid into the rectum, allowing the body to quickly absorb it.

Photo: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

Also found were several sets of pots and weighing devices. Also scissors (for surgery), fat silver needles (you dont even want to see a photo of this one!) and brass set-screws for tourniquets.

Medicines were obtained by blockading ports, and demanding medicine chests in return for hostages captured from ships trying to enter the harbour.

Blackbeard himself was in pretty good physical shape. During his final battle in 1720 "he stood his ground and fought with great fury, till he received five and 20 wounds, and five of them by shot." He was cocking his own pistol when a final salvo finished him off.



This urethral syringe was used to treat syphilis, a sexually transmitted disease that can be fatal. Chemical analysis shows that it contained mercury, which was commonly used to treat people with syphilis during the early 18th century. Although mercury may alleviate some of the symptoms taking too much of it can be fatal.

Photo: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources



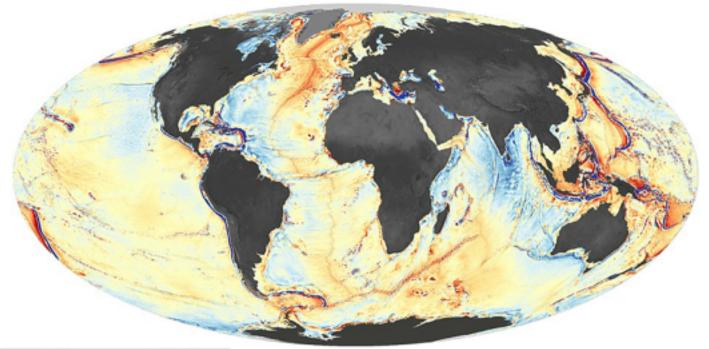
Give up?



Chief Cadet Captain Stan Brygadyr reporting Venture Parade to Chief of Naval Staff VAdm H.G. De Wolf, 14 Oct, 1958

Royal Navy experts have destroyed a Second World War German mine - sending a plume of water nearly 1,000ft into the air. The 1,500lb (680kg) air-dropped mine was found on the seabed in The Solent, around a mile off Southsea, near Portsmouth, on Thursday. A bomb disposal team towed it to open waters off Bembridge, on the Isle of Wight, and carried out a controlled, underwater explosion.





O NASA Earth Observatory maps by Joshua Stevens

Detailed maps of the Ocean floor developed using gravity data from satellites

An interesting article in Science Magazine describes how scientists are using sophisticated satellite imagery to chart the bottom of the our oceans.

Until recently detailed topographic maps were available for only a small fraction of the ocean floor, severely limited by the number of ship crossings. Global maps constructed using satellite-derived gravity data, while promising, were limited in the size of features they can resolve.

Sandwell et al. present a new marine gravity model which greatly improves this resolution. They identify several previously unknown tectonic features, including extinct spreading ridges in the Gulf of Mexico and numerous uncharted seamounts.

Gravity models are powerful tools for mapping tectonic structures, especially in the deep ocean basins where the topography remains unmapped by ships or is buried by thick sediment. Scientists combined new radar altimeter measurements from satellites CryoSat-2 and Jason-1 with existing data to construct a global marine gravity model two times more accurate than previous models.

They found an extinct spreading ridge in the Gulf of Mexico, a major propagating rift in the South Atlantic Ocean, abyssal hill fabric on slow-spreading ridges, and thousands of previously uncharted seamounts. These discoveries help us to understand regional tectonic processes and highlight the importance of satellite-derived gravity models as one of the primary tools for the investigation of remote ocean basins. For further information:

Sandwell, D. T., R. D. Müller, W. H. F. Smith, E. Garcia, R. Francis, <u>New global marine gravity model from CryoSat-2 and Jason-1 reveals buried tectonic structure</u>, Science, Vol. 346, no. 6205, pp. 65-67, doi:

Science Magazine offers a number of their services for free including weekly updates.



VETERAN'S CORNER BY ROD HUGHES

I mentioned in the last Veteran's Corner that I would be covering the new Veteran's Affairs initiatives that I mentioned in our last issue. I have decided not to cover all the initiatives, as some just aren't relevant to the bulk of our members. That said, the Priority Hiring for ex-CAF is in my opinion long over due, and may be interesting particularly for those newly retired and still in the job market.

I've long held the view that it isn't in the Government's best interest to release and then exclude men and women from government employment especially since these people have assimilated so many useful skills and have acquired hard earned experience. The consolidated *Veterans Hiring Act* enacted in March 2014 built upon previous government commitments as well as new ones outlined in *Economic Action Plan 2014* to help Veterans find meaningful employment after their service. In recognition of that service, CAF personnel and honorably released Veterans will be given more access to federal

public service job opportunities. Qualified Veterans who have at least three years of military service will be given preference in advertised, external and internal hiring competitions for five years after the date of release.

These new measures build on the Government's programme that allows Veterans of the CAF who have medically released due to a service-related injury or illness will get the top level of priority consideration for job openings in the public service. This means eligible Veterans whose military service is cut short by a career-ending injury or illness suffered in the line of duty will be given statutory, priority access in the federal public service.

Additionally, the duration of priority access for all medically released CAF personnel would be extended from two years to five years. A useful guide to all the different disability programmes can be found at http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/services/after-injury/disability-benefits

To speak with VAC staff you can visit the VAC Office located in the Atrium Building, 1321 Blanshard Street, Suite 320. The office is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 4:30, or call toll-free 1-866-522-2122 or e-mail information@vac-acc.gc.ca

Service Officer's report

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Cdr. W. Walker and Nursing Sister Catherine Walker 3225 Exeter Victoria Ph 250-592-0769



In Memoriam

28 Dec 2015 Mrs Dorene Steele

5 Jan 2015 Patrick Dermott Crofton, LCdr ret

NAC-VI Welcomes our Newest Member Captain Ken Scotten, RCN (ret'd)

If you would like to join the Service Officer's Report and Visitation Committee, phone Irvine Hare 250-853-5493 or Peter or Elizabeth Campbell at 250-478-7351