



ACTION STATIONS



HMCS SACKVILLE NEWSLETTER

November, 1996

CO's Report: 49,000 Visitors

Summer, 1996 was another active period for HMCS SACKVILLE with approximately 49,000 visitors reported to the end of September.

Among the noteworthy events and activities:

* Supported the Atlantic Chief and POs Association Reunion in late June

* Assisted with the production of a DND video on HMCS SACKVILLE and the wartime Navy being produced for the Canadian Forces Naval Operations School

* Hosted a reception for Trustees and guests prior to the Sea Cadet Ceremony of the Flags/Sunset Ceremony performed on the parking lot next to Summit Place

* Supported the Regular Force OSQAB courses (environmental training), which includes a 90-minute tour of the ship followed by get-together in the mess for questions and answers

* Arranged a tour of the ship for 24 members of the Greater Moncton Corvette Club who travelled to Halifax in 12 vintage sports cars on Sunday, Sept 8

* Received from Lloyd Johnston of Winnipeg, Sackville's White Ensign which was flown on her last run to U.K. in 1944. (Mr Johnston sailed in SACKVILLE in 1944-45)

* Continued the practice of introducing fleet COs, XO's, Coxns and others to "mess life" in Sackville, including 'refreshments' at Friday noon sessions and other occasions

LCdr Sherry Richardson
Commanding Officer



TRUSTEES RECEIVE AWARDS

Commodore Charles Westropp, centre, chairman of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, presents framed photographs of HMCS SACKVILLE to several Trustees for their significant support to the Trust and the ship. The presentations were made during the annual general meeting of CNMT in Halifax. Among the 1996 recipients, from left: Rev John Moorhead, Sussex Corner, N.B.; Sandy Gregory, Saint John, N.B.; Commodore Westropp, Frank Crossman, Stratford, Ont and Fred Hulme, Calgary. CNMT has established the Canadian Naval Memorial Endowment Fund to provide for the long-term maintenance and operation of SACKVILLE. (CF Photo)



CORVETTES RENDEZVOUS

Two-dozen members of the Greater Moncton Corvette Club travelled to Halifax on a September weekend to 'rendezvous' with HMCS SACKVILLE, the last of more than 100 corvettes built in Canada during the Second World War. The vintage sports cars are shown lined up on the jetty in front of SACKVILLE, named after the Town of Sackville, N.B. Members of the club toured the ship and were briefed on the history and role of the class of ship that provided the name for the popular North American sports car. (CF Photo)

THE CANADIAN NAVAL MEMORIAL TRUST, FMO HALIFAX, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3K 2X0

Of Trials and Commissionings

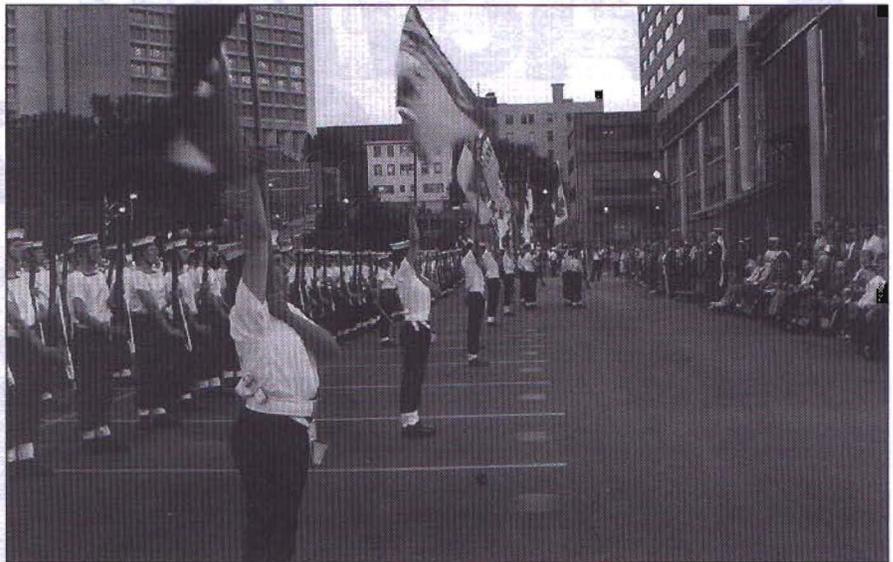
The introduction of a new class of ship such as the Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels is an exciting and demanding time for the crews. The trials, workups and commissioning ceremonies also bring back memories for an earlier generation of sailors who commissioned other classes of ships over the years, including the wartime corvettes.

