



THE NEWSLETTER

Of The UNTD Association of Upper Canada



FALL EDITION

SEPTEMBER 1996

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The number of social activities and naval interest opportunities offered by your UNTD Association in the recent past and through the next year will astound you. They are beginning to exhaust us.

The Reunion Weekend in London was a wonderful success. It is described elsewhere in a photo essay for this newsletter. While attendance was not on a par with other reunions, it was a good beginning for London with an excellent venue and we all had a smashing good time.

We are planning a dinner in Kingston on the night before the commissioning of the first MCDV, *HMCS Kingston* (details on page 5). For all UNTD Association members, especially east of Toronto or ex-Queen's/Cataraqui, this will be a most important occasion. You are encouraged to attend with your wife or other guests. The enthusiasm of the young Reservists who crew these vessels reminds me of the old spirit of the RCNVR and the UNTD.

For those who will be unable to go to Kingston, *HMCS Kingston*, *Glace Bay* and *Anticosti* will be visiting Hamilton on September 25 (see page 7) and Toronto from September 26 to October 1, 1996 (see page 5).

Our STUPENDOUS, EXCITING ANNUAL REUNION MESS DINNER will be held as

usual in *HMCS York* on Saturday, November 16, 1996 at 1830. Cost will be the same: \$50.00.

The guest speaker will be Commodore Robert Baugniet, OMM, CD, Commander of the Naval Reserve. He is an excellent speaker, extremely knowledgeable and another former UNTD who reached the top. Don't miss this annual event. It's going to be another good one.

Finally, plans are under way for an East Coast UNTD Reunion in St. John's Newfoundland in June 1997. Next year marks the 500th Anniversary of the discovery of Newfoundland by John Cabot in 1497. The whole world is coming to the party. Our reunion will overlap with the NOAC (Naval Officers' Association of Canada) Annual General Meeting and Reunion on June 4 to 7, 1997. We will take part in some of their activities as well as hold some of our own. You will receive details before the end of the year. Hotel accommodations in St. John's are already booked solid, so we will be staying in Bed and Breakfast lodgings. Two events will be held in the historic CROWNEST of World War II fame. Plan to stay for a holiday. Newfoundlanders are the world's friendliest people. Their hospitality never takes "no" for an answer. Bring a spare liver.

See you at one or all of our events soon.

Gil Hutton
Chairman of the Board

MEMORIES OF A WARTIME UNTD

During my recent brief involvement with the UNTD Association of Upper Canada, I have noticed that most of the rollicking tales of the other members about their adventures at sea and ashore as UNTD officer cadets, do not seem to jibe with my recollections. I have come to believe that this is because my experience was with the wartime UNTD, before it was reconstituted after World War II. Let me spin you a salty dip or two about the UNTD as I remember it during the last two years of the war.

In September of 1943, I entered Victoria College of the University of Toronto in the Honour Maths and Physics course. I was promptly advised, along with the other male freshmen, that I was required to enlist in one of the armed forces as a university trainee. Recruitment into the navy or air force units was voluntary and subject to quotas. Recruitment into the army unit could also be voluntary, but had no quota restriction and was the automatic default choice. I chose to join the navy unit and came in under its quota. At our first orientation meeting in the lecture hall of the old red brick Chemistry Building, I learned that the navy considered there to be only two classes of university student, the Science student and the Arts student. Science students were made Stokers second class and Arts students, Ordinary Seamen. I thus was made a Sto 2 and remained so until the end of the war, there being no promotions in the ranks of the wartime UNTD.

Our routine during the university year consisted of evening naval lectures in the Chemistry Building on Wednesdays and Fridays, and basic training at *HMCS York* (the CNE Automotive Building) on Saturday mornings. We did a lot of marching drills at the CNE, carrying wooden rifles, and I remember thinking that even in high school cadets, we had old WWI Ross rifles to drill with. We did, however, develop some pride of unit and the UNTD was cited as the sharpest of the three services at the U. of T. November 11 Remembrance Service. Our only active service consisted of two weeks each summer in 1944 and 1945 "somewhere on the East Coast".

