



"Dying in war isn't the worst that can happen; being forgotten is" - GC Krell

# **Introducing the Citizen Sailors Guardian 2023**

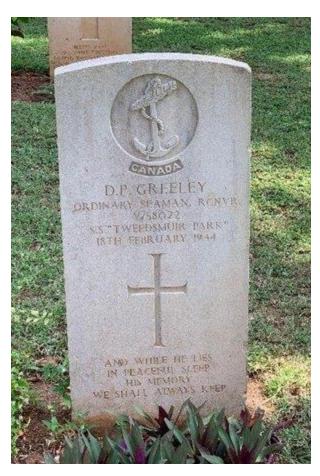
### What is a "Citizen Sailor"?

Everyday Canadians joined the war effort in World War II as members of the

- Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR)
- Royal Canadian Naval Reserve (RCNR)
- Fishermen's Reserve (FR)
- Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRCNS)

They were often referred to as "citizen sailors". These individuals, totaling around 85,000 from diverse backgrounds, started their War Service in one of the many Naval Reserve Divisions (NRD) located across Canada" and made a significant contribution to the war effort.

A total of 2170 Canadian Navy personnel perished during World War II. Four hundred of those casualties were Regular Navy. The remaining 1769 were Naval Reservists or citizen sailors. For those whose bodies were lost at sea, there is a stunning Memorial in Halifax where they are commemorated. The remainder are buried in cemeteries around the world.



## What is a Citizen Sailors Guardian 2023 (CSG)?

In 2023, we mark the 100th anniversary of the Naval Reserve. To honour the sacrifice of these citizen sailors during the centennial, the **Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph** has partnered with the No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation to map the World War II Naval Reserve graves. The Citizen Sailors Guardian 2023 initiative is looking for volunteers from all over the world to visit the 631 Naval Reserve graves in 2023. Simply visiting one grave can make a significant contribution towards achieving the objective!

### What is No Stone Left Alone (NSLA)?

The No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation is dedicated to honouring and remembering Canada's veterans. Their unique grave-side ceremony provides youth with an authentic experience that creates knowledge, understanding and appreciation of and for those who serve, and of the sacrifice of Canada's fallen.

#### **Get Involved:**

Join the Citizen Sailors Guardian community with ease!

Simply click on the CSG 2023 page on the NSLA website and navigate to the Get Involved



section. From there, you can locate a sailor's grave on the map, sign up to visit, and follow the instructions provided in the confirmation email.

Guardians: Feel free to visit as many headstones as you like, and in early 2024, the total number of headstones visited will be revealed.