Cdr C.R. McNary, commanding officer of HMCS GLACE BAY, one of the 12 new MCDVs, presents an update on the status of his ship in the Summer 1996 issue of the MARCOM Personnel Newsletter MATELOT. Excerpts from the article follow:

"The readying of any ship's company for operations is a challenging task; when the ship is one of the first of class being taken over from a contractor, the challenge is even greater. For every member of the crew, each day brings new 'firsts' which are attacked without benefit of experience or familiarity...the ship's company must deal with the myriad of technical problems, design issues and breakdowns arising from a new class and new ship.

"In the case of the KINGSTON Class(MCDV) vessels, a further level of challenge is added in the melding of Naval Reserve and Regular Force personnel with varying backgrounds and experience. Some members have come with significant fleet experience; others with time in MSAs(reserve vessels), and still others, including myself, from Naval Reserve Divisions and shore postings. Only the Regular Force Electrician and Naval Electronics Technician(NET) have previously dealt with ships as technically advanced or complicated as the KINGSTON Class.

"As well, few of these people have worked together before, and the crew is diverse in age, gender and in language of preference...(and) to meet this daunting challenge the team is extremely small. The crew size of only 35 officers and other ranks allows for little depth or backup. The chief engineer does not have the expertise of an engineering officer directing the department...the chief cook must become a competent medical resource onboard...



SUNSET CEREMONY

Members of the Sea Cadet Training Establishment HMCS ACADIA performed the Ceremony of the Flags/Sunset Ceremony at Summit Place parking lot next to HMCS SACKVILLE. The ceremony was sponsored by the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust. Approximately 200 cadets and officers participated in the ceremony held during the Halifax Natal Day celebrations. The ceremony reinforces the historic association between the Port of Halifax and the Navy, demonstrates the skills of the participating Sea Cadets and draws public attention to SACKVILLE. (CF Photo)

"All of this is to say that since standing up on December 1, 1995, through acceptance of the vessel May 16, 1996, through sea readiness inspections(SRIs) in June and our first set of prototype trials with the contractor in July, every member of the ship's company has been required to learn at a phenomenal pace, to be proactive in dealing with issues as they arise, to be flexible in terms of ship's program and plans, to be helpful across department boundaries, and above all, to be professional in approach.

"(Also)...our time in the shore office was busy with training and administration. Stores had to be ordered in anticipation of the ship, Initial Cadre Training with the contractor Eduplus was completed at the Coast Guard College, Sydney...officers completed a 'delta' training package designed to increase warfare and operational expertise, significant refresher training was completed...The pace of training was daunting...

"The KINGSTON Class of vessels have proven to be an even bigger

challenge than many of us expected. These vessels(55-metre, 970 tonnes) do not feel to the crew like 'minor' warships...they are bigger, more modern, more complex and especially more capable than most of us have been used to. HMCS GLACE BAY provides the Maritime Commander with a significant capability in peace and in war—for patrol, for assistance to other government departments, for training, and for mine countermeasures and route survey. The ships have proven to be stable platforms at sea with very impressive manoeuvrability underway...

"Those of us fortunate enough to serve as commissioning crew in HMCS GLACE BAY all recognize the huge advance this ship and her sister ships represent in both capability and challenges..."

HMCS GLACE BAY was commissioned in Sydney, N.S. Oct 26, 1996.