In 1944 "somewhere on the East Coast" turned out to be *HMCS Stadacona* in Halifax, which we reached by CNR passenger train. We had tickets to exchange for meals in the diner, but had to sleep as best we could on the seats at night. Some of the boredom was relieved by calling out to Ray Corley, a railroad buff, the numbers of all the locomotives we met along the way. It was dark as the train approached Bedford Basin. Nobody believed Martin Shubik when he called out "K240" - a corvette. All the train windows were blacked out and suddenly the war seemed much closer, especially when we were allowed to turn off the lights and look out over the basin to see the dark forms of ships forming up for a convoy. The naval officer in charge told us in conspiratorial tones that the low hill visible on the other side of the basin was the location of the naval ammunition magazine.

We were transported from the railway station in the back of military transports and at *Stadacona* we were met by a gunner's mate and a stoker petty officer. The gunner formed up the OS platoon (Arts guys) and doubled them down to the barracks. The stoker just called out, "Stokers, follow me". The barracks room was large and filled with double bunks, most of which were already occupied. Since it was after "lights out", the room was lit only by dim red night-lights and I recall having difficulty finding my bunk again after a visit to the heads. We were roused in the morning by the banging of a steel pipe on the iron bunk frames, to the cry of, "Wakey wakey wakey. Rise and shine. Leggo your c---s and grab your socks. You've had your time, let me have mine."

The two weeks passed quickly, with introductory classes in propulsion, gunnery, radar and ASDIC. A tour of dockyard and a British submarine was followed with a day at sea on a Fairmile. Morning route marches through the streets of Halifax with the entire ship's company and the *Stadacona* Band, were frequent occurrences. I still feel like marching whenever I hear "Hearts of Oak".

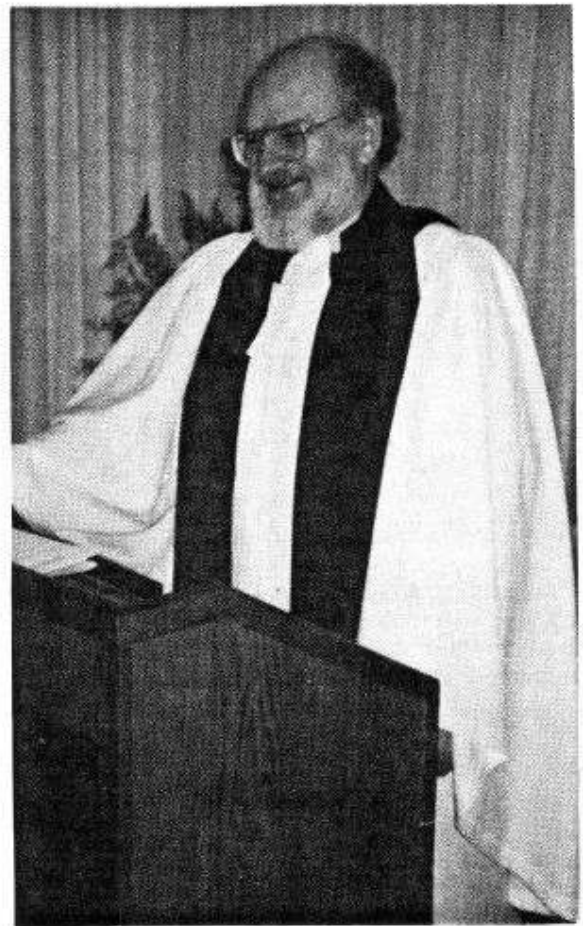
to be continued.....

