



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: Dec 2021 – Feb 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 Dec 2021-Feb 2022

By the numbers:

Stories posted to UNTD site: 32

Stories under review: 28

Stories in progress: 60

Volunteer Researchers: 32

Project Team: 6

Review of 1769 Service files: 100% complete

Project Recruitment

During this period, the project continued to recruit volunteer researchers for various backgrounds. Word of mouth (from Board members / existing researchers) was the primary means through which volunteers found their way to the project. Vignettes and NAVRES chain of command also generated volunteers.

The project also recruited two proofreaders (Author Sherry Pringle and our own Ross Connell), and one “interim” translator for stories, forms, instructions, etc (Louise Leblanc, a volunteer researcher and trained translator). Our VP, Daniel Haché continues to act as the translation technical authority for all project materials.

All researcher instructions, templates, forms, macros, and 2 x sailor stories have been translated to French so that we can welcome French speaking researchers to the project.

Communications and Outreach

A Vignette was published in February. Material for March through December 2022 has been identified. Our comms specialists Scott Ferris and Emilie Caron turn the rough content that I provide into a readable and professional looking product.

The Facebook page [CSVC- CVMC page](#) and facebook group [Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph - C  notaphe Virtuel des Marins Citoyens](#) that went live in Dec 2021 are growing.

The sailor stories and Vignettes are now posted to the UNTD.org site.

The SooToday online paper (Sault Ste Marie) did a story in January on the CSVC project.

Ross Connell and Kim Kubeck were the subject of an interview by Scott Ferris. Scott will work to get this article into military friendly publications (e.g., Legion magazine, Esprit de Corps, Trident, Lookout, etc)

Emilie Caron, in her capacity as a NAVRES A/SLt PAO, presented the project to PAO officers attending training at HMCS Star in February (Ross Connell made the long trek from Oakville to Hamilton to support Emilie)

Digital Presence

A standardized banner and page design have been created for the CSVC pages on the UNTD site

Fundraising and Expenditures

Nothing significant to report

Next Steps

Goals for the next quarter

- Ongoing outreach to:
 - Navy League (Jennifer Bennett)
 - NAVRES (Captain(N) Beth Vallis)
 - Individual NRD command teams who have reached out to me
- Ongoing research
 - Individual life stories
 - Sorting all 1769 sailors into 17 NRD that existed during WW2
 - Recruit life story reviewer to the project team
 - Recruit a project team volunteer to stick-handle grant proposals
- Technical development
 - Continue populating the CSVCpages on the UNTD site

Request to the Board

- Through your networks, continue to spread word about this project

Respectfully submitted,

Kim

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

C notaphe virtuel des marins citoyens

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en f te du centenaire de la R serve navale
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