



THE NEWSLETTER



Of The UNTD Association of Upper Canada

SPRING EDITION

MARCH 1996

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from the Bridge! As David Fry turns over the Watch, I am honoured to serve as President for the next two years. My naval background is very brief in time and modest in scope, having served in HMCS Star from 1961-1964 as a Sub-Lieutenant. I was at Cornwallis in 1961 and 62 under the watchful eye of Perry Hill, "Dutch" Holland and many others who shouted a lot. I was aboard Outremont and Swansea, then Oriole on the west coast. I look forward to renewing many acquaintances at the various social gatherings that we have planned.

The new Executive is listed on the next page and we will work together on a number of projects. Our first venture is the Biannual Mini-Reunion and Dine-the-Ladies Weekend in London on April 20-21. We look forward to working with our London liaison personnel for this event; Peter Schwartz and Kim Little. We are also considering a West Coast Reunion for the summer of 1998 and should have an up-to-date National Roster of all UNTDs that we can trace, sometime this year.

In addition to our social functions, we would like our membership to take a more active role in assisting the Friends of the Haida in their work in preserving this naval memorial. Some of our members have worked occasionally as volunteers in preparing the ship for public visitations as well as assisting in the gift shop during the summer. We are organizing a work party aboard Haida for Saturday, April 27, in the belief that the ship and its heritage could become a focal point for our efforts beyond our social agenda.

We are open to any suggestions which will bring us together for good times and good cheer as we maintain our special status as UNTiDies. I CAN BE REACHED AT (416) 239-7061.

Douglas Hain

REMEMBER WORKING PART SHIP ?

*This time there
is beer and pizza
so the job is more
Rewarding*

and
you can help
HAIDA too

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 27
1000 to 1500 hrs**

Call Doug Hain
416 239-7061

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION - 1996

Honourary Past President	Mark Llewellyn	(416)920-8030
Immediate Past President	David Fry	(416)927-8526
President	Douglas Hain	(416)239-7061
Vice-President	Alex Wright	(416)656-2917
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Richard Del Col - Windsor Area	Peter Schwartz - London	(519)645-7026
Ed File - Kingston Area		

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Gil Hutton

You didn't know that the UNTD association of Upper Canada had a Chairman of the Board? Well you do now! In suggesting that such a position be created and that I fill it for the next two years, David Fry opined, according to John Heighton's minutes of the executive meeting, that "this was a position commensurate with his long service to the organization." The real reason is that Frank Sinatra is now too old.

To be (slightly) more serious, I intend, more or less, to concentrate on long term policy and the "big" picture. What long term policy? Well, primarily - should we continue exactly as we have been for the last eight years or become a more active part of the naval community? We have been almost a "fraternal" organization, dedicated as our by-laws say to the "promotion of camaraderie among ex-UNTDs in Southern Ontario" and indeed, latterly in all of Canada. That is by no means a negligible goal. However, the NOAC, specifically, the Toronto Branch, in addition to its fraternal role, also promotes a strong advocacy of an effective Canadian Navy in the context of a consistent Maritime Policy for Canada. It has also attempted to educate Canadians to this end. Sixty percent of NOAC's members are ex RCNVR of World War II

and therefore 70 years of age or older. Another 25% are ex UNTDs, including a lot who are hopefully reading this message. Unless NOAC is to become much smaller and less effective, it must recruit more and younger members. Should the UNTD Association attempt to co-operate more closely with the NOAC, and for that matter, the Navy League, the WREN Association, HMCS York, etc. or should we attempt to form one association with several divisions? These are questions that need to be asked.

If we remain as we are, do we continue to have a mess dinner every year and Weepers or a mini-reunion in alternate years? Should we have events involving special guests and significant others? Is a dinner cruise a possibility? First, the Board of Directors will discuss this and then poll you. But rest assured, the "promotion of camaraderie among ex UNTDs" will remain a priority. The wonderful memories of being a part of one of the navy's greatest recruiting ideas will live on with regular get-togethers. See you in London on April 20!