*Warren D. Forrester
RR# 1 Hampton, ON. L0b 1J0*

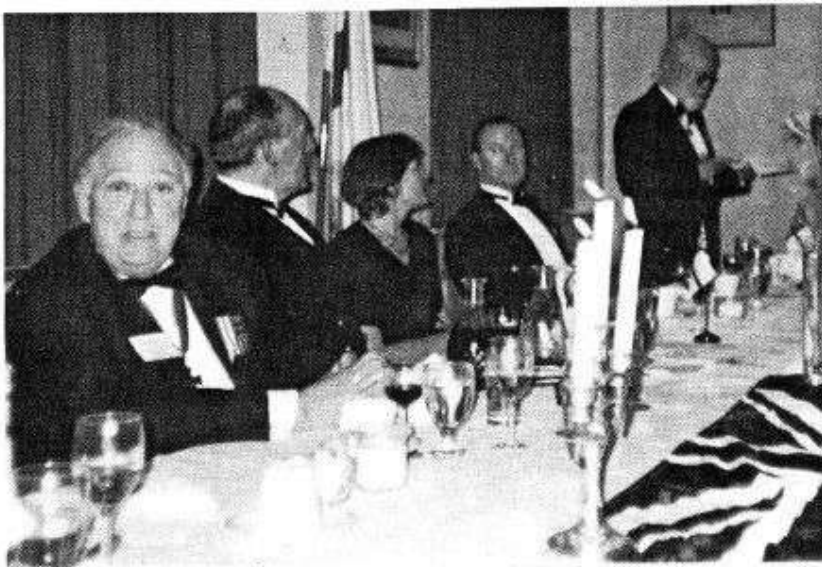
UNTD LONDON REUNION WEEKEND



Some of the men who made the reunion possible - left to right: Paul Earnshaw, Commanding Officer of HMCS Prevost; Wynn Downing, Prevost 61-4; Brian Kerman, Prevost 61-4; Chairman Peter Schwartz, Prevost 61-4.



Reverend Canon Bill Thomas, Western UNTD '59-63 conducted the Church Parade held on Sunday, April 21, in the beautiful setting of the London Club.



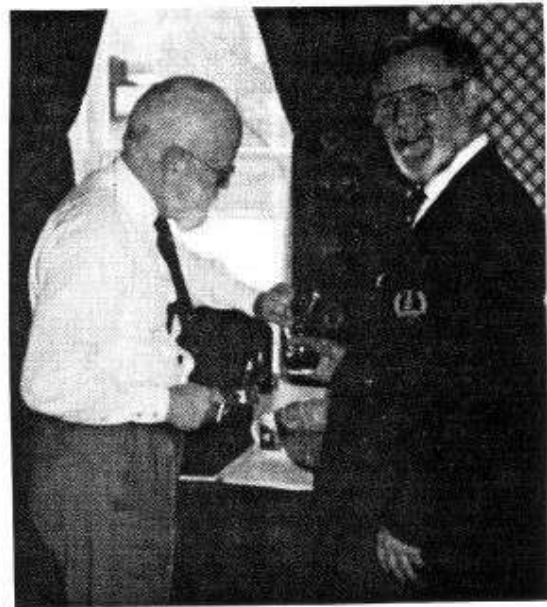
Seated at the head table for Dine the Ladies in the Wardroom of HMCS Prevost are: Guest Speaker, Rear-Admiral Tom Smith, CMM, CD, Windsor UNTD '49; Dinner President Andy Shaw, Queens UNTD 61-3; his Lady Lynn Waghorn; LCdr. Paul Earnshaw, RCN, CO HMCS Prevost, and Chairman of the Board Gil Hutton, McMaster UNTD '46-50 introducing the guest speaker.



Tom Smith was in rare form as he talked about the amazing accomplishments of a long litany of UNTD graduates. He felt we all can still make a difference in this period of Revisionist History, by speaking out against falsification to accommodate philosophies that intend to degrade the Canadian Armed Forces.



Wynn Downing, UNTD Western '61-4, wearing his thirty year old UNTD uniform like it was yesterday, presents a quart of pusser's rum and a UNTD tie to Guest Speaker Rear-Admiral Tom Smith.



Gil Hutton administers Up Spirits to Aubrey Millard, McMaster UNTD '57, with real pussers rum in a gil measure.



Dick Blodale, UNTD Western 58'-61 and wife Janice look very satisfied after the mess dinner which was catered by the London Club.



Joan and Ben Lamb with Jim Houston appear in the spirit of things after the mess dinner.



Enjoying the Up Spirits and Brunch at the London club are: Jackie Houston; Bob Williamson, McMaster

UNTD '58-62 and wife Eileen; Donna Loft (Ed File's wife) and Jim Houston, McMaster UNTD '47-50.

