



Royal United Services

Institute of Nova Scotia

INCORPORATED 1928

P.O. Box 33100 Quinpool RPO, Halifax, NS B3L 4T6

Dispatches

APRIL-MAY 2005: 3/05

NEW RUSI WEB SITE IS ACTIVE

RUSI has a new web site at www.rusi.ca/ns

Bookmark this link! It will be updated regularly with information on RUSI events, articles written by members, and the most recent edition of Dispatches. In the future, it will feature an expanded links section and additional news articles of note. It will also act as an online archive for the papers published by the Security Affairs Committee.

Members who receive Dispatches electronically will now receive emails inviting them to view the new edition of Dispatches on the web site. The link will be provided. This procedure will eliminate the need for emailing large files to each individual member, which clutters inboxes and can be very slow to download.

Our webmaster is Richard McNair, and he has done a wonderful job in overhauling the site into an interesting, informative site which members will want to visit repeatedly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

19 May: Professor Dan Middlemiss speaks on Defence Policy 2005 1930 hrs. Cambridge Military library.

1 June: Mixed Dinner at Ashburn celebrating the Year of the Veteran. Guests welcome! Please feel free to invite those who would be interested in joining us.

Cost will be \$30 per person—note that the price has been raised in order to ensure the coverage of all costs. **Call Michael Nash Kelly at 826-7112 for reservations. Mike will also be collecting cheques to cover the cost of the event.**

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECURITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SECURITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE by Alex Morrison, Chairman

In early April, thanks to Commander Bob Edwards of the Dalhousie University Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, a number of RUSI members from the Committee and the Board of Directors were able to participate in a tour and presentations on Canadian Naval matters on board HMCS Halifax, anchored alongside. Organized for new Foreign Service Trade and Consular officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (old title but still quite comprehensible), it was designed to give them an understanding of the Navy and the role it plays in carrying out Canada's domestic and international obligations.

Early in May, thanks to SAC member Commander (ret'd) Peter Haydon, we will be hosted by the staff of the Maritime Security Operations Centre located in the Mainguy Building (D-201) in the Dockyard. We hope to follow that, later on, with a visit to the provincial and federal operations centres in Dartmouth.

The SAC is enhancing its previous *modus operandi* to ensure that Committee members are able to write, speak and otherwise respond to strategic and operational matters and requirements in a timely manner. This will mean that members will be asked to take on responsibilities at short notice and with pressing timelines.

2005 MARITIME CONFERENCE: CENTRE FOR FOREIGN POLICY STUDIES

The topic of this year's conference is "What Canadian Military and Security Forces in the Future World? A Maritime Perspective." It will be held from 10-12 June, 2005, at Dalhousie University. The cost for the conference is \$115, or \$35 for students.

The Centre's web site is <http://www.cfps.dal.ca>

Under "EVENTS," you can find a complete programme for the conference and the forms for registration.

TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY: VICTORY 1945

"Victory 1945" premieres on History Television on Friday May 6 and continues Saturday, May 7.

Specific times for the program to air can be looked up closer to the airing date on <http://www.historytelevision.ca/tv/schedule/>

This feature length documentary commemorates the 60th anniversary of V-E Day and includes interviews with Canadian veterans.

Biography of Lieutenant (Navy) Paul Phillips, RUSI President

Born in Toronto, Paul joined the navy in January 1950 as an Ordinary Seaman. His lower deck career saw him serve in HMC Ships La Hullose, Magnificent, Bonaventure, Restigouche, Fort Erie and Annapolis in progressive ranks.

He was selected for the last naval commissioning class in 1967, a year's long course in HMCS Naden in Esquimalt. On graduation in 1968 as a Commissioned Stores Officer he was appointed to the Principal Naval Overseer's office in Saint John to stand by, commission and serve in HMCS Protecteur.

Following his time in Protecteur and promotion to Lieutenant (Navy) he was appointed to HMCS Fraser as Supply Officer. Leaving her in 1973 Paul went to CFB Shearwater as Material Control Officer.

In April 1975, he was posted to 73 Service Battalion, UNEF II. He was the first "dark blue" officer to join that unit.

On return from UNEF II Paul was posted to CFB Halifax as Material Control Officer, Willow Park and outlying units. He was an active member of the Mess Committee serving as Secretary. He remained there until the fall of 1977 when he joined HMCS Assiniboine as Supply Officer.