UNTD NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Cdr. Robert Williamson, RCNR
1 Clonmore Ave. Hamilton, Ont. L9A 4R2.
UNTD information, letters, UNTiDy jokes,
anecdotes, ie. your input is needed.*

MESS DINNER WITH JOCK ALLAN

I hope you didn't miss it... the annual UNTD Mess Dinner, that is, with VAdm Jock Allan CMM, CD, at HMCS York last Fall. VAdm Allan is the most senior graduate of the UNTD and he came to tell us how he joined the service and through the UNTD program made a career of the navy. Inspired by the effort put forth by the Canadian Navy during World War II, young John Allan left northern Ontario to join the navy in 1949. He began as an ordinary seaman with the naval air squadron VC 920 at Downsview. His short career in the navy almost came to an end there when he went flying with one of the pilots in a Harvard Trainer. Exhilarated by the excitement of flying, he would cadge a ride whenever he could and try his hand at the controls. On this particular occasion he was in for more of a thrill than he had bargained for. While demonstrating a spin, the pilot found that he was unable to recover from the manoeuvre. The aircraft would not respond to the controls. Young John was ordered to bail out. This much adventure was more



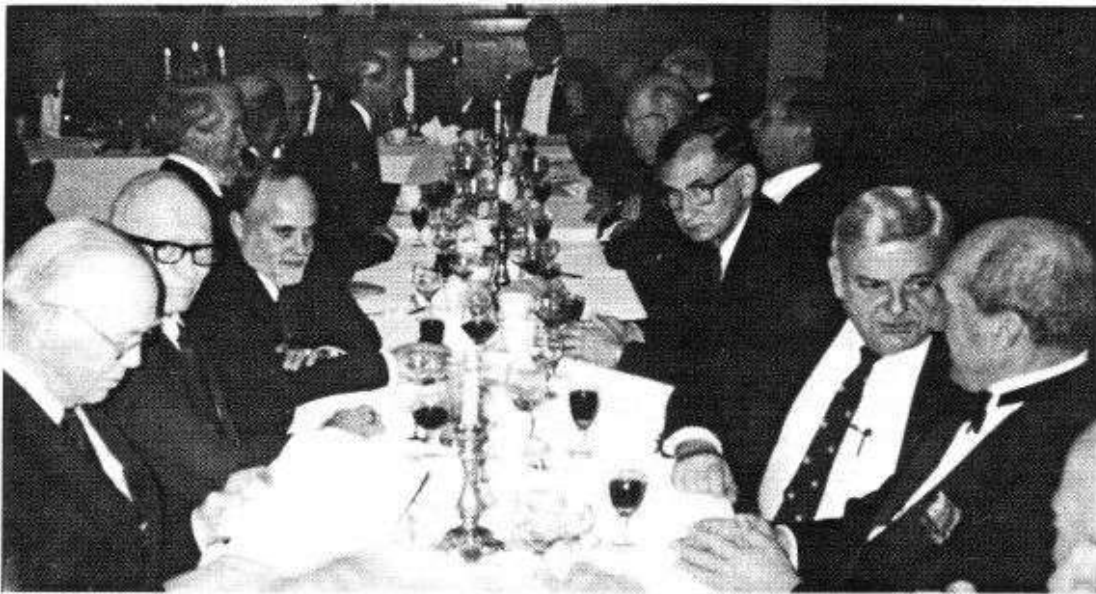
VAdm Jock Allan, CMM, CD, the most senior graduate of the UNTD program, relates his experiences in the navy to the guests at the UNTD Annual Mess Dinner at HMCS York on Saturday, November 18, 1995.



Some of the guests at Alex Wright's table facing the camera from right to left are: Ron Paquin, Joe Duffy, Frank Gallaway, Con Baker, Alex Langford, Doug Latimer, Al Eagle and Jim Houston.

Head table guests from left to right: Honourary Past President, Mark Llewellyn; Chairman of the Board, Gil Hutton; VAdm Allan, Guest of Honour; President, David Fry; Cdr Herb Little, Staff Officer UNTD 1946-1952; Bob Duncombe, Ottawa Regional Director.





Enjoying the conviviality of the UNTD Mess Dinner after the port has been passed are, on the right side:

Lee Bush, Hal Wilkinson, unidentified, Fred Riche & Chas. Copelin.

On the left are: Randal Kenny, Bill Ogdan, Warren Claxton, Ed File, Eric Van

Allen, Reg Kowalchuk & Charles Bostock.