UNTD ASSOCIATION KINGSTON DINNER AND COMMISSIONING

DATE: Friday, 20 September 1996, 1900 for 1930
PLACE: University Club of Queen's University
168 Stuart Street, Kingston
COST: \$40.00 per person
DRESS: Blazer and flannels / Business suit with service tie
(Ladies - suitable equivalent)
MENU: Four course dinner including wine and port
Choice of Poached Salmon or Prime Rib of Beef
ACCOMMODATION:
Howard Johnson - \$99.00 per room.
10 Rooms blocked Fri. Sep. 20 ONLY

Holiday Inn - \$105.00 single, \$115.00 double
20 Rooms blocked Fri. Sep. 20
10 Rooms blocked Sat. Sep. 21
COMMISSIONING:
1330 Saturday, September 21 at Crawford Wharf
Adjacent to both hotels
RESERVATIONS:
Kingston area: Ed File (613) 396-1140
Toronto area: Terry Doran (416) 479-2636
Hamilton area: Gil Hutton (905) 544-2706

MCDV DAY SAILS, TOURS & RECEPTION

SCHEDULE FOR HMCS Kingston, HMCS Glace Bay, HMCS Anticosti

DAY SAILS:

Thursday Sep. 26 - Hamilton to Toronto 0800 - 1200
Friday Sep. 27 - two hour trips from Toronto 0900-1600
Saturday Sep 28 - two hour trips from Toronto 0900-1600
Sunday Sep. 29 - two hour trips from Toronto 0900-1600

RECEPTION:

Thursday, Sep. 26 at 1900

PRIVATE TOURS:

Monday, Sep. 30 - 0900 to 1000 and 1600 to 1730

FOR RESERVATIONS contact area representatives listed above.

IN MEMORIAM

CDR (E) HENRY V. ROSS 1912-96 known to hundreds of ex-UNTDs as Harry, died on Thursday, 22 August, 1996. Harry was the beloved commanding officer of the UNTD at the University of Toronto from 1951 to 1959. In civilian life he was a professor of metallurgy at the university. He was a guest of honour at the first UNTD Association of Upper Canada Mess Dinner in 1988 and has attended most of the Reunion Mess Dinners since then. In 1993, at the age of 81, he drove with me to Halifax to attend the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the UNTD.

He led a very active life and looked much younger than his advanced years. He was an active member of the NOAC, the Archaeological Society of America and edited the excellent newsletter of the United Empire Loyalists of Canada, Governor Simcoe Branch (Toronto).

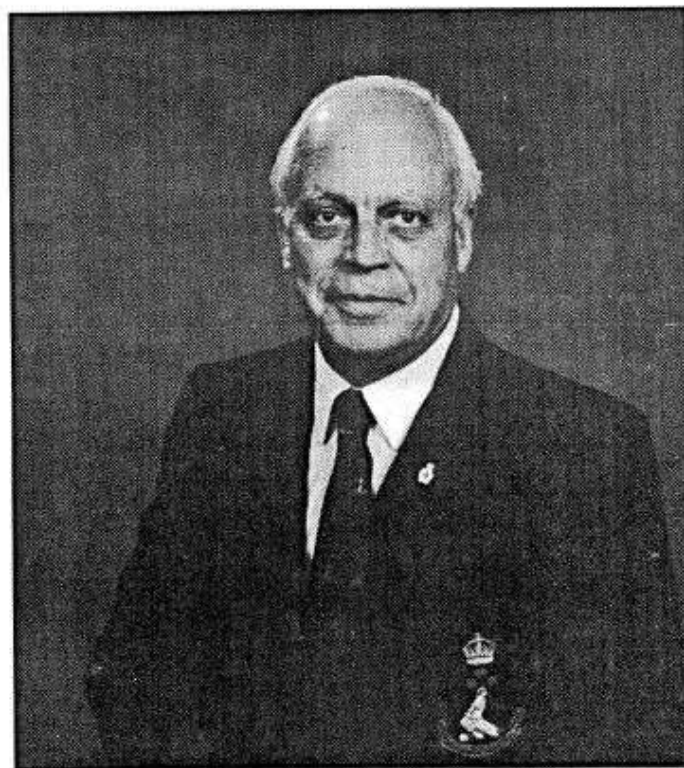
The story of how Harry managed to get on active service with the RCNVR in World War II is typical of this somewhat shy, quiet and very able man. Having graduated from Royal Military College in 1934, he held a commission in the Naval Reserve. In 1939, when he tried to go on active service, he was told that as a metallurgical engineer at Algoma Steel, he was in an essential civilian occupation. Harry became increasingly frustrated as all his friends went off to war. In 1943 he was at an engineering dinner in Ottawa where he met RADM Stephens, Chief Engineer of the RCN. When the admiral heard Harry's story, he promised to try and help. He telephoned Harry the next day and directed him to appear before a special board at NDHQ. The Board consisted of three admirals, including Percy Nelles, Chief of Naval Staff. After a short interview, a stunned Harry Ross was told that the navy needed him and the necessary strings would be pulled to send him to war. He spent over a year as the engineering officer of an escort vessel on convoy duty in the Atlantic.

