



## Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph

As reported previously, the CSVC project of the UNTDA is well underway, but much work lies ahead. Following is a brief report for the Board covering the period: Oct 2022 – Dec 2022

### What is it?

A reminder that the goal of the CSVC project is to flesh out the life stories of the 1769 Canadian Naval Reservists who perished in WW2, to tell their story of sacrifice, and to “repatriate” them to their home division. The stories will be developed by volunteer researchers from across the country. Ideally, our research crew will include current and past Naval Reservists, sea cadets, university students and other Canadians with an interest in military history.

The tombstone data for these 1769 sailors has been captured in a spreadsheet that will serve as a (flat) database from which worksheets can be programmatically created. The worksheets are sent to Researchers who dig out additional information from a variety of sources already identified, with on-line guidance about how to make best use of these sources. The stories are returned to the project team where they are integrated into the Spreadsheet. Eventually, the spreadsheet will be the backbone of a website where these stories can be displayed.

### Accomplishments Oct - Dec 2022

A letter of Appreciation for active Naval Reservists who are participating in the CSVC project has been completed and sent to DComd NAVRES for distribution to NRD COs (in time for PER writing). A copy of the letter will be sent to the Secretary for filing in the UNTDA central registry.

Recognition for researchers, editors, proofreaders, project staff, etc. Efforts are ongoing to collect short bios for all project volunteers so that we can acknowledge their work. These mini-bios may appear on the CSVC page, the FB group, and/or in any communications product that might be created to celebrate their volunteerism. Emilie Caron leads this project

Vignettes. The bilingual Vignettes Newsletter for October through December can be found on the CSVC page of the UNTDA website. Scott Ferris leads this activity

Simplified rank and rank translation project. Ongoing. A volunteer translator (e.g., retired professional translator) is currently translating six stories from English to French for six sailors from Quebec. She is using CAN/CGSB-131.10-2017 which are the translation guidelines/standards used by the Federal government.

FB page. A plan for weekly posts to the FB research group has been developed. It will feature sailors’ stories, NRD war dead stats and honours/awards. Emilie Caron is leading this activity

## **By the numbers [note: (XX) refers to numbers from last report]:**

Stories posted to UNTD site: 93 (79)

Stories in progress: 125 (82)

Volunteer Researchers: 39 (38)

Project Team: 7 (7)

Production of war dead lists by NRD: 100% complete

Production of “where did they work” table: 100% complete

Production of war dead stats comparing NRDs: Still in the good ideas stage

## **Project Recruitment**

NSTR

## **Communications and Outreach**

In addition to the Vignettes Newsletters and the FB posts, the RCN featured a story about the Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph on its website on 10 Nov 2022. This story was also picked up by Trident and Lookout newspapers in late November 2022

## **Digital Presence**

New this quarter, Ross has produced two SOPs. The first will walk a non-techie through the steps needed to publish the Vignettes newsletter and the second is an SOP to publish a story to the website. Many thanks to Ross for these valuable tools

## **Fundraising and Expenditures**

NSTR

## **Next Steps**

The proof-of-concept that the CSVC master spreadsheet and other documents can be safely stored / accessed via OneDrive has been successful. Currently, Ross Connell is sharing his personal OneDrive for this effort. During this next quarter we will work to relocate this data to a commercial cloud service so that we do not need to use anyone’s personal resources.

John Dalzell is about 3 sailors away from completing all the war dead from Saskatchewan. He intends to create a book of these stories for UNI and QUE. The project will be prioritizing a review of his draft stories so that he book project can be completed in early 2023.

Given the backlog of stories that need formatting, editing and proofreading, the project will be asking several of the more experienced researchers to assist with these tasks until we clear the backlog

Respectfully submitted,

OSB

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### **Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph**

A project of the UNTD Association of Canada in celebration of the Canadian Naval Reserve Centennial in 2023.

### **C notaphe virtuel des marins citoyens**

Un projet de l'Association UNTD du Canada en f te du centenaire de la R serve navale canadienne en 2023.