



Scuttlebutt

Crow's Nest Officers' Club

September, 2013

Captain (D)'s Cocktail Party?

By Paul W Collins, PhD

I am sure, by now, many members of the Crow's Nest Officers' Club have heard that there is a movement afoot to rename our regular, end of the month, Weepers (a postwar RCN/Halifax tradition) as "Captain (D)'s Cocktail Party." As I am the troublemaker who first floated this idea, Lt-Comdr. Morris asked me to explain my proposal to the membership for consideration.

As we all know, the Royal Canadian Navy established HMCS *Avalon* here in St. John's in mid-1941 to facilitate the escort of the vital trans-Atlantic convoys from North America to Britain. On 8 November 1941, Captain Edmund Rollo Mainguy RCN assumed his appointment at St. John's as Captain (D) [for Destroyers], the officer directly responsible for the ships of the Newfoundland Escort Force (NEF). Mainguy has often been described as a "sailor's sailor" and, in fact, scored the RCN's first U-boat kill in 1940 as captain of HMCS *Ottawa*, although he was not credited until 47 years later.

As Captain (D), Mainguy was very concerned about the wellbeing of his men, especially his sea-going officers, many of whom were barely out of their

teens. He felt it was very important that these young officers met and got to know their on-shore counterparts, who directed their movements, repaired and re-supplied their ships, took care of their crews, and generally helped them do the job at hand, namely force the convoys through to the UK. Mainguy also knew that the opposite was true. As a career naval officer, he was well aware that shore staff often viewed the men at sea as an inconvenience rather than their *raison d'être*. Captain Mainguy wanted the base officers to know their contemporaries at sea were not just so many pieces on a giant chessboard but real people in great danger and doing a very difficult job. To this end, he sent a memorandum to the shore staff at St. John's reminding them that their sole purpose was to serve the forces afloat, not vice versa, and in late 1941, Mainguy hosted the first Captain (D)'s Cocktail Party.

From what I understand, Captain (D)'s Cocktail Party was initially held Saturday afternoons at the Newfoundland Hotel, whose top two floors housed the various offices of the Newfoundland Escort Force

Command. All naval officers were not only invited, but expected to attend! A \$1 cover charge was exacted from the invited, lady guests being exempt (one would assume "as long as they [didn't] clutter up the bar!"). By the summer of 1942, the event was moved to the newly completed Fort William Officers' Mess across from Devon Row and changed to every Friday evening. As the Mess was very close to the Crow's Nest, which you know, Mainguy founded in January 1942, Captain (D)'s Cocktail Party was usually just the start of the night's festivities. There is no doubt in my mind that these weekly socials with his young officers fermented Mainguy's founding of the Crow's Nest. Until the opening of the Fort William Officer's Mess, these officers really had no other place of their own to blow off steam out of sight of their crews.

Continued on next page.

Captain (D)'s Cocktail Party? Continued

As far as I can tell, Captain (D)'s Cocktail Party carried on to the end of the war. And so it remained lost to history, until a small number of us resurrected the idea earlier this year. It is a uniquely Newfoundland Escort Force/ Mid-Ocean Escort Force tradition, closely tied to the Crows' Nest, and so we thought it might be more in keeping with the Club's historic character to change Weepers to Captain (D)'s Cocktail Party. We could even

appoint a ceremonial "Captain (D)" to host each month (I'm sure we could twist John Moyes' arm to take first shift!) and, maybe, start our own tradition of "the passing of Captain (D)'s hat" (using one of the RCN officer's hats at the bar). In this same vein, we could possibly re-instate the \$1 (voluntary) cover charge with proceeds going towards Club and/or artifacts preservation.

I rest my case.

Editor's Note: *The Scuttlebutt* welcomes your response to this proposal. Our contact information is on page 4. Submissions may be edited for length.

President's Message

by Tony Dearness

The Crow's Nest welcomes members and visitors to its precincts in St. John's, but we also have a presence in the wider world.

Last May, we received a photograph of one of our members, Michael Fabricant, a UK Member of Parliament, sporting a Crow's Nest tie in the House of Commons. This was another reminder of the widespread interest in maintaining the Club and its historical significance.

We have a membership of approximately 600, of whom 225 are In-Town, 10 in the rest of Newfoundland and Labrador, 325

(members and naval units) throughout the rest of Canada, and 40 outside of Canada. And they are known to travel.