Wherever Harry is now, we can be sure that he is quietly but purposefully busy with several interesting projects. The naval community and many others will miss him.

Gil Hutton



LCDR H.U. Ross, RCNVR
Executive Officer, UNTD,
University of Toronto, 1946



Harry Ross, U.E.L., Member,
Fort York Branch, Royal Canadian Legion;
The Old Brigade, Royal Military College.



This recent picture shows the tree lined site on Hamilton Harbour where *HMCS Star* once proudly stood for over fifty years. The grass verge and parked army vehicles outline the former drill deck. The dark patch to the right is where the wardroom and quarter deck once stood. However, a new *Star*, similar to the *HMCS Cataragui* design will rise on this site beginning with a special ceremony scheduled for 7:00 pm on Wednesday, September 25, 1996. To help celebrate this event, two new MCDVs; *HMCS Kingston* and *HMCS Glace Bay* along with Auxiliary Mine Sweeper, *HMCS Anticosti* will be alongside for your inspection. A reception will follow the ceremony. All former members of *Star* and the UNTD are welcome to attend to witness this turning of a new page in Hamilton's Naval Reserve history.

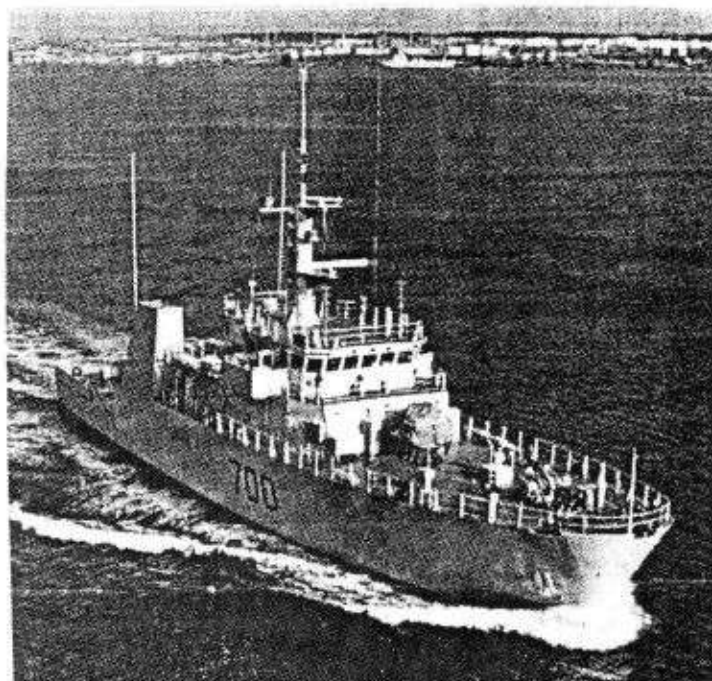
KINGSTON COMMISSIONING

HMCS Kingston, hull number 700, the first of the new Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels (MCDV) and name ship of the class will be commissioned in Kingston, Ontario on Saturday, 21 September, 1996 at 2:00 pm. In honour of this event, the UNTD Association of Upper Canada will hold a special reception and dinner for ex-UNTD and guests at the University Club of Queen's University on Friday evening, September 20, 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm; cost \$40.00. The actual commissioning will be observed at Crawford Wharf at 2:00 pm on Saturday. Confirmation of dinner attendance should be made with Ed File, RR #1 Marysville, ON. K0K 2N0. Phone (613) 396-1140. Accommodation should be arranged separately.

ANNUAL REUNION MESS DINNER

UNTD ASSOCIATION OF UPPER CANADA

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16, 1996



UNTIDY TALES

Hal Lawrence's story continued..