...All photographs courtesy Alex Wright...

than his alarmed brain could process. He had never used a parachute before and didn't even know if the thing would work. Nevertheless, struggling against the centrifugal force of the spin, he rolled over the side of the aircraft, only to find that part of his equipment was hung-up inside the cockpit. Flopping and twisting helplessly over the side of the aircraft in the slip stream, his alarm turned to panic. No matter how he struggled, he could not extricate himself from his plight. As he resolved to meet his fate, a moment of quiet inner peace set in. It was then that he realized the aircraft had stopped spinning and he thankfully clambered back into the back seat of the aircraft. It was there that the surprised pilot found a pale and shaken OS Allan after they had landed.

It was later established that the unusual behaviour of the aircraft was due to the fact that it had been fitted with wing rails for rocket launching at the firing range. In this configuration, the Harvard was not to be used for acrobatics.

Shortly after this, OS Allan applied for a university education. Since there was no ROTP in those days he was appointed to HMCS Catarauqui additional for Queens University UNTD in September of 1950. The training that he received at Catarauqui and at the coast in the summers with the UNTD program became the foundation of his career in the navy.

Editor

DON'T MISS THE NEXT DINNER

Our Annual Reunion Mess Dinner is ALWAYS on the third Saturday in November, as it has been for the last eight years and will continue to be. We will send you reminders and invitations, but you know NOW when it will be. You also know when the 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000 Annual Reunion Mess Dinner will be. Please reserve the dates now and don't miss it.

ANNUAL REUNION MESS DINNER

UNTD ASSOCIATION
OF
UPPER CANADA

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 16,
1996

REMINDER
UNTD ASSOCIATION OF UPPER CANADA

BIANNUAL MINI REUNION
AND
DINE THE LADIES

London, Ontario
April 20 & 21, 1996

NAVY ON-LINE

Canada's Navy is now On-Line. Computer hackers, E Mail surfers and sailors alike can find us at: www.marlant.halifax.dnd.ca

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I look forward to receiving a copy of UNTiDy Tales, the story of the UNTD which I joined from the University of Ottawa in the autumn of 1952. I was fortunate to be selected for the Coronation Cruise in 1953. I served on the East and West Coasts, in Hamilton and at HMCS York and Carleton. I retired as a lieutenant and have always kept good memories of my years of service.

*The Honourable Mr. Justice
John D. Richard
Federal Court of Canada*

Would appreciate receiving a copy of SPINDRIFT, UNTiDy Tales. I so enjoyed my UNTD experience and have wondered over the years if someone would record the story for prosperity. Well done!

*Jardine Neilson
Executive Director,
Canadian Dental Association*

As a former UNTD (1960), I agree that it was a socially influential organization of young men in their formative years. The government spent their money wisely - a goodly long term investment. It provided

structure, something lacking in many youths these days. Weren't we lucky!

*Glenn Calder,
Gloucester, ON
U - 1047*

I was an UNTiDy from the Fall '49 through the summer of '52 when I was commissioned as an Ordnance Sub. I look forward to reminiscences in UNTiDy Tales.

*N. David Brewer,
Kanata, ON*

Yes please. I would certainly like to have a copy of SPINDRIFT. Having started in the UNTD in 1946, I followed that route into a career in the Regular Force in 1950. I was always a great advocate of the benefits of the program.

*G. Gordon Armstrong,
Captain, RCN (Ret'd)
U-2905*

I was an UNTiDy at Prevost in London from 1962 to 1964 and spent the summers of 1963 and 1964 at Cornwallis. Never did make it out to Esquimaux, alas, thanks to Paul Hellyer and Integration! My boss here at the National Archives, Jerry O'Brien, is also a former UNTD person, so the two of us are looking forward to reading SPINDRIFT, UNTiDy Tales.

*Peter Robertson
National Archives
Ottawa, ON*

UNTIDY TALES

Hal Lawrence's story continued..

COND, Hamilton, Ontario, 1953

It was at my first annual conference of Commanding Officers, UNTD, that I started to feel embarrassed about the navy. The Commodore agreed to make the opening address. He arrived late, talked banalities for twenty minutes, then left for the day. There had been an air of disappointment among the academics, who, because of their interest in the Navy, had cancelled lectures and meetings to travel to the conference at a new Naval Command in Hamilton, devoted, they thought, exclusively to the well-being of the Reserve Navy.