Following that sea tour Paul was posted to CFS Bermuda in 1980 as Logistics Officer and spent three years in that sunny clime.

His return in 1983 saw him posted to the Technical Services Agency in Halifax. This was a pure staff job and shortly he was on his way to the Reserve Training Unit looking after the training ships Porte St. Louis, Porte St. Jean, Rapid, Rally and Fort Steele.

Paul remained there for the rest of his time and was released from the service in April 1989.

Following his naval career he worked seasonally as Quality Control Supervisor with H & R Block and on occasional contract with the Federal Development Bank.

At present he is the President of the Board of Directors for his condominium corporation and Treasurer for the Atlantic Chief and Petty Officers' Association.

Paul has been active with the Nova Scotia International Tattoo as a Liaison Officer with visiting groups for some 15 years and has worked with Tall Ships during the last two visits. He visits Camp Hill Veteran's Hospital weekly as part of their therapy program where he is chaperoned by his dog Tattoo.

Paul is a member of Hartlen Point Golf Club and enjoys a game of squash whenever possible. He and Marina reside in Halifax.

GOOD NEWS FOR VETERANS?

CTV has reported that Ottawa expected to unveil a \$1-billion overhaul of the Veterans Charter. Sources tell CTV Ottawa that the plan calls for:

- Financial support for veterans undergoing rehabilitation;
- Uninterrupted health coverage for veterans and their families;
- Income support for veterans who can't work;
- Job training and job offers in the public service for those who can work; and
- A tax-free lump sum payment of up to \$250,000 for veterans with disabilities.

Legislation is expected later this month.

AT SEA WITH THE CANADIAN NAVY

This article was written by Secretary-Treasurer Mary Pletsch and printed in the April 2005 issue of *The Northern Star*, a monthly newspaper serving the North Shore of Prince Edward Island. It may be nothing new to those of you who served in the Navy, but to the average citizen, it is a rare glimpse into modern anti-submarine exercises. Its publication is one way for the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia to educate the general public about the importance of a strong Canadian military, and it is geared towards a non-military audience.

From 14 to 18 February 2005, the Canadian frigate HMCS Calgary participated in anti-submarine exercises with the US Navy. The exercises were conducted off the coast of Kauai, Hawai'i. As a member of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) of Nova Scotia, I was fortunate enough to gain the rare opportunity to be aboard ship as an observer and get a taste of the Canadian navy in action.

The purpose of the exercise was to provide training to American submarine officers who were on a training course to learn how to be submarine captains. These trainees had to take a submarine out to sea to search for "enemy" vessels. HMCS Calgary, along with the American ship Port Royal, took on the role of that "enemy." The exercise was also beneficial to Calgary, as it enabled her crew to practice anti-submarine warfare. These skills, just like the ability to play an instrument or operate a piece of equipment, grow rusty if they are not practiced. This exercise gave Canadian sailors an opportunity to keep their abilities honed.

It's another world inside a ship on anti-submarine exercises. Submarines rely on sonar to find their targets, seeking the sound of an enemy vessel. This means that the quieter the ship is, the harder it is for the submarines to find it. During the exercise, a "sonar quiet" state is enforced. This means no TV or radio, no use of laundry facilities or exercise equipment, and no unnecessary noise. Sailors walk quietly and take care not to slam doors or hatches. (There is an even stricter quiet state, reserved for real wartime situations, in which even the use of the toilet or shower is forbidden.)

It's not just quiet, it's also dark. Bright lights can ruin the night vision of the sailors on the bridge. Therefore, the entire ship is lit with dim red lighting that mimics night time conditions—around the clock. Thick drapes blot out any white light spilling from cabin doors. Very few rooms have windows; it's often difficult to tell what time of day it is. A ship operates around the clock, 24 hours a day. Personnel follow a schedule of 6 hours on duty, 6 hours off—twice a day.

The ship turns sharply in order to evade torpedos, or to remove itself from an area where it has betrayed its location (such as by firing a weapons system). Bunks are equipped with seat belts so that sailors can avoid being thrown out of bed while sleeping. It is not uncommon for objects to slide off of desks and tables; for this reason, beverages are confined to the wardroom (where meals are eaten) or private cabins.