Third Instalment

COND, Hamilton, Ontario, 1953-54

In January of each year we set off on the annual selection boards for Probationary Cadets: there were three of us, Budge, a personnel officer and myself. The cadets were freshmen who had joined at the beginning of the academic year and so the Christmas examinations had already done some of the weeding for us. Together with the Local Commanding Officer and Staff Officer, we would weed out some more. But three-hundred across Canada would make it - out of four-hundred who were probationary - out of a thousand who applied to join. Those probationary cadets who were confirmed in rank by our Board where in high spirits, for ahead of them was summer training on the coast and a cruise to Hawaii or the British Isles, with \$180.00 a month - all found.

The first board was at Queen's University on board *HMCS Catarqui*. After we finished, we walked around the building. Budge turned it into an inspection, for it was a drill night and all hands were on board performing drills. Budgie's eyes glittered as he surveyed the scene and his poised expectancy was that of a shark seeing sprats. He could no more stay out of this than a dolphin could refuse to swim. He signalled with the communicators: he took over the drill of the gun's crew: he showed the seamanship class a bewildering series of knots tied with flashing dexterity: then he commandeered the parade square, streaming out objurations.

"The other left, the **other** left!" he roared at one cadet who wandered aimlessly by on a departure course from the rest of the squad.

"Over there." He wrenched the cadet around, gave him a whack on the rear end with the rifle butt and sent him jogging off in search of his lost place.

After Evening Quarters, on our way to the wardroom, we passed the cadets surging into the gunroom mess.

"Did you see that? He hit him in the ass with a rifle," one of them marvelled.

After Budge left for the hotel, I went into the gunroom to meet the cadets more informally. We quickly settled into rounds of drinking and singing where I passed on to these eager young officers some of our wartime songs such as *Wavy Navy* and the song of *Sioux's* wartime flotilla to the tune of *Lili Marlene*. Our repertoire soon deteriorated to a *Woodpecker's Hole*, where upon, to restore a modicum of decorum, I sang a solo tune of *Men of Harlech*. Those noisy youngsters finally delivered me to my hotel about one a.m.

A new cadet year was under way and the administrative drudgery that went with it. I spent much of the time in Hamilton slugging it out with the paperwork and to help with this, I was sent an angel from heaven, - Gloria. Sub-Lieutenant Gloria

Mauro, WRCNS: shorty, shapely, of Italian descent with hair of glinting black and tranquil hazel eyes that positively snapped when she was confronted with tardiness, carelessness, badly-typed letters, inaccurate lists and general inefficiency of anyone in the office including me. She had an enormous capacity for hard and painstaking work and an allegro approach to it. She thought the Day of the Reserves had come: she was a Woman with a Mission.

One of the criticisms of the UNTD was that it didn't provide any officers for the RCN, which was muddy thinking because it was intended to provide officers for the reserve and not the permanent force. And then there was the anomaly that when ex-UNTD sub-lieutenants did try to become permanent force, obstacles were put in their way. Permanent force officers were supposed to come from Royal Military College in Kingston, *HMCS Royal Roads* in Esquimalt and *College Militaire Royale de St. Jean*. But the military colleges were not doing the job that the government claimed for them. Cadets of the Service Colleges were only obliged to stay three years with the permanent force after graduation from a four-year course with all expenses paid plus a \$180.00 a month salary. After three years, on the day, most resigned.

Gloria and I began to notice that willy-nilly, a number of our UNTD cadets had found their way into the permanent force, and it seemed they intended to stay. This was a chosen career and not a means of getting a free education. We wrote a submission to Ottawa, for Admiral Adam's signature showing that there were sixty-one UNTD graduates now in the RCN. It was a good paper which showed the cost effectiveness of the UNTD and the great advantage of providing dedicated and trained officers for the RCN from the Reserves. We didn't get a reply.

to be continued...

SPINDRIFT UNTIDY TALES

Have you got your copy yet? Don't wait too long; it's a limited edition and may soon go out of print. This is a collector's item - a must for every UNTD alumni. Reserve your copy by sending \$15.00 + \$2.50 mailing payable to the Editor of the UNTD Newsletter. (See below)

UNTD NEWSLETTER

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 UNTDies to maintain their special status as Naval Persons.

Editor: Cdr. Robert Williamson,
1 Clonmore Ave. Hamilton, Ont. L9A 4R2.
Letters, anecdotes, & jokes are welcome.