JUNE WEDDING

HMCS SACKVILLE provided a nautical setting for the marriage of Lieutenant-Commander Jim Reddy (Canadian Forces Naval Operations School) and Sub-Lieutenant Pat Jessup (HMCS SCOTIAN). The service was performed by Lieutenant(N) John Finlayson (Padre HMCS SCOTIAN). Also assisting in the ceremony were LCdr Sherry Richardson, CO of SACKVILLE, and Maurice McGaffney, shipkeeper. It is believed that this is the first wedding in SACKVILLE.



During a tour of HMCS SACKVILLE, members of the Greater Moncton Corvette Club presented a cheque to Lieutenant-Commander Sherry Richardson, CO of SACKVILLE. Shown from left: Gary Gaskin, Moncton; LCdr Richardson, Warnick Price, club president, and Don Cameron, treasurer of Canadian Naval Memorial Trust. Two-dozen members of the club made the trip to Halifax. The vintage sports cars, lined up on the jetty, attracted considerable public interest. (CF Photo)

Info, Please

We have returned mail on hand for the following and require a current address:

Jack McCall
1900 Wavell Street, Unit 64
London ON N5V 4N5

Peter Drage
RR2 New Germany NS B0R 1E0

F.A. Burbidge
PO Box 6042 Station A
Montreal QC H3C 3E4

R.G. Nelson
13 Kings Forest Drive
Hamilton ON L8T 4J4

Please send current information to Don Dixon, Membership Chairman, HMCS SACKVILLE, FMO Halifax, Halifax NS B3K 2X0.

Also required is information on the whereabouts of James D. Willie who served in HMCS COLUMBIA in 1963. Please contact R.W. (Dick) Aldehelm-White (902) 477-6320.

History and Corvettes

What is the meaning and derivation of the word corvette?

John Moorhead, our Chaplain, has done some research and with the assistance of Rev Dr Lee Whitney, provides the following account:

"...corvette is not translatable—it means corvette, not only in English but also in other languages.

"It seems the word comes from the Latin 'Corbita' (navis). This was a slow moving ship of burden. The word 'corbita' comes from the Latin 'corbis' meaning 'a basket.' The 'Corbita' is said to have been named from the basket hoisted as an ensign or signal by the Egyptian grain ships...From there the word travelled extensively to become, in English, 'corf' and 'corbeill,' both of which have to do with a device that carries something.

"In making its journey 'corbis' went through Middle English, Middle Dutch and Middle Low German, all from the Latin 'Corbis,' a basket. It is also found as the Spanish 'Corbeta,' the Portuguese 'Corveta' and the French 'Corvette.'" Middle Dutch has the 'Korf,' which refers to a sailing vessel, and with 'ette' added to the end it becomes a small sailing vessel.

"In the British Navy corvette was a flush-decked war vessel, ship, barque or brig rigged, having one tier of guns...By the 17th century it had special reference to a particular class of French vessel, although most navies were using the term.

"Reference to corvettes in more modern times begin about 1600. One reference is from the 'Military and Sea Dictionary,' 1711, ed 4: "A courvette is a sort of Barco Longo, carrying a main mast and a little foremast, and using both oars and sails. They are much used at Calais and Dunkirk, and serve as tenders to the fleet." In 1887, The Daily News reports that "Her Majesty's corvette Conquest is about to sail for Honolulu.

"So the word corvette, and the vessel itself, have both had a long and honourable history...including the wartime exploits of Canada's corvettes," Mr Moorhead concludes.

Also of interest in how the word corvette has also been used as a name for other forms of transport, namely the Corvette sports car.

Back in 1953, General Motors came up with a design for a two-seater sports car but did not have a name for the car. More than 300 names were submitted but GM executives had some difficulty in selecting a name. Later, a member was going through the dictionary and stopped in the C section at corvette: "...a speedy pursuit ship in the British Navy, smaller than a destroyer, an agile 19th century warship, though the term more recently applied to small wartime convoy vessels and subchasers." The design was popular and production of the first units began in late 1953.