During the exercise, several safety precautions are in place. The torpedos used are a special design that does not contain explosives. They are picked up by helicopters after they are fired. Before one vessel fires on another, the ship has to call a range officer to ask permission. When Calgary fired at the submarines, the range officer would order the submarine to surface. We would then be granted permission to fire at the lower depth where the submarine had previously been located. This procedure ensures that the dummy torpedo does not hit the hull of the submarine. Computer tracking enabled the exercise coordinators to judge whether we would have hit the submarine in a real wartime situation. The firing procedure for the dummy torpedos is the same as for the real thing, allowing the crew of Calgary to practice loading and firing.

While the ship is steered from the bridge, the captain controls his/her ship from the operations center. This room filled with banks of computer screens and equipment. One row of screens is devoted to personnel who gather information and plot it on displays, tracking the location of possible contacts (other vessels and aircraft). The information they gather is transmitted to the second row, where officers interpret the data and advise the captain. Smaller clusters of equipment are devoted to weapons systems such as torpedos and missiles.

There are also operators monitoring NIXIE, a defensive system that is towed behind the ship and designed to create noise and magnetic field ratings. If an enemy vessel fires on Calgary, NIXIE's job is to create a false reading in the enemy's equipment. It creates a larger, more appealing target reading which is behind the ship's actual position. Hopefully, a torpedo will orient on NIXIE's reading and detonate at a distance where it will not cause any damage to Calgary itself.

The only downside to my tour on HMCS Calgary was watching Canadian sailors struggling with outdated or broken equipment. Many of the computer systems on board ship date back to the 1980s. Some equipment is even older than that; it was scavenged from other vessels and installed on HMCS Calgary. Calgary has a hangar, but no helicopter was available for this exercise.

The state of the Canadian military is a matter of concern. Canadian vessels are responsible for both the protection of Canadian waters and acting as part of Canada's contribution to overseas task forces, such as our recent role in the Arabian Sea to restrict the movements of Al Qaeda. Canadian military personnel are being asked to do more with less every year. This situation is both unfair to the sailors and dangerous to both the military personnel and the people they are tasked to protect. In an unstable world, the Canadian military requires both adequate funding and adequate leadership to ensure its ability to "stand on guard for thee."

RUSI WAXES POETIC

The following poem was written by Peter Stoffer, MP.

Italian Remembrance

We went to Italy for to remember one more time.
The noblest of Canadians who gave their lives for mine.
Our brave landed in Sicily and broke the German lines.
And now we're going home.

Our brave proceeded up the boot to Ortona 43.
They fought in Moro River, Monte Cassino, and Rimini.
They shed their blood and prayed to God to bring them victory.
And now we're going home.

The area of Casa Beradi is so truly holy ground.
Van Doos were asked to take it, drive the Gerries out of town.
Paul Triquet earned his V.C. when 36 comrades went down.
And now we're going home.

We've traveled with the veterans and support caregivers.
With thirteen of our finest youth that Canada can offer.
And Ida Crocker's pictures and the memories brought by her.
And now we're going home.

My thoughts now turn to our time upon the Italian bus.
With George's ukulele and his singing is a must.
Carmela, Alex, Louise, Anil are the people we do trust.
And now we're going home.

The love we have for all our vets is unanimous by decree.
There is one name Skull and the Generals' pipe is there for all to see.
We laughed and cried and watched them march in solemn harmony
And now we're going home.

There is a man Smokey Smith V.C. The bravest of them all.
His buddy had been wounded and he'd taken up the call.
He took out the German tanks and the enemy began to fall.
And now we're going home.

All the heroes on our trip, one named Barney had to say.
Their thoughts were on the soldiers not with us this very day.
For their lives were given with gracious love for the freedom of Italy.
And now we're going home.

I speak for all my colleagues that we're honoured to be here.
To see our veterans salute their friends and comrades buried near
Our eyes would fill with water and we all would shed a tear.
And now we're going home.

To all of you who laid down young lives for all Canadians.
I pray to God, our Lord has come, to kindly take them in.
And at the going down of the sun we will remember them.
And now we're going home.

Glory glory hallelujah
Glory glory hallelujah
Glory glory hallelujah
We will remember them.

Composed by Peter Stoffer, MP, Sackville-Eastern Shore. October 2004.

Comments? Suggestions? Dues to pay?

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The Secretary-Treasurer can also be contacted at (902) 475-1932, or via email:
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Let me know what you would like to see from your Royal United Services Institute! I will ensure all comments and concerns are passed along to the appropriate individual/committee.

Mary Pletsch
Secretary-Treasurer