Visitors and correspondents mention finding out about the Club on our website www.crowsnestnl.ca, or from family members, or as a recommendation "to visit when you're in St. John's." Members and visitors often buy a souvenir of the Club—most likely a tie or a ball cap.

So here's a challenge for the coming year: where in the world have Crow's Nest souvenirs been worn and displayed? Send in a picture to the Club to

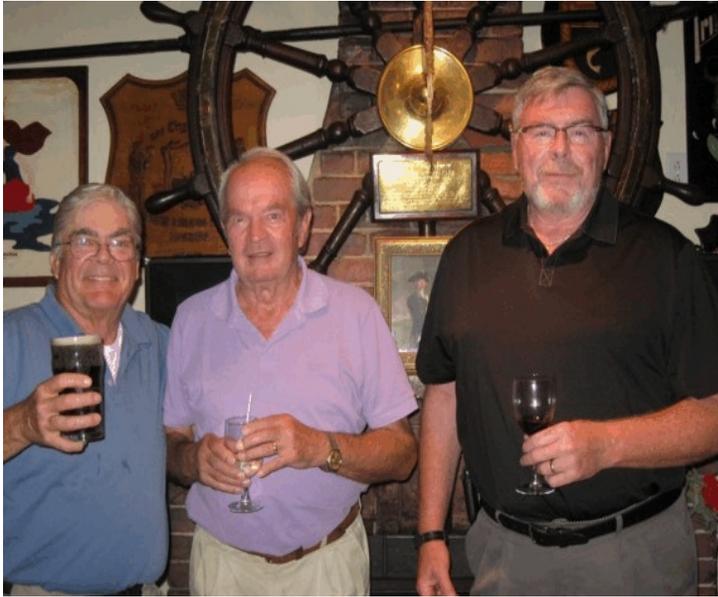
crowsnoc@nf.aibn.com showing a member or anyone wearing an item with the Crow's Nest name or logo, tell us where the picture was taken, who's in it and, if you like, who took the photo. We will create a bulletin board collage of your photos, publish some in *The Scuttlebutt*, and we'll pick one and award a prize—your choice of one of our souvenir items.

Remember the worth of a picture.



Club member Michael Fabricant, Member of Parliament for Lichfield in Staffordshire, UK and Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party, proudly wears his Crow's Nest tie in the House of Commons.

Where has your Crow's Nest souvenir been? Send us your photo for the chance to win a fabulous Club souvenir.



Left to Right: Major (retired) Cash Poulson, Major (retired) Cec Lockhard and Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) Mike Murphy.

Welcome Aboard

In Town:

Ed Nielsen
 Andrew Collins
 Daniel Rees
 Jim Rendell
 Derm Antle
 Len Pecore

Out of Town:

Niels Nielsen, Oakville, ON
 Shirley Reid, Hillview, NL
 Conrad Duncan, Vancouver, BC
 Jennifer Terris, Ottawa, ON
 Jamie Spotswood, Toronto, ON
 James Simms, Kingston, ON
 Joan Terris, Kars, ON

Three Fighter Pilots Visit the Club

On a recent visit to St. John's, three retired RCAF Fighter Pilots asked permission to come aboard the Crow's Nest. All three flew the 104 Star Fighter aircraft during the Cold war in Germany as members of the 421 Red Indian Squadron. Major (retired) Cash Poulson went on to the CF 18 as an original cadre pilot and returned to Baden- Soellingen as the Wing Flight Safety Officer and the senior maintenance test pilot for 4 Wing. He retired in 1996. Major (retired) Cec Lockhard joined the RCAF in 1957. He instructed on the Harvard, Tutor, Musketeer and the Jet Provost (UK). He spent 20 years of his 37 years in the RCAF in Europe, including tours on the CF 100, CF 104, and exchange tours with the RAF and the GAF, accumulating over 6,000 flying hours on single engine aircraft. Most memorable

moment--landing a Tutor at Gimli after an engine failure. Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) Murphy spanned almost 35 years during his military career and 5,000 hours flying time. He also had assignments of including two tours of duty with the CF Snowbirds (CO and team lead in 1981-1982), command of 414 EW Squadron North Bay, Ontario, 434 Combat Support Squadron in Shearwater NS, as well as the 120 person Canadian contingent to OP Provide Comfort in 1991 (Kurdish relief effort in southern Turkey). In 1996-1999 he was the Canadian Forces Advisor in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with cross-accreditation to Brunel, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

These three former fighter pilots enjoyed their short visit to the Crow's Nest. Upon leaving, some mistakenly entered and used

the Lady's Heads, causing our guide, Elaine Hann, to remark that the printing on the Head doors must be enlarged for the benefit of short-sighted Aircrew!

Passers-by on the street below must have thought that the wives of these three were inebriated far in excess of the walking limit, judging from their riotous laughter as they descended the famous 59 steps.

Thank you for your granting permission to come aboard - we had a wonderful time.

Cash and Claire Poulson, Cec and Lo Lockhard and Mike and Mary-Jean Murphy

Artifacts Association Bits and Pieces

By David Moores

A Step Backward, For Now

Regulars to the club may have noticed a disheartening trend: the beam nearest the window has been shedding its artifacts again. Yes, having gone to so much trouble to replace everything after the renovations, we were forced to denude part of it in preparation for more renovations. About 40 plaques, plus the much-beloved barber poles, are back in storage until the cracks in the beam are fully repaired.

Not to worry: it will all be back in place as soon as the renovations are finished and we can put together a work party.

Doors Open Days

We opened the doors and in the folks came. Saturday and Sunday, September 7th and 8th, were Doors Open Days in St. John's

and once again the Crow's Nest participated. Volunteers offered impromptu tours to, as far as we can estimate, over 200 people over the two days. Some visitors confessed to a lifelong curiosity about the place, and others were swept away by the sense of history. A couple filled out membership forms. And of course there were many, many pictures taken.

Many thanks to all volunteers who gave up part of their weekends. Special thanks to Jim Flynn for taking care of the signs. And apologies for the crossed communications that kept a couple of volunteers from participating.

Still Waiting

We know you're out there: all you folks with stories to tell or

memories to share about the Crow's Nest. We want you: we want you to write them down, or to tell us out loud, or pass on names of people with stories of how it used to be, or how it is today, or who has passed through. We'll put them in the updated Safe Haven, due out next year.

Get in touch with the club, or contact one of the committee members: Tony Dearness, Gary Green, Paul Collins or me, David Moores. My e-mail address is [davemoores27 @ gmail.com](mailto:davemoores27@gmail.com)
September 24, 2013

Treasurer's Report

by Margaret Morris Lcdr

In past years, invoices were sent out with a membership card for the upcoming year with hopes that all would be renewing. This year, most renewal invoices were sent via email rather than post. Those who paid promptly received their membership card with their summer issue of Scuttlebutt. Those who have paid up since the summer issue should be receiving a membership card with this issue. For those who are still in arrears, a final reminder will be sent out by the end of September.

Further to my report in the last issue, the invoicing this year was difficult with

computer and software problems.

If you have paid and have not received your card, please advise me via the Club's email. I'll sort it out as quickly as I can.

A fine fall program of events lies ahead! I look forward to seeing you at the Club soon.



The Crows Nest Officers' Club

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Who Uses the Club? Part One

The St. John's Storytelling Circle

By Janet McNaughton

Stepping into the Crow's Nest is like stepping into the past, and stories are an important way to keep the past alive, so the Club seems like the perfect fit to host the monthly gatherings of St. John's Storytelling Circle. This non-profit, volunteer-run group has been active since 2004, with the aim of promoting storytelling as living tradition in Newfoundland and Labrador. They also run workshops for

students and teachers, periodically tour schools in the province and organize the St. John's Storytelling Festival, which brings enthusiasts from far and wide.

The Circle meets to share stories with all interested listeners at the Club on the second Thursday of each month, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm (some-times longer when storytelling spirits are particularly high). There's a

\$3 admission charge. A featured story teller starts off with a tale or two, then anyone who feels moved to take the stage is free to spin a yarn.

This is the first in a series about the many groups that help to make the Crow's Nest such a vibrant part of our community.

The Corner Brook Patrol Force

by John M. MacFarlane



Lieutenant Francis P. Silver RCNVR and his son in naval uniform.
(Corner Brook Museum and Archives, used with permission.)



Members of the Corner Brook Home Guard Unit, 1944. Front left to right: George Duncan, Neil Patrick, Burt Butler, Walter Balfour, Charlie Ballam, Ches Randell, Sub-Lieutenant Arthur Stansfield RCNVR. Back left to right: Sam Blair, Bert Noseworthy, Bill Herdman, Gerald Penny, Harry Oxford, Cec Bradbury.
(Corner Brook Museum and Archives, used with permission.)

Article begins on page 6.

The Corner Brook Patrol Force continued from page 5

In 1942, some managers in Bowater's Newfoundland Pulp & Paper Mills Ltd. were looking for a way to serve in the war effort, and to provide some form of protection for the Bay of Islands region. The Vice-President and General Manager of the Company organized the force and lobbied the Canadian Government for official recognition. He formed the Bay of Islands Patrol, a uniformed naval force. They were recognized and appointed as unpaid honorary members of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR). It should be remembered that Newfoundland was not at that time a part of Canada, but there was a strong Canadian naval presence on the island and a significant base in St. John's, HMCS Avalon. This force was demobilized near the end of the War. The Commanding Officer, Spencer Lewin, was awarded the CBE for his efforts.

The name of the unit is variously reported as the Corner Brook Patrol and the Bay of Islands Patrol Force. The officers on its staff were:

Batten, Herman – Lieutenant (Bay of Islands Patrol Force) (RCNVR)

Campbell, Victor Lindsey Arbuthnot OBE; DSO & Bar; Polar Medal; M.I.D. – Captain (RN)

Crosbie, C.A. – Lieutenant (Bay of Islands Patrol Force) (RCNVR)

Lang, L. – Lieutenant (Bay of Islands Patrol Force) (RCNVR)

Lewin, H.H. Spencer CBE – Lieutenant-Commander (Bay of Islands Patrol Force) (RCNVR)

Reid, L.L. – Lieutenant (Bay of

Islands Patrol Force) (RCNVR)
Silver, Francis Paul – Lieutenant (Bay of Islands Patrol Force) (RCNVR)

Stansfield, Arthur R. – Sub-Lieutenant (Bay of Islands Patrol Force) (RCNVR)

Mr. L.L. Reid went on to become a senior manager in Bowater's postwar Newfoundland Pulp & Paper Mills Ltd. Herman Batten went on to become a Liberal Member of Parliament from Newfoundland from 1957–1968. Batten was, at one point, Deputy Speaker and was the Chair of a Parliamentary Committee on a new Canadian Flag. Cec Bradbury was employed in the Arctic as Post Manager in several locations by the Hudson's Bay Company. He also served in the crew of the HBC schooner *Fort James* on the run between Gjoa Harbour and St. John's in 1928–1930. He organized the Home Guard in Deer Lake. He retired from the Bowater Company in 1966 as Assistant Secretary. Charlie Ballam was a long serving Member of the Newfoundland House of Assembly and a cabinet minister in Joey Smallwood's government.

The unit had the use of an ex-yacht, the *Hornet*, employed as a patrol vessel based in Corner Brook. It is also reported that a patrol yacht (the *Gertrude*—owned by Bowaters) was allocated to them (1942–1943) and referred to as H.M.C.S. *Gertrude*. It is not clear that this vessel was actually commissioned into the navy, and on 15/01/1942 this vessel was renamed aH.C.143.

Captain Victor Lindsey

Arbuthnot Campbell OBE, DSO & Bar, MID may have been, as the ranking officer, the Commanding Officer of the unit. A senior and highly decorated veteran of Captain Scott's Antarctic expedition, the U-boat war in the Dover Patrol, the land battles at Gallipoli and The Dardanelles and the intervention in the Russian Revolution. This interesting officer spent the balance of his life in Corner Brook.

After Newfoundland joined Confederation, naval reserve divisions were established in St. John's and in Corner Brook. Bowater's Newfoundland Pulp & Paper Mills Ltd. donated a warehouse to house the new Division, HMCS Caribou, established in 1953. The division closed in 1958 due to low recruitment.

References

Crowsnest Volume 4:11
September 1952.

Newfoundland Quarterly.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor_Campbell

Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank George R. French, Archivist at the Corner Brook Museum and Archives for his efforts in tracking down information on the personnel in the unit and the images related to it. I am indebted to Robert B. Andrews Q.C. of St. John's NL and George Duddy of Whiterock BC for additional information on the members of the Home Guard and naval unit in the images.

The Corner Brook Patrol Force continued from page 6

Bill Clearihue referenced a number of the officers of HMCS *Caribou* in the Canada Navy List for this article.

Author's Note: Further information on the establishment of the Home Guard at Corner Brook is found in *History of the Participation by Newfoundland in World War II* by Allan M. Fraser who states:

"In January 1943, authority was granted for the formation of a Home Guard unit at Corner Brook. Its official title is the Bay of Islands Home Guard, and its strength at the end of 1942 was about 200. In April 1942 Major W.M. Balfour, DSO, was gazetted as commanding officer, and in May the following officers were appointed: Captains B. Butler, DSO, MC and Bar, and

W.W.D. Warren; Lieutenants Albert Noseworthy, William Herdman, MM, G.G. Duncan, W.L. Smith, MM, Gerard Penney, and C.H. Ballam. In September 1942, a Home Guard platoon was organized at Deer Lake and Cecil Bradbury was appointed in command."

Editor's Note: This article is reproduced with the author's kind permission. It may also be found on line at:

MacFarlane, John M. (2013) The Bay of Islands/Corner Brook (Newfoundland) Patrol Force. Nauticapedia.ca 2013. http://nauticapedia.ca/Articles/Bay_Islands_Patrol.php



The unofficial shield of the Corner Brook Patrol. This image came from a Crowsnest newsletter, Vol. 4:11, 1952. The location of this plaque is now a mystery. If you know where it's located, please tell us. (Contact information on page 4.)

Themed Dinners for September-December, 2013

by Gary Green

As you will note on the dinner schedule on the next page, every dinner this fall has a theme. The season starts with our traditional and ever popular Oktoberfest German buffet. The Murmansk dinner will honour those who served in the convoy runs to Russia during WWII. Our guest speaker, Dr. J. Collins, a veteran of the convoys, will relate some of his experiences. Nelson's victory at Trafalgar is commemorated in a formal dinner that is steeped in tradition - a

special treat that only happens every few years.

This year's Remembrance Dinner will be a mess dinner with serving members of the Royal Canadian Navy in attendance. The "Bulldog of the North," the historic S.S. *Kyle*, turns 100 this year and the celebration dinner will be based on her menu offerings of the time and there might even be a guest or two. A traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings will help us celebrate the holiday season. Say

goodbye to 2013 and hello to 2014 with the ringing of bells at our New Year's Eve Formal Dinner.

It's a busy fall at the Nest and don't forget, you are able to make reservations one month in advance of the dinner date. Don't delay as these are sure to be sellout events.

Club Dinner Schedule September - December 2013

<p><u>Saturday September 21st</u> <i>German Buffet</i> * \$ 24.95</p>	<p><u>Saturday November 9th</u> <i>Remembrance Day Dinner</i> Sweet Tomato Salad * Lamb Dinner * Apple Dumpling * \$ 24.95</p>	<p><u>Friday December 6th</u> <i>Christmas Weepers</i> * Complimentary Hor's D'oeuvres</p>
<p><u>Friday September 27th</u> <i>Weepers</i> * Complimentary Hor's D'oeuvres</p>	<p><u>Monday November 11th</u> Complimentary Soup and Bread</p>	<p><u>Saturday December 14th</u> <i>Christmas Dinner</i> Roasted Squash and Apple Soup * Traditional Turkey Dinner (Salmon Alternate) * Christmas Pudding with a burnt Rum Sauce * \$24.95</p>
<p><u>Saturday October 5th</u> <i>Murmansk Dinner</i> * \$ to be determined</p>	<p><u>Saturday November 23rd</u> <i>SS Kyle Dinner</i> * \$ to be determined</p>	<p><u>Tuesday December 31st</u> <i>New Year's Celebration</i> Lobster Bisque * Oven Roasted Prime Rib * New York Cheesecake * \$ 55.00</p>
<p><u>Saturday October 19th</u> <i>Trafalgar Mess Dinner</i> * \$ 24.95</p>	<p><u>Friday November 29th</u> <i>Weepers</i> * Complimentary Hor's D'oeuvres</p>	
<p><u>Friday October 25th</u> <i>Weepers</i> * Complimentary Hor's D'oeuvres</p>		

Dress Code for Club Dinners

Dress for dinner and special functions is dress of the day for male serving members and suit/sports jacket/blazer with tie/ascot/turtleneck for male civilian members.

For women, dress of the day for serving members and dress/skirt/slacks for civilians.

Please note that dinners begin at 1900 for 1930 hours, unless otherwise specified.