However, a year later at the second annual conference, my loyalties were really put to the test. There were eighteen UNTD Commanding Officers from across Canada. One was a Dean of Engineering; Dean Mawdsley from *HMCS Unicorn*. He had flown in the Royal Flying Corps 1914-18. I remember Dr. Burwell Taylor, a medical doctor at sea during the Battle of the Atlantic; and a psychologist, Charles Aharens Ph.D. The spectrum of disciplines was embraced: history, philosophy, nuclear physics, French literature ... One such Commanding Officer, Harry Smith, went on to become President of King's College, Halifax.

I didn't invite the Commodore a second time, and Captain Budge readily agreed to chair the meeting. He strode in exactly at 0930 as the third stroke of the ship's bell faded. We all rose. He stood at the head of the table and inspected us. We might as well have been fallen in on the parade ground. It took about thirty seconds but seemed longer, much longer. Frayed medal ribbons seemed more frayed, faded gold-lace more faded.

The opening generalities were curt and we plunged into the agenda. As the morning progressed the atmosphere became heavier, almost sullen. These professors didn't know the Regulations as the Chief-of-Staff did: who would expect it? One commander had his item on the agenda answered by, "Read the Queen's Regulations. Your question is answered there. Next item." Some items from the previous year had not been acted upon: the chairman's remarks were caustic. With relief I heard eight bells strike and we rose for lunch. Budge strode out and I followed. I caught him as he left the building. "May I talk to you, sir?"

"About the conference?"

"Yes, sir."

"After lunch."

"It must be before we reconvene, sir." By then we had reached his car.

"Get in." I did.

"Well?"

"Things didn't go well this morning, sir."

He looked ahead out the windshield. It was cold. Outside, the white ensign in front of the headquarters building snapped in the brisk wind off the bay and the spray wetted the edge of the quay. "Those COs aren't used to being spoken to like that. I know some of them aren't very clefted up, but for busy men they give us a lot of their time".

"They get paid for it."

"Yes sir. But we are lucky to have men of their stature within the university interested in naval matters."

He continued to stare bleakly over the turbulent water. This was not going well; but I didn't think I had misjudged my man and plunged on. "If you were to draw an analogy between naval and academic rank, some of them in their field are senior to you in yours."

This struck home. He brooded. "Very well. I'll go easier this afternoon." I breathed a sigh of relief. "But not much!" he added.

Every UNTD had a full-time staff officer: so did every COTC and they were a pleasure to behold; permanent force captains and majors, most of whom had commanded troops in action; most had graduated from the army staff college; most were university graduates. If ever men were liable to convince the academic community that the military career was a profession towards which professors might, with advantage, point some students, it was these army officers. Not so the Navy. Our best officers were all at sea. Admiral Lord Nelson had said that the best place for his ships was outside the enemy's ports. It was a weakness of our generation of admirals that they took all the precepts of that forward-looking thinker, Nelson, and applied them uncritically to the situation in the 1950s. The scions of aristocratic families had flocked to the profession-of-arms in Nelson's 18th century England but the same situation did not exist in 20th century Canada. The young men in these universities of Canada had to be persuaded to join the armed forces. And the UNTD staff-officers were not the sort of men to so persuade them. They were mostly the odds and sods - reserve officers getting a degree themselves, or filling this job until something better showed up. A lot were just hangers-on. I made a few forcible comments to some of them about their office hours and their dress.

The cadets were different from those of my cadet years in *Alaunia*. Obedience to commands, other than the routine orders of the parade ground, boat hoisting and such things, were not quite automatic and not quite instantaneous. A UNTD cadet seemed to consider for a micro-second what you had just ordered, decide it was a reasonable request, then carry it out. Disturbing! Yet, in university after university, we noticed the enthusiasm with which these youths of the 1950s embraced our century-old traditions. We made it hard to get into the UNTD and hard to stay in. The strange law that makes the difficult desirable, gave us more candidates to choose from than either the army or the air force. Hundreds reached out for the ideals that the Navy offered them and aspired to earn a Queen's Commission. To be continued.....

This newsletter is published twice a year by the UNTD Association of Upper Canada as a means of promoting activities of the association and encouraging UNTiDies to maintain their special status as Naval Persons.