

Scuttlebutt

Crow's Nest Officers' Club

December 2007

Club Marks Anniversary Sinking of HMCS/M U-190

by Gary Green

Trafalgar Day, October 21, 2007, marked the 60th anniversary of the sinking of the Canadian submarine HMCS/M U-190 (ex U-190 of the German Navy). As the 190's sky periscope, one of only five such U-boat periscopes known to exist, occupies the corner left of the bar, the Club decided to team up with the Artifacts Association to create a three-day event to mark the occasion.

The classic U-boat movie 'Das Boot' was shown on Wednesday evening. On Friday evening there was a special Weepers with the showing of the new NFB documentary on the U-190. Our traditional Oktoberfest buffet was held on Saturday evening. Music was provided by member Bob Rutherford and his band led by Art Stoyles. After dinner, remarks were made by club members Norm MacFie, who toured HMCS/M U-190 when she was in port in Nova Scotia, and Bob Innes, who saw U-190 in Bay Bulls just after she surrendered. Both men had photographs which were taken at the time. Great to hear first-hand accounts of this historic vessel.

Special attendees for the events were Admiral Daniel Mainguy and his sister Barbara, children of our founder Admiral R. Mainguy. It was Barbara's first trip back since the war. It was a real pleasure to have them with us.

The Artifacts Association arranged to have a number of U-190 artifacts on loan and from its own collection on display. With permission



Admiral David Mainguy and his sister Barbara, children of Club founder Admiral R. Mainguy, attended the U-190 commemorative events in October.

from the National War Museum, it also had Tom Wood's painting of the surrender in Bay Bulls reproduced and

framed. It now hangs on the wall in the dining room.

cont'd on p. 2

Christmas Message from the President

2007 rolls rapidly to its inevitable conclusion with a New Year's Eve dinner party at the Crow's Nest. I hear that it's already getting booked up, so don't delay if you want to attend.

I am particularly pleased that more members are enjoying visiting the Club, a trend I hope will continue into the New Year. Your Board of Directors has worked hard to bring a more inclusive style to the Crow's Nest, and 2008 will have even more

themed dinners and events to stimulate and entertain members and their guests.

Please accept my sincere good wishes for a meaningful Christmas and a happy New Year, as we look forward to the future with enthusiasm and confidence.

Yours Aye,
John Moyes
President



Anniversary of HMCS/M U-190 Sinking Marked

cont'd from p. 1

The following is a brief history of the vessel taken from the Oktoberfest dinner menu.

For a U-boat, the U-190 had a relatively long and uneventful career as part of the Kriegsmarine, coming to fame only in the very last days of the war. U-190, a Type IXC/40, was laid down by AG Weser, in Bremen on October 7, 1941 and launched on June 3, 1942. Commissioned on September 24, 1942, she was attached to 4 Flottille for training until late February, 1943. On March 1, she was designated as a front boat and moved to 2 Flottille until the end of September, 1944 at which time she was reassigned to 33 Flottille.

U-190 had six operational patrols. The first five were under the command of Kapitanleutnant Max Wintermeyer during which time she sank only one merchant ship, the Empire Lakeland on March 8, 1943. Her last patrol was under Oberleutenant zur See Hans-Edwin Reith who took command on July 6, 1944. On February 22, 1945 the U-190, armed with 14 torpedoes, left Norway to harass shipping off Halifax and Sable Island.

On the morning of April 16, she

was submerged off the Sambro light ship when the crew became aware that they had been detected by the ASDIC of a surface vessel. While the *HMCS Esquimalt* had indeed detected the U-boat, her crew had not noticed the signal and had passed on by. Then, for some reason she changed course and headed directly for the U-190's periscope. Sure that they were under attack, the U-190's crew fired a torpedo at the minesweeper.

Esquimalt was not observing standard evasion protocol in that she was not trailing her torpedo deflection gear (CAT) nor was she zig-zagging. The torpedo hit the starboard side and *Esquimalt* was on the bottom in less than four minutes.

It was some time before the other vessels on patrol realized that *Esquimalt* was not among them and started the search for her. Herb Roberts, a recent visitor to the Nest, was a radio operator on *HMCS Burlington*, which was running a course parallel to *Esquimalt's*. He recalled that he made numerous attempts to contact *Esquimalt* without success. Though only four crew members went down with the ship, many others perished in the cold water

in the eight hours before *HMCS Sarnia* located the survivors.

U-190 successfully evaded capture and went on to patrol off the coast of Newfoundland. Submerged there on May 1, Germany's national holiday, they kitted out in their formal mess rig and celebrated with food, copious amounts of alcohol and song. They patrolled the general area until war's end. On May 11, they surfaced and began to throw secret materials overboard as well as ammunition and torpedoes. With its black flag flying, U-190 surrendered to RCN vessels off Cape Race on May 12. On May 14 the U-190, now flying the White Ensign, and her escorts arrived in Bay Bulls.

After the war, U-190 was commissioned into the RCN as HMCS/M U-190 and spent the summer of 1945 on a tour of ports in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and along the St. Lawrence River. She served as a training vessel until she was decommissioned on July 24, 1947. Stripped of her equipment and painted with bright red and yellow horizontal stripes, she was towed to the site of *Esquimalt's* sinking and there sunk by Canadian air and naval forces on Trafalgar Day, October, 21, 1947.



Spikenard

“Please raise a glass to Bert and my father...”

The following letter and photo were recently received at the Club:

“I want to thank all those who put together the very interesting papers, pictures, etc. that were sent to me. I really enjoyed reading about your Club and the paper Scuttlebutt.

I am enclosing a photo taken of Uncle Bert and my cousin Wallace Shadforth, aboard the *Spikenard*. I believe it was taken in Iceland. My cousin was either on his way to Canada to teach fliers or was on his way home. He went down with his plane over Germany and was buried there.

Thank you again for your very kind work in sending me news from the Crow’s Nest. Enclosed is a cheque for use as best seen. Please raise a glass to Bert and my father, Lt. Percy Shadforth, RNR.

Sincerely,
Ella Shadforth,
Victoria, BC



Lt. Commander Bert Shadforth (L) and his nephew Wallace pictured on board *Spikenard* at Iceland. The corvette was torpedoed on February 10, 1942, with the loss of Shadforth and most of his crew.

Busy Fall at the Crow’s Nest

The club held a number of well-attended events during the fall. The Merchant Navy Dinner featuring food from the British Merchant Navy’s wartime cookbook was great. Dinner was followed by a few reminiscences by Capt. Jack Strong who was a young deckhand during the war.

Trafalgar Day, October 21, marked the 60th anniversary of the sinking of HMCS/M U-190, formerly U-190 of the German Navy. The club paired with the Artifacts Association to produce a set of activities through the week, including two movies, a special Weepers, and to end it all an Oktoberfest buffet with German music. After dinner club members Norm MacFie and Bob Innes told of their personal experiences with the vessel.

Remembrance weekend was very busy. There was a lunch with Cmdr. Rob Clark, CO of CFS St. John’s, and Cpl. Roland McCarthy, an Afghanistan veteran. The men gave a presentation and answered many questions from the audience. It gave us all a new appreciation for the numerous and varied jobs our troops are doing over there. A special Weepers was held that evening.

Our annual Remembrance dinner was held on Saturday with several WWII veterans in attendance. Mary Barry led the crowd in a singalong featuring some wartime tunes. The traditional soup reception after the Remembrance Service on Sunday was greatly appreciated as the weather was cold and wet. The Nest

was full and patrons enjoyed the fancy finger work of Bob Innes on the piano as they gathered around the fireplace.

The holiday season is looking very busy with several special Weepers, Christmas dinner, New Year’s Eve dinner and levee on the books.

We have some special events lined up for the winter which we hope you will find to your liking. We are always looking for event ideas so if you have something you would like us to try, just let us know.

Gary Green
Vice-President

A Letter from Germany

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Coming home from sea and being back in the navy on active duty, I want to send my regards to all of you. Unfortunately I have never had the chance to visit the Crow's Nest, but I hope it will happen soon.

Visiting the port of Vancouver with my last ship in the spring of this year, I met my old friend Capt. John Turner, who serves as a BC pilot, and he presented me with a copy of "A Safe Haven", the history of the Crow's Nest. I did read it during a long Pacific crossing, and I want to express my special thanks.

It is the way you wrote about your (ex-) enemy that impresses me

very much. I don't know of much literature about both wars where the beaten men of the Kriegsmarine were treated in such a fair manner. This is shown best when you published the article of Lt. Werner Hirschmann of U190 in his words and in the way he wrote it, therefore speaking not only for his ex-crew, but for many other German soldiers.

But it's not only his article; it's the whole book where the reader finds a kind of a "red-fathom" throughout all chapters, expressing a way of gentleman-like fairness for the enemy (in some of the most cruel battles of the world wars). I was born more than 10 years after the end of WWII; it was the war of my father and my grandfathers.



But my thanks and respect for what can be read between the lines of your book is also theirs.

My yearly 4 months (as "Captain D" as you would call it) in the German Destroyer Flotilla will end next week. In January I will be back on the ships of the merchant fleet for another six months at sea, hopefully giving me the chance to visit St. John's and the Crow's Nest... and to master all its steps!

Sincerely yours,
Thomas Johannsen, Captain
German Navy (Reserve)

Welcome Aboard to Our New Crows

In Town:

John Phillips
Violet Kerr
Cpl. Chris Walsh
Jaime Stockton
Paul McDonald
Chris Reid
Dr. Crispin Russell
David Cumming
Sharon Hunt
Toby Simpson
Tony Patterson
Robert Giannou
Daniel Rubin

Out of Town:

Robyn Pyne, Plymouth, UK
Capt(N) (Ret'd) Ray Phillips, RCN,
Ottawa, ON
David Latta, Bon Accord, AB
Quita (Mainguy) Longmore, Lady-
smith, BC
Avril & Andy Gemmell, Niagara-on-
the-Lake, ON
James King, Toronto, ON

James Carey, USMC Ret'd, Blue Hill,
Maine
Derek Magnusson, CCG, Campbell
River, BC
Terry Dwyer, Wellington, NS
Tim Hudson, Memphis, Tennessee
Mongo Marich, USMC Ret'd,
Sarasota, Florida
Pierre Despres, Haileybury, ON
William Bishop, London, UK
David Cook, Clarendville, NL
James Webber, CCG, Lake Charlotte,
NS
Daniel Reinbold, Grande Prairie, AB
Sean O'Neill, Grande Prairie, AB
David M. Brown, Etobicoke, ON
Herb Roberts, Sidney, BC
Dermot Feore, Grand Falls-Windsor,
NL



E-Mail Notices to Members

Our email reminders of upcoming events have proven a popular way to keep members informed. If you wish to be added to it, simply send the Club an email with/from your preferred "e" address. To keep administration simple, please limit yourself to one email address per member. It doesn't matter if it is yours or your spouse's.

A number of out-of-town members have joined this list as well. Some travel to St. John's regularly while others just like to keep current on Club activities. We have been tardy in putting Scuttlebutt on-line, and although the Board is not of the computer generation, we are getting there. Most of our members can likely relate to our technologically challenged situation!

The First Gunshield on the Wall? by Gary Green

There is some debate as to which gunshield was first on the wall - *Wetaskiwin* or *Trillium*. Given that *Trillium* is larger than the space allotted by Captain(D) Mainguy (two feet by two feet) it is likely that it was up before *Wetaskiwin*, which is closer to the limits.

Not long ago we received an email from David Mofford, son of Larry Mofford, the artist who painted *Trillium's* famous duck. In exchange for a current photo of the gunshield he sent us his father's biography and the accompanying photos of his father painting the gunshield. It is a rare glance at the original work as well as the artist. To the best of my knowledge, this is the only gunshield for which we have such detailed information.

Lt.(N) Larry Mofford was one of the "90 day wonders", raw recruits who were fast tracked to officer positions. He trained as a navigator and served aboard HMC Ships *Trillium*, *Outremont*, and *LaPas*. He stayed on in the Navy after the war and eventually retired with the rank of Commander.

Artist Lt(N) Larry Mofford paints the *Trillium* gunshield (L).



The *Trillium* gunshield may have been the first on the walls of the Crow's Nest.

Veteran of *Matapedia* and *Burlington* Visits Club

by Gary Green

During the late summer Herb Roberts, radio operator on HMC Ships *Matapedia* and *Burlington* visited the Nest. He was aboard for the most famous trips of both vessels.

Matapedia, then a member of the Newfoundland Escort Force, left Halifax in December of 1941 to escort a convoy to Iceland. A new radar operator joined the ship and only minutes into his first sea trip became violently seasick. He remained that way all the way to Iceland. The skipper was very worried that he would not survive the voyage. Upon arrival, the young matelot was taken to the depot ship housing the medical officers where after a brief stay he was pronounced fit for duty and sent back to the ship. The skipper was reluctant to have him aboard but could do nothing about it.

On the return trip the ship ran into a fierce storm and *Matapedia* suffered serious damage. The radar operator spent most of his time lying on the deck of the radio shack which he shared with Herb, clutching his bucket. Safe in Halifax, the skipper discussed the poor sailor with the medical officers. They refused to believe that the sailor was so sick. The skipper took his concerns all the way to the top and eventually an admiral agreed to send some medical officers for a cruise along the coast on a stormy day. The effect on the landlubbers was predictable and by the time they got back to port they were drawing up plans for an investigation into possible cures for the debilitating condition. A team of doctors, including neurosurgeon Dr. Wilder Penfield and Dr. C.H. Best of insulin fame, worked for over a year to develop a pill known as P-2-183 - the anti-seasickness pill.

Burlington was on patrol with HMCS *Esquimalt* on the fateful day of April 17, 1945 when U-190 sent *Esquimalt* to the bottom in less than

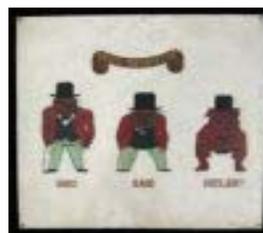


Herb Roberts and Vice-President Gary Green. *Matapedia's* gunshield can be seen over Mr. Roberts' shoulder.

four minutes. For a period of time no one missed the minesweeper but once reported missing the rest of the vessels started an intense search. Herb remembers spending hours at the radio trying to make contact. He kept his log from the *Burlington* but unfortunately during a relatively recent house move the document went missing.

During his visit, he made several visits to the Nest. Not being an

officer in the war, it was his first opportunity to climb the 59 steps. He was delighted to see *Matapedia's* gunshield and *Burlington's* badge on the wall. Herb was also kind enough to give an hour and a half interview which was video recorded for the Artifacts Association. Portions of the interview will be used in Artifacts web projects.



614 Artifacts Posted to Canadian Heritage Website

by Greg Twinning

Our CNMAA project to post the inventory of Crow's Nest artifacts on the Canadian Heritage website progresses. We now have 614 artifacts posted on the CHIN network. Progress is being made scheduling and conducting interviews for our community memories virtual tour. Jacquy Ryan and Gary Green are taking the lead on this and we have high hopes for a very successful project. If anyone knows of a naval veteran or merchant seaman veteran who has interesting stories involving the Port of St. John's and the Battle of the Atlantic, please get in touch with Jacquy at 754-7601. We know that she would love to talk to you.

On the weekend of 19-20 Oct., the Crow's Nest remembered the *HMCS U190*. Artifacts Association, with the permission of the Canadian War Museum, has posted a copy of the Thomas Wood painting "German Prisoners Leaving Their U Boat - Bay Bulls". This actual size reproduction now hangs in the dining room. Also during that weekend commemorating the sinking of *HMCS U190*, we were fortunate enough to have loan of an engine room working document used by the German engine room staff of the *U190*. This document was on display in the cabinet in the dining room and our thanks to Mr. Tom Prim for the loan.

Our latest acquisition from the War Museum is a disc copy of the Geoffrey Bagley painting "*HMCS Wentworth* Arriving". This is a striking "bow on" scene of the ship arriving in St. Johns Harbour with Signal Hill in the background. More to come on this item.

CNMAA is mounting the bell from *HMS Tracker* in the dining room to mirror the east wall beam which has a bell mounted over a ship's wheel. CNMAA member and Master Model

Maker Steve Foster is leading this project, along with the task of mounting two large metal Canadian ships' funnel maple leaves on our outside walls immediately to the right of the kitchen door. The appropriate plaques will eventually be mounted with these large maple leaves.

Artifacts donated since the last Scuttlebutt are as follows:

- Barber Pole Brigade, Barber Pole Plaque - *HMCS Wetaskiwin*
From Graham Skanes (We now have 4 of a possible 6 !)

- Framed RCN embroidered pillow case, WWII ship's hammock, naval blank
From Donald Soulsby.

Treasurer's Report

by LCdr Margaret Morris

The Club continues to be busy with both members' events and private functions. The Club has also received good promotion with the recent "Open Doors" weekend and several more magazine articles. One is by our Vice-President, Gary Green, and appears in the most recent edition of the Newfoundland Quarterly. The other is by Sharon Hunt (now a new member) and will be published soon in "Saltscapes." All of this publicity may be responsible for the influx of new members! If you see new faces at the bar, don't hesitate to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome. Membership dues continue to be our main source of revenue so a strong, active membership is important.

The year 2010 will mark the

100th anniversary of the forming of the Canadian Navy and planning has already started on some events to mark this special occasion. *HMCS CABOT* is taking the lead and recently conducted a co-ordination meeting. Besides the Club, our Military Artifacts Association and the Naval Officers' Association (NL), there was also representation from the city of St. John's, The Rooms, Heritage Canada, the provincial government, Admiralty House, the Navy League, the Naval Association and the Royal Canadian Legion. Lots of great ideas were discussed and now there's lots of work to do.

Enjoy the holiday season!
Have a safe and happy Christmas. See you at the Club.



Scuttlebutt

Crow's Nest Officers' Club
P. O. Box 23161
Churchill Square
St. John's, NL
Canada A1B 4J9

Editor: Derek Yetman

Phone (709) 753-6927

E-mail: crowsnoc@nf.aibn.com

Website: www.crowsnestnf.ca

Club Dinner Schedule - January to April 2008

Friday, January 25th, 2008

Weepers with Complimentary Hor's D'oeuvres

Saturday, January 26th, 2008

Club 66th Anniversary Dinner

Tiger Shrimp Cocktail
Roasted Duck with a Peppered Red Wine Reduction and Winter Vegetables
Lemon Mousse

Friday, February 8th, 2008

Weepers with Complimentary Hor's D'oeuvres

Saturday, February 9th, 2008

Spikenard Remembrance Dinner

Spinach Salad
Beef Ragout with a Puff Pastry Cap or
Pan Fried Cod with Scrunchions or
Traditional Stuffed Chicken
New York Cheesecake

Saturday, February 23rd, 2008

Curry Buffet

A variety of dishes prepared with curry to offer very discerning tastes.

There should be something for everyone.

\$24.95

Friday, February 29th, 2008

Weepers with Complimentary Hor's D'oeuvres

Proper dress is required at all Club Dinners.

Saturday, March 15th, 2008

St. Patricks Day Dinner

Potato and Bacon Chowder
Irish Beef Stew
Bread and Butter Pudding

Friday, March 28th, 2008

Weepers with Complimentary Hor's D'oeuvres

Saturday, March 29th, 2008

Lamb Dinner

Caesar Salad
Lamb Dinner
Apple Dumpling

Saturday, April 12th, 2008

Titanic Themed Dinner

Potato and Leek Soup
Mixed Salad with Citrus Marinated Shrimp
Roasted Striploin with a Cognac and Mustard Sauce
Creme Brulee
\$ 35.50

Friday, April 25th, 2008

Weepers with Complimentary Hor's D'oeuvres

Saturday, April 26th, 2008

Flipper Dinner

Smoked Salmon Rosettes with Herbed Cream Cheese
Flipper Dinner
Fresh Fruit